

**VILLAGE OF GROSSE POINTE SHORES, A MICHIGAN CITY
VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2020 – 12:00 P.M.**

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER - A virtual monthly meeting of the City Council of the Village of Grosse Pointe Shores, a Michigan City was held on Tuesday, December 15, 2020 by remote video/audio participation. The meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m. by Mayor Kedzierski.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ROLL CALL – Clerk Bruce Nichols

Present: Mayor Thaddeus Kedzierski, Robert H. Barrette, Sandra Cavataio, Danielle Gehlert, Doug Kucyk, John T. Seago and Matthew Seely

Absent: None

Also present: City Clerk Bruce Nichols
Finance Officer/Treasurer Cathy Hall
Interim City Manager Thomas Krolczyk
City Attorney Brian Renaud
Public Safety Director John Schulte
Public Works Director Mike Way

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 17, 2020 REGULAR MEETING

On motion by Council Member Kucyk, seconded by Council Member Barrette, and carried unanimously, it was resolved that the minutes were approved.

5. RECEIVE AND FILE VARIOUS BOARDS, COMMITTEES & COMMISSIONS MINUTES

On motion by Council Member Kucyk, seconded by Council Member Barrette, and carried unanimously, it was resolved that the minutes be received and filed.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS - None

7. COMMITTEE REAPPOINTMENTS

Council Member Seago had questions concerning residents and the Pension Committee. Council Member Seely also had questions regarding DPW Director Mike Way being a member of the Pension Committee; and whether there was any resulting conflict of interest. City Attorney Renaud did not believe Mike Way's position on the Pension Committee would cause a conflict. Mr. Renaud will confirm that matter for the next Council Meeting.

On motion of Council Member Seely, seconded by Council Member Barrette, and approved

unanimously, the following reappointments to boards, commissions and committees were approved:

Planning Commission (2-year term ending in 2022): Pat Chasteen

Pension Committee (2-year terms with alternating years): Mike Way, General Employee Committee (2022) and Scott Rohr, DPS Employee Committee (2022)

Board of Review (three-year terms, alternating years): Kim Schmidt – Alternate (2023); John Lisa, Chairman (appointed annually)

Tree Board (two-year terms, alternating years):Helen Bai, Beautification Chair (2022),Robert Squires, GPSIF Rep. (2022), Victoria Boyce (2022)

8. REPORTS BY CHAIRPERSONS OF BOARDS, COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS

A. Budget and Finance – Finance Officer/Treasurer Cathy Hall reported nothing unusual or out of the ordinary occurred during the previous month. In response to questions by Council Members, she stated checks are issued and reviewed. The checks are then mailed out. The approval from Council is made for checks already issued and mailed. The check runs brought before Council for approval only concern vendors. Employee payroll checks are not approved by Council. There was a discussion with Council Members regarding the method of depositing money collected by the city. Chief Schulte reported deposits are delivered to the bank by our Public Safety Officers.

1. *Approval of Bills.* On motion of Council Member Seely, with support by Council Member Kucyk, and carried unanimously, the issued checks were approved.
2. *Review of Financial Statements* - Finance Officer/Treasurer Cathy Hall presented the Financial Statements for review by Council Members.
3. Finance Committee Chair Sandra Cavataio informed Council the next meeting of the Finance Committee was scheduled for January 12th, 2020.
4. On motion by Council Member Seely, seconded by Council Member Seago, and carried unanimously, it was resolved that retired employee 20% medical co-pay amounts would be earmarked for the Retiree Benefits and Reimbursement Account.

B. Public Safety – Chief John Schulte reported Jason Schimelfening has started his probationary period as our new Public Safety officer. There is a current applicant for a PSO position available with the city. A resident has offered to donate funds to replace Public Safety officer sidearms. Council Member Gehlert had questions regarding anonymity as requested by the sidearm donor and the potential for ethical disclosure requirements. The Chief reported the sidearms will be at no cost to the city. The *Wayne County Emergency Managers Meeting* was held to discuss the upcoming rollout of the Covid –19 Vaccine. A new patrol vehicle has been ordered. The Chief commended Finance Officer/Treasurer Cathy Hall for her efforts in taking over the financial officer position.

On motion by Council Member Barrette, seconded by Council Member Cavataio, and carried unanimously, it was resolved that the donation for the sidearms would be accepted.

Mayor Kedzierski and Council Member Seely, thanked the Chief for his exemplary service to the community during his tenure. They both wished him the best in his retirement.

- C. Public Works** – Director Mike Way informed the Council that leaf season is over. However, there is some broken equipment. Snow plows and salt equipment are ready for winter service. The winter maintenance program for equipment will commence soon. The GLWA meeting is to be held with water price increases on the agenda.
- D. Parks Committee** – Council Liaison Matt Seely reported the next meeting of the Parks committee is scheduled for January 12 at 5 PM on Zoom.
- E. Harbor Committee** – Council Liaison John Seago reported the billings for the first half of the 2021 summer marina fees have been mailed out.
- F. Infrastructure Report** – Council Liaison Matt Seely reported Hubble Roth and Clark is analyzing the new sewer metering system. Smoke testing of the sewer system is also being analyzed. There has been no activity or response from Wayne County regarding the deteriorating seawall.
- G. GPSIF** – Council Liaison Danielle Gehlert informed Council that the ice rink has been set up in anticipation of freezing weather. The Foundation’s *Christmas Gift Sale* was successfully conducted in the Schroeder Field House. Public Works Director Way commented that the ice rink was in the process of being filled with water.
- H. Communications Committee** – Chairman Ted Coutilish presented a Communications Plan and discussed the demographics the city. The plan of the committee is to improve communication with residents in accordance with their preferred methods. Various methods to improve communication were outlined in his report. Such improvements would include revision of the newsletter, media relations, updated website, and Facebook posting, and possible investment in professional communication services.

