

MINUTES OF THE GROSSE POINTE CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD CLUB, 17150 WATERLOO, GROSSE POINTE, MICHIGAN ON MONDAY, MAY 20, 2019.

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

ROLL CALL

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

In Attendance: City Manager Dame, Attorney Kramer, City Clerk Arthurs, Finance Director Kleinow, Public Safety Director Poloni, Public Service Director Randazzo, Parks and Recreation Director Hardenbrook and City Planner Keeseey.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Council Member Stempfle, second by Council Member Parthum, to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of the following:

1. Minutes from the regular Council Meeting held on April 15, 2019 and minutes from the regular Council Meeting held on May 13, 2019.
2. Invoices
 - a) GFL - Recycling, May 2019, \$5,652
 - b) Great Lakes Water Authority - Sewage Disposal, April 2019, \$74,100
 - c) Warren Contractors & Development, Inc.
 - Fisher Road Streetscape, Estimate #6, \$43,921.20
 - d) Oakland County - Clemis, 1/1/19 – 3/31/19, \$5,173.25
 - e) Anderson, Eckstein & Westrick, Inc.
 - 2019 Resurfacing Program, 3/4/19 – 3/31/19, \$23,383.06
 - f) Vortex - Baby Pool Play Features, April 2019, \$11,780
 - g) State of Michigan - Fisher Streetscape, March 2019, \$7,521.80

CONSENT AGENDA UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED.

The Council convened as the Planning Commission.

PUBLIC HEARING – MORATORIUM ON DEMOLITION OF HISTORICAL BUILDINGS

Motion by Council Member Walsh, second by Council Member Williams, to table the public hearing regarding a moratorium on the demolition of historical buildings for one month.

UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED.

The Planning Commission reconvened as the City Council.

RESOLUTION – ADOPTION OF 2019-20 BUDGET AND 2019 TAX RATE

Motion by Council Member Williams, second by Council Member Parthum, that the following resolution be adopted:

WHEREAS, the budget has been reviewed by the City Council and a public hearing thereon was held Monday May 13, 2019 and

WHEREAS, the taxable valuation of real and personal property in the City has been established to be \$364,281,430 now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the budget of the City of Grosse Pointe for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2019 and ending June 30, 2020 is hereby determined and adopted as follows:

GENERAL FUND	Actual	Budget	Proposed
	2017-2018	2018-2019	Budget
			2019-2020
REVENUES & FEES			
Property tax	4,332,869	4,412,468	4,559,972
State Shared Revenues	518,216	522,517	558,139
Charges for Svc & Svc to Other Funds	640,027	632,633	638,595
Use of Money & Prop (other rev)	278,479	310,965	285,730
Licenses and Permits	178,580	144,300	150,300
Total Revenues & Fees	5,948,171	6,022,883	6,192,736
EXPENDITURES			
Departmental Operating Costs			
Public Safety	2,585,260	2,902,592	3,056,549
Public Works	553,958	585,020	627,416
Parks & Recreation	599,125	669,987	672,883
Finance & Assessing	195,431	215,949	205,859
City Administration	191,171	189,768	206,211
Gen'l City Oper./Human Resources	119,404	147,779	146,018
Court	194,505	221,603	230,898
Professional Services	123,131	140,000	140,000
Inspections	110,825	125,702	147,922
City Clerk & Elections	86,364	99,401	113,622
Legislative	5,050	4,900	5,900
Total Departmental Operating Costs	4,764,224	5,302,701	5,553,277
Transfers to Other Funds			
Capital Projects Fund	725,000	-	-
Public Improvements/Other	1,000	18,143	39,608
Highway Fund	105,000	186,934	100,818
General Debt Fund	-	-	-
Downtown Development Authority	15,000	15,000	15,000
Solid Waste Fund	-	-	-
Indigent Defense Fund	-	-	3,163
Water and Sewer Fund	-	-	-
Retiree Healthcare Contribution	400,562	500,105	480,871
Pension Contribution	-	-	-
Total Transfers to Other Funds	1,246,562	720,182	639,460
Total Cash Outlays	6,010,786	6,022,883	6,192,737
Operating Effect General Fund Balance	(62,615)	-	(0)

ALL FUNDS SUMMARY	Actual	Budget	Proposed
	2017-2018	2018-2019	Budget
			2019-2020
REVENUES & FEES			
General Fund	5,948,171	6,022,883	6,192,736
Water & Sewer	2,608,030	3,307,383	3,743,506
Major & Local Streets	616,467	680,205	653,421
Road Improvement Fund	1,029,418	1,140,401	1,071,682
Solid Waste	746,146	758,076	812,500
Parking	1,037,594	980,000	980,000
Marina	181,985	189,986	186,280

