

**MINUTES OF THE GROSSE POINTE CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD CLUB, 17150 WATERLOO, GROSSE POINTE, MICHIGAN ON MONDAY, MAY 13, 2019.**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Boettcher, Council Members Parthum, Stempfle, Turnbull, Walsh, Williams

In Attendance: City Manager Dame, Attorney Kennedy, City Clerk Arthurs, Finance Director Kleinow, Deputy Chief Alcorn, Parks and Recreation Director Hardenbrook and City Engineer Pangori.

Motion by Council Member Turnbull, second by Council Member Stempfle, to excuse Council Member Tomkowiak from the meeting for personal reasons.

UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED.

The Mayor then led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC HEARING – 2019-2020 BUDGET

Mayor Boettcher announced that this was the time set for a public hearing by the City Council on the proposed budget and proposed property tax levy, for fiscal year July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020.

Finance Director Kleinow gave an overview of the budget. She reported that the proposed budget is balanced and the general operations levy of 18.5721 mills remains the same. Mrs. Kleinow reviewed a PowerPoint presentation that addressed an increase in property tax revenues and an increase in the average assessment by 2.4%. Further, State Revenue Sharing, which has been replaced with the EVIP payments, has decreased; with a total loss of \$2.5 million between 2003 and 2017. It was noted that the overall budgeted revenues increased \$169,853. The general fund expenses also remain consistent. It was also noted that a full year of retiree healthcare cost in the amount of \$625,000 has been budgeted for 2019-20.

Discussion took place regarding property taxes and assessments, general fund revenues and expenditures, the capital projects fund, the general debt fund, water & sewer fund, solid waste fund, parking fund, highway fund, marina fund and the drug forfeiture fund. It was noted that the budget satisfies costs related to the Public Safety Command contract expiring July 1, 2022. The Public Safety Patrol Officers contract expires July 1, 2019 and negotiations will begin soon.

Further discussion took place regarding the increases in the water levels of Lake St. Clair and its affect on marina usage. Parks and Recreation Director Hardenbrook updated Council on measures the City is taking to ensure boater safety while using the marina during the high water levels. He discussed options for raising the finger piers and stated that the Parks and Harbor committee will be discussing and reviewing the options and the high waters in the marina at its upcoming meeting. A recommendation will be made to Council.

Mayor Boettcher opened the public comment portion of the public hearing. He asked for comments from those persons present. Hearing no comments, public comment was declared closed.

City Council discussion took place regarding the budget, recycling costs in the solid waste fund, revenue and expenditures, retiree health care costs and State revenue sharing.

It was noted that the proposed budget offers a high level of services in a fiscally responsible manner. The City Council thanked the City Manager, Finance Director and Department Heads for their hard work on preparing the budget. It was noted that the proposed 2019-20 budget and 2019 City tax rate will be acted on at the regular Council meeting on May 20, 2019.

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PRESENTATION – CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Stephen Pangori from Anderson, Eckstein & Westrick, the City's engineer, presented a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Utility and Road Improvement Funds and proposed system improvements to water distribution, sanitary/combined sewers and streets. Mr. Pangori reviewed water system facts and the basis for system improvements. The water mains scheduled to be completed in 2019 were reviewed. Mr. Pangori discussed the proposed improvements in the sanitary/combined sewers and Neff Road Pump Station Needs.

Mr. Pangori discussed plans for 2019 projects for the Road Improvement Fund. It was noted that funding for this year's projects include Maumee, Cadieux to St. Clair and Neff to Fisher for \$646,000, Lincoln – 400 feet north of Maumee to Jefferson for \$335,713 and Charlevoix from Cadieux to Loraine for \$90,000.

City Council discussion took place regarding the report.

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PRESENTATION – DRAFT FEMA FLOOD PLAN ANALYSIS

City Manager Dame made the following report:

When FEMA first announced the process of updating the way they calculate flood hazard boundaries along the Great Lakes coastline, the City undertook a lakefront property survey to document the elevation of the properties in the flood hazard area along Lake St. Clair. Based on the survey results, the City has requested FEMA adopt the City's actual survey elevations to remove six residences from the proposed flood plain. However, even with that change, many other homes on the City's lakefront would remain affected.

The City is concerned that the underlying changes are not warranted, given that there is no known history of homes flooding along the waterfront due to overtopping of the existing seawalls, even now at the near record water levels. The City is concerned that FEMA is saddling residents with the added new cost of purchasing flood insurance and future restrictions on building construction within a flood plain. Such requirements could negatively affect property values of the homes along the lakefront, potentially impacting future property taxes.

The City retained Abonmarche Engineering, a firm with coastal engineering experience in these matters to review FEMA's underlying assumptions and methodology behind the proposed changes. The basis for the change in elevation is that FEMA is proposing to add storm surge as a factor in determining where the 100-year flood plain elevation should be on Lake St. Clair. A formal public comment opportunity on the proposed changes will take place this summer and the City plans to submit formal comments during the proceeding to protect the community's interests.

City Engineer Pangori reviewed the preliminary analysis prepared by Abonmarche. The report dated May 2, 2019 was discussed and reviewed particularly the summary/analysis of options. It was the consensus of the Council that the City Manager work with residents in the proposed flood plain to develop a plan of action regarding FEMA and discuss cost sharing options as it relates to the analysis report.

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BID AWARD – ADA SIDEWALK RAMP

City Manager Dame made the following report:

Bids were received for an ADA accessible sidewalk ramp for the Handicap Detectible Warning Platform project. This project will allow the city to install tactile surfaces for people with visual disabilities at street intersections on Maumee, in conjunction with the planned resurfacing of Maumee that is already under contract. HMC, LLC of Troy is the low bidder. The City Engineer has reviewed the qualifications and finds the low bidder qualified for this project. This project is budgeted under Capital Projects and is funded primarily by CDBG grant funds that reimburse the Fund for the costs incurred. The proposed cost of this contract is \$65,000, and there is a total of \$52,874 available for this project in the FY 2017 and 2018 CDBG funds. The balance of \$12,216 would come from the Capital Projects Fund.

Motion by Council Member Parthum, second by Council Member Williams, to approve the recommendation of the City Engineer and award the bid in the amount of \$65,000 to HMC, LLC of Troy, Michigan, for an ADA Accessible Sidewalk Ramp project on Maumee Avenue.

UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED.

On Motion, the meeting was adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

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Julie E. Arthurs, City Clerk  
City of Grosse Pointe