Council Members Cavataio and Seely expressed gratitude for Mr. Coutilish’s comprehensive and well thought out report. Council Member Cavataio indicated an allocation of funds will be reviewed and addressed by the Finance Committee in their upcoming meeting. Council Member Seely suggested the use of a college intern to help the committee. War Memorial PEG fees were also discussed. Cost estimates for a new website and its yearly maintenance fees have been obtained.

Council Liaison Danielle Gehlert and Mayor Kedzierski also expressed the need and importance of good municipal communications. Discussion ensued regarding the budget considerations that need to be addressed for an ambitious communications program. There was doubt as to the use of the War Memorial PEG funds because of the dedicated nature of such funds. Council Member Cavataio said the next meeting of the Finance Committee will attempt to provide a budget for the Communications Committee. The next meeting of the Communications Committee is scheduled for January 5 at 4 PM.

- I. **Legal Report** – City Attorney Brian Renaud reported on having provided the following legal services during a busy month since the last Council meeting: a FOIA request and the necessary response, a review of the sign ordinance, a review of the Open Meetings Act as it concerns municipal meetings, a Clinton Refuse Authority document review, a proposed public safety officer training facility contract, a *Great Lakes Water Authority* matter, review of the 21 Webber Place lot split, Wayne County Circuit Court zoning appeal case, litigation involving the sign ordinance, review of the contract with the municipal insurance company and comments on the Covid vaccine rollout. Council Member Seely thanked City Attorney Renaud and his staff for making the Zoom platform available for use by the city.
- J. **Manager’s Report** – Interim City Manager Tom Krolczyk reported the municipal calendar should be out by the end of the month. A Great Lakes Water Authority Zoom meeting was conducted. Tree trimming will start in March. Mr. Krolczyk said the tree trimming should help eliminate power outages caused by falling limbs. An ad soliciting applications for the Director of Public Safety has been posted with the Michigan Municipal League. Pricing quotes for the resurfacing of the Municipal Building front driveway have been acquired.

9. OLD BUSINESS - None

10. NEW BUSINESS

A. GLWA Industrial Pretreatment Program Resolution

City Attorney Brian Renaud explained the GLWA Industrial Pretreatment Program Resolution to Council. He also indicated adopting the resolution is not negotiable. The resolution regulates waste and wastewater being inserted into the sewer system.

On motion by Council Member Seago, seconded by Council Member Barrette, and carried unanimously, the concurring Resolution was approved and staff was authorized to proceed as necessary to implement the resolution.

B. Draft 2020/2021 Grosse Pointe Shores Integrated Communications Plan – *Tabled*

C. Assistant City Manager Employment Agreement Approval

Council Member Seely extended the city’s gratitude and appreciation for Tom Krolczyk’s great service as Interim City Manager. Council Member Seely, with support by Council Member Seago, and carried unanimously, motion that Council approve an employment offer to Tom Krolczyk for the position of Assistant City Manager.

11. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Brett Smith had comments regarding the fiscal status of Grosse Pointe Shores, the true financial condition of the municipality, and its AAA credit rating as it relates to the restoration of retiree benefits.

Council Member Gehlert responded regarding the OPEB requirements of the city.

Chase Wakefield, thanked Chief Schulte and had comments regarding posters in the background of a Council Member's Zoom video participation. Mr. Wakefield urged the restoration of retiree benefits.

Tom Mellos thanked Chief Schulte and saluted him for his service and professionalism over the years.

Deanne Younk had comments regarding restoration of retiree benefits.

12. COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS

All Council Members expressed their appreciation to Chief Schulte and Interim City Manager Tom Krolczyk for their extraordinary service in those positions.

Council Member Seely remarked on the need for a succession plan for city employees and adequate funding of retiree benefits.

Council Members Gehlert and Cavataio expressed appreciation to those members of the community who participated in the Zoom Council meeting.

Council Member Kucyk asked why Council did not have a closed session to discuss retiree benefits. He noted the Council had agreed that such a closed meeting would be held. Council Member Seely responded that Council agreed that a closed session should be held, but it was not scheduled. Council Member Kucyk, then formerly requested a closed session be held during the January 2021 Council meeting with labor attorney Ryan Fantuzzi to discuss his written legal opinion. Discussion then ensued regarding the use of a telephone conference for the closed session with attorney Ryan Fantuzzi. No action was taken in reference to a closed session.

13. MAYOR'S COMMENTS – Mayor Kedzierski also expressed his gratitude to Chief Schulte and Interim City Manager Tom Krolczyk. He also expressed his appreciation for all the municipal employees, committee members, and individual residents doing their part for the city.

14. NOTE DATES OF FUTURE CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS (Tues, 1/19/21-7pm & Tues, 2/16/21 -7pm)

15. NOTE DATES OF FUTURE TOWN HALL MEETINGS - TBD

16. ADJOURNMENT. On motion by Council Member Seago, seconded by Council Member Barrette, and carried unanimously the meeting was adjourned at 2:05 PM.

Bruce R. Nichols
City Clerk