General Debt Fund	227,513	243,800	918,336
Capital Projects	861,045	413,443	64,174
Drug Forfeiture	6,112	4,510	4,510
Indigent Defense Fund	-	-	29,177
Downtown Development Authority	49,000	65,000	65,700
Total Revenues & Fees	13,311,481	13,805,687	14,722,022

EXPENDITURES			
Operating Expenditures			
General Fund	6,010,786	6,022,883	6,192,737
Water & Sewer	2,091,023	2,357,736	2,882,042
Solid Waste	714,019	558,076	576,500
Major & Local Streets	644,282	506,212	459,869
Parking	671,768	778,330	816,294
Marina	182,517	161,876	167,553
Drug Forfeiture	2,500	3,500	3,500
Indigent Defense Fund	-	-	29,177
Downtown Development Authority	46,980	90,990	82,545
Total Operating Expenditures	10,316,895	10,388,613	11,210,216
Capital Expenditures			
Capital Projects	1,926,571	1,421,447	1,409,500
Water & Sewer	157,766	1,028,801	556,631
Solid Waste	32,127	200,000	236,000
Debt Repayment	227,100	243,800	948,336
Major & Local Streets	-	325,000	211,682
Road Improvement Fund	1,097,415	1,140,401	1,071,682
Parking	-	357,967	870,467
Marina	-	60,000	150,000
Drug Forfeiture Fund	-	-	-
Downtown Development Authority	-	-	-
Total Capital Expenditures	3,440,979	4,777,416	5,454,298
Total Expenditures	13,757,874	15,166,029	16,664,514
Net Effect to All Funds	(446,393)	(1,360,342)	(1,942,492)

RESOLVED FURTHER, that there is hereby levied a general tax as herein fixed in the amount of 18.3945 mills on the taxable valuation for the purpose of meeting operating, debt, road improvement and rubbish requirements for said fiscal year. The total tax rate of \$18.2219 mills (11.5121 for operating, 2.5524 for debt retirement, 2.4309 for road improvements and 1.7265 for solid waste) shall be applied on all the taxable, real and personal property in the City of Grosse Pointe as set forth on the assessment roll for 2019, and that the City Clerk shall certify said levy to the City Treasurer.

RESOLVED FURTHER, that a 1% property tax administration fee be added to the State Education Tax and County Tax which will be billed with the 2019 Summer Tax billing and the 1% administration fee should also be added to the December tax roll to offset costs incurred by the City in assessing property values, collecting property tax levies, and in the review and appeal process.

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the Director of Finance is hereby authorized to transfer appropriations between the above Funds in compliance with Act No. 621, Michigan Public Acts of 1978.

UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED.

PROPOSED CITY FEE CHANGES FOR 2019-20

Finance Director Kleinow made the following report:

A review of the current fees that the City of Grosse Pointe charges for various services, registrations, permits, and regulations was recently undertaken. A list of the fees for the following departments: Construction (Building, Mechanical, Plumbing/Sewer, and Electrical), Parks and Recreation, Zoning, Parking, City Clerk's Office, and the Finance Department were reviewed. The annual review is undertaken to ensure that specific users are paying unit, administrative, and inspection costs in lieu of being subsidized by the general citizenry. At this time, the City staff is proposing an increase for commercial food and beverage businesses garbage compactor fees to address the rising costs of providing these services as well as a 2% increase for marina well rentals for the 2020 season.

Discussion took place regarding the proposed garbage compactor fees. City Manager Dame and Public Service Director Randazzo answered Council questions regarding the reason for the increase.

Motion by Council Member Parthum, second by Council Member Tomkowiak, that the proposed revised fee schedule be adopted with an effective date of July 1, 2019.

UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED.

PROPOSED WATER AND SEWER RATES FOR 2019

Finance Director Kleinow made the following report:

To continue to provide the same level of service to our residents and fund anticipated capital improvements, a rate increase is necessary. The following shows the rate changes by category based on a 5/8" meter:

	Current Rate	Proposed Rate	\$ Change	% Change
Readiness to Serve	7.82	7.92	.100	0.01%
Debt Service	16.76	18.57	1.81	10.80%
Industrial Damage	57.47	67.05	9.58	16.67%
Water/Sewer	69.49	73.66	4.17/unit	6.00%

These revised rates were used as the basis for the budgeted expenditures and estimated revenues that were presented at the public hearing on May 13, 2019. For the average homeowner, this will increase their bill \$12.34 per billing, which is a 6.2% increase over last year.

ORDINANCE ADOPTION

Motion by Council Member Stempfle, second by Council Member Tomkowiak, that the water and sewage rates for 2019-20 be approved to comply with the State of Michigan requirements and the following ordinance be adopted:

ORDINANCE NO. 439

An Ordinance to amend and re-state Section 78-143 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Grosse Pointe, Water and Sewer Rates
(For complete text of Ordinance No. 439 - see Ordinance Book of the City of Grosse Pointe)

UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED.

AUTHORIZE A ONE YEAR EXTENSION OF RECYCLING CONTRACT WITH GFL

City Manager Dame made the following report:

The recycling contract for curbside recycling for the collective cities of Grosse Pointe, Grosse Pointe Farms, Grosse Pointe Park, Grosse Pointe Shores and Harper Woods with GFL expires at the end of June. Under this one-year contract extension, negotiated on behalf of the collective cities by the City of Grosse Pointe Farms, there will be an increase in the recycling cost per home from \$2.46 per month to \$3.99 per month. This cost increase is a reflection of the collapse of the recycling market overseas. This one-year extension allows the cities to investigate options

and also to allow recycling markets to adjust and create alternative markets over the next year. It was noted that the City of Grosse Pointe Farms has already approved the increase.

Motion by Council Member Stempfle, second by Council Member Williams, to approve the one-year extension of the recycling contract with GFL.

UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED.

PURCHASE OF SNOW PLOW BLADE

Public Service Director Randazzo made the following report:

City staff researched new snow plows to be mounted on a Freightliner garbage truck that was approved for purchase at the April 2019 City Council meeting. The City recently purchased a Freightliner dump truck with a similar plow set up and is very pleased with the maneuverability and flexibility that the Boss VDXT plow offers. The City received two quotes for the purchase, fabrication and installation of the Boss snow plow listed below:

Santoro Inc. of Detroit, MI	\$12,360
Shults Equipment of Ithaca, MI	\$14,775

The City has used Santoro Inc. for fabrication of plows previously and is pleased with their performance and quality of work.

Motion by Council Member Turnbull, second by Council Member Walsh, to authorize the purchase, fabrication and installation of a 10 ft. Boss VDXT snow plow from Santoro Inc. in the amount of \$12,360.

UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED.

AUTHORIZE FUNDS FOR THE REPAIR OF A GARBAGE TRUCK

Public Service Director Randazzo made the following report:

The City recently had a garbage truck in for repairs on the rear loading sweeping plate that compacts the garbage. During the removal and inspection of the plate, it was determined that the loading plate can not be repaired and must be replaced. The hydraulic pistons that the plate is connected to were also damaged and need to be repaired. Rapid Repair of Detroit has done repairs and installations for the City in the past and staff is pleased with their performance, proximity to the City and the timeliness of the repair work. Director Randazzo answered various questions regarding the damage and it was noted that the work is estimated to be complete in two weeks.

Motion by Council Member Parthum, second by Council Member Turnbull, to authorize funds for the repair of a garbage truck in an amount not to exceed \$7,949.87.

UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED.

CDBG ALLOCATION FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019

City Manager Dame made the following report:

Wayne County has adopted a new allocation formula and process for distributing the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds it receives. Starting with FY 2019, the City's allocation has been reduced from \$34,200 in FY 2018 to \$20,000 this year. In addition, there is a pool of funds for which groups of cities may apply for a joint project. Once all the cities in Wayne County determine how their allocations will be utilized, Wayne County will hold the required public hearings on all of the projects in Wayne County. Following is the project proposed for the City of Grosse Pointe, a continuation of the effort to make every sidewalk intersection in the City accessible to individuals with disabilities:

City Manager Dame answered various Council questions with regard to accessible sidewalk ramps and previous installations.

Motion by Council Member Parthum, second by Council Member Turnbull, that the following resolution be adopted:

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the City of Grosse Pointe has determined that its Fiscal Year 2019 Community Development Block Grant allocation be utilized for ADA Pedestrian Ramp Improvements.

UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED.

SITE PLAN REVIEW – MASTER SIGN PLAN – SAROS BUILDING, 17108 MACK AVENUE

City Planner Keesey made the following report:

The applicant, Mr. Erik Fraiser, and representatives from ID Enterprises have developed and submitted a master sign plan for the Saros Building, a structure at 17108 Mack Avenue. A master sign plan is intended to provide a holistic view of signage for a structure, and is particularly valuable in multi-tenant structures such as this. An approved master sign plan gives the building owner and administration confidence that there is mutually-agreed-upon “pre-approved” amount and type of signage allowed, and replacement signage that conforms to the sign plan can be easily reviewed administratively.

A wall sign was installed on the building recently. At the request of the building owner in the interest of building identification, this signage was reviewed administratively and conditionally approved upon a finding that it is appropriate in general character with the building and other signage along Mack Avenue. The wall sign details are included in the application and will be considered a part of the full master sign plan for this structure.

The wall sign on the Mack Avenue façade is a 28 square foot sign consisting of 14-inch by 24-foot long gold/yellow text and an 18-inch-tall logo. The signage will be pin-mounted and will not be lit. It is appropriately located in the sign band between the two banks of windows. The wall sign above the vestibule in the rear of the building mimics the proposed signage on the front of the structure but uses black text instead of gold. It is also smaller, at 11 inches in height, 22 feet in length, and with a 15.5” high logo. The sign size is approximately 24 square feet in total. There are two freestanding signs proposed on the subject site, one at each parking lot entrance. The proposed signs are 42 inches wide and 50 inches tall, for a total of 14.5 square feet each. Each sign includes the owner’s contact information and space for tenant names; the Detroit Yoga Cycle Lab is shown as a current tenant on the drawings. The signs are appropriate in size and character for the size and should prove sufficient for a wide range of tenants. Because of this flexible design, the need for any expansion of the signs or additional signs would not be needed and the sign size should be considered a maximum. The freestanding signs are to be installed on two decorative posts in solid footings and will not be lit.

City Planner Keesey summarized details of his May 17, 2019 report including ground sign requirements and placement locations, the unique site plan configuration and location on a corner with two separate parking areas, and scale of the building. This site poses interesting challenges and requires additional considerations due to the proximity to the adjacent residences and its location along Mack Avenue. The proposal requires considerations by the City Council to modify sign requirements in the RO-1 District. Per Section 58-5 (d) of the Ordinance, the Council may modify the standards for approval if it finds that the signs generally conform to the character of the neighborhood, achieve a purpose consistent with the intent of the Ordinance or the Master Plan, or if there is a practical difficulty preventing the applicant from meeting the standards. The City Planner recommended approval of the master sign plan, subject to any specific recommendations by members of the City Council, based on the following conditions:

1. The wall sign for Mack Avenue, sized at 28 square feet, is appropriate in scale for the northern façade;
2. One (1) freestanding sign is permitted at the public entrance to the Cadieux-side parking lot and one (1) freestanding sign is permitted for the Mack-side parking lot, at the locations shown on the site plan, due to the unique split parking lot design of the site;
3. A total of 81 square feet of signage be approved, consisting of a wall sign on Mack Avenue, a wall sign above the rear vestibule, and two (2) freestanding signs.

Council discussion took place regarding the master sign plan including total square footage of proposed signage and comparisons to other signage on buildings along Mack Avenue, most of which are single story structures.

Motion by Council Member Turnbull, second by Council Member Parthum, to approve the Master Sign Plan for the Saros Building, 17108 Mack Avenue, subject to conditions specified in the City Planner's Report dated May 17, 2019, and noted above.

ROLL CALL

Ayes: Boettcher, Parthum, Stempfle, Tomkowiak, Turnbull, Walsh
Nays: Williams
Absent: None

Motion Carries 6 votes Aye to 1 vote Nay.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dave Fries commented on possible Optimist projects in the Village.

Michael Marks, 8 Stratford, thanked the Council for their support for Maire School.

Laura Holt, 17330 Maumee, thanked the Council for their support of Maire School and explained that Maire is a high achieving school which is one of the reasons she decided to buy a home in the area. Closing Maire School will have a significant impact and disruption on students.

Eileen Proudluck, 826 University, discussed safety issues that affect the Maire School community. She stated that Maire School continues to be a leader in ensuring a safe school environment and has a unique and strategic location for safety; being blocks award from a hospital and police station. She commended the PANDA program, a partnership with the Grosse Pointe Public Safety Department and thanked the Council for their support of Maire School remaining open.

STAFF REPORTS

Public Service Director Randazzo updated Council on the Public Safety construction site and the ongoing DTE upgrade work in the City. Parks and Recreation Director Hardenbrook stated that the final work on the baby pool features has been completed and lake water levels remain high. City Clerk Arthurs reported that Project Bloom has planted flowers at Neff Park as part of the annual planting program. Project Bloom continues to seek volunteers to plant flower in The Village on May 30 beginning at 9:00 am. City Manager Dame thanked the Finance Director and Department Heads for their hard work on preparing a balanced budget.

COUNCIL COMMENT

The City Council commented on the following topics:

- Appreciation was expressed to the City Manager, Finance Director and City Department Heads for the excellent work preparing the budget.

- The Movie Night sponsored by Marais and WCCCD had 90 people attend despite bad weather.
- Appreciation to staff for being flexible during facilities construction.
- Council is concerned about possible school closings and have formally expressed their views to the School Board. Council is hopeful the School Board will come up with a creative solution to resolve the issue without closing any elementary schools.

On Motion, the meeting was adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Julie E. Arthurs, City Clerk
City of Grosse Pointe