

**VILLAGE OF GROSSE POINTE SHORES, A MICHIGAN CITY
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2021 – 7:00 P.M.**

VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING

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, January 19, 2021 by remote video/audio participation. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Kedzierski.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL – 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
Interim City Manager Thomas Krolczyk
City Attorney Brian Renaud
Public Safety Director John Schulte
Public Works Director Mike Way
Incoming City Manager Stephen Poloni

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 15, 2020 REGULAR MEETING

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

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

On motion by Council Member Kucyk, seconded by Council Member Gehlert, and carried unanimously, it was resolved to receive and file the minutes of the various boards, committees and commissions.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS - None

6. PROCLAMATION- Public Safety Director, Chief John Schulte

Mayor Kedzierski presented a proclamation to honor Chief John T. Schulte on his retirement from the position of Public Safety Director of the Village of Grosse Pointe Shores. The Mayor and Council Members remarked on his commitment, selfless

generosity, outstanding achievements, and leadership in the community that will be greatly missed.

Raymond Rahi also asked that his congratulatory and appreciative email be read into the record.

7. REPORTS BY CHAIRPERSONS OF BOARDS, COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS

A. Budget and Finance – Finance Officer/Treasurer Position Presently Vacant*

1. Approval of Bills - *Tabled to February 16, 2021 Meeting
2. Review of Financial Statements - *Tabled to February 16, 2021 Meeting
3. Finance Committee Chairman Report - Chair Sandra Cavataio reported the Finance Committee decided at their January 12, 2021 meeting to freeze unessential expenses, pending the replacement of former Finance Officer /Treasurer Cathy Hall. A policy of obtaining three bids for all material and service contracts has been endorsed. Reduction of expenses was also discussed at the Finance Committee meeting. The next meeting of the Finance Committee is scheduled for February 9, 2021.

Council Member Gehlert expressed the urgency of many important upcoming expenses.

Mayor Kedzierski pointed out a \$320,000 deficit anticipated this year. Such a deficit will require close monitoring of municipal finances and expenditures. The cost of a new fire truck is looming in the future. The importance of financial analysis and the creation of a sinking fund for capital was also discussed.

B. Public Safety – Chief John Schulte, who attended his last Council meeting as Director of Public Safety, expressed his appreciation to all those who had extended their kind regards and comments regarding his retirement. He informed Council that a replacement for the existing fire pumper will require a special type of unit for our community. He also expressed his appreciation for all those he had the pleasure of working with for over nine years at the Village of Grosse Pointe Shores.

Mayor Kedzierski expressed appreciation to The Chief on behalf of the Council, staff and the residents of the Village.

C. Public Works – Director Mike Way said the city will miss Chief Schulte in the future. There have been several Covid related issues with employees contracting the illness. Presently, the public works staff is back to full strength. Crabapple trees along Lake Shore Road have been trimmed. The ice rink has not yet frozen. The city had its first water main break since spring of 2020 on North Deeplands. Snowfall has been insignificant with the minimal use of salt. The Municipal Park was damaged by a windstorm.

Director Way met with GLWA and reported a 2.5% increase is scheduled for 2022. Council Member Gehlert reminded all that the upcoming increase from GLWA was postponed from 2020.

D. Parks Committee – Council Liaison Matt Seely attended a Parks Committee meeting on January 11, 2021. The Grosse Pointe Shores Foundation is moving forward with a pickle ball court for the park. The updated Master Plan for the park was unanimously recommended for approval by the Parks Committee.

On motion by Council Member Seely, seconded by Council Member Gehlert, and carried 6-1, it was resolved that the Park Master Plan was adopted and approved. Council Member Kucyk opposed the motion as a copy of the master plan had not been provided to him.

E. Harbor Committee – Chairman Donn Schroder reported the Marina is being filled by residents. The outside harbor wall will need repairs prior to the April 15th spring opening. The committee decided not to pursue boat storage in the parking lot of the municipal park due to aesthetics, liability and its use as a leaf disposal collection point. The next meeting for the committee is scheduled for March 9, 2021.

Council Liaison John Seago had comments regarding the use of an alternate boat storage site across Lake Shore Road from the Marina.

F. Infrastructure Report – Council Liaison Matt Seely reported the Infrastructure Committee met on January 18, 2021 and viewed a presentation by Hubble, Roth and Clark regarding the status of the municipal water and sewage system. It may be necessary to obtain a \$7 million bond to pay for the corrective action plan and updates required for the water and sewage system.

Hubble, Roth and Clark engineer Eddie Zmich reported on multiple infrastructure projects. Hubble, Roth and Clark representative Jennifer Morreale gave a presentation regarding the corrective action plan and its progress to date. The potential of utilizing the Michigan State Revolving Fund and its favorable interest rates was discussed.

Mayor Kedzierski asked about an extension of the corrective action plan by SEMSD. Ms. Morreale stated the extensions were approved. Council Member Seely recommended sending a letter of intent to the State of Michigan to retain eligibility for state funding or the mandatory projects.

On motion by Council Member Seely, seconded by Council Member Seago, and carried unanimously (7-0), it was resolved that Hubble, Roth and Clark was authorized to submit a letter of intent to the Michigan Department of Environmental Affairs, Great Lakes and Energy Division to retain the city's eligibility for a loan under the Michigan Revolving Fund for construction related to the sewer and water system upgrades.

G. GPSIF – Council Liaison Danielle Gehlert reported on a January 11, 2021 Meeting of the Foundation. GPSIF spent \$6,000 for the planting of 16 trees and \$100,000 for park improvements. The Schroeder Field House is scheduled for new landscaping. The next meeting of the Foundation trustees is scheduled for March 15, 2021.

H. Communications Committee – Council Liaison Danielle Gehlert stressed the

importance of municipal communication upgrades. It was also noted that no finances were available to the committee during the temporary nonessential expenditure freeze.

I. Legal Report – City Attorney Brian Renaud reported on a very busy month of legal activity since the last City Council meeting which required the following legal services:

A zoning appeal case in Wayne County Circuit Court which required municipal filings, a federal court case involving the municipal sign ordinance, a draft of proposed amendments to the sign ordinance, a contract involving the joint public safety officer training facility in the City of Grosse Pointe, Covid employment matters, public meetings and their relation to executive orders regarding Covid restrictions, and matters relating to the Ethics Committee.

J. Manager's Report – Assistant City Manager Tom Krolczyk remarked that municipal communication is a topic that will be addressed as soon as our new City Manager Stephen Poloni begins his employment with the city. Tom Krolczyk and Mark Hepner have discussed the open house that will be conducted for elected officials at the Ford House. Mr. Krolczyk also expressed his appreciation to Chief Schulte for his exemplary service as Director of Public Safety.

8. OLD BUSINESS - None

9. NEW BUSINESS

A. Urban County Cooperative (CDBG) Agreement & Resolution

On motion by Council Member Barrette, seconded by Council Member Seago, and carried unanimously, it was resolved that the Assistant City Manager was authorized to execute the Urban County Cooperative Agreement for the Federal Community Development Block Grant Program for a term of July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2024.

B. 2021 Annual Wayne County Road & Maintenance Permits #A-21055 & #A-21143

On motion by Council Member Barrette, seconded by Council Member Seely, and carried unanimously, it was resolved that the 2021 Combined Permit Resolution authorizing the execution of the Annual Pavement Restoration, Maintenance and Special Events Permits be approved.

C. Mutual Aid Training Agreement

On motion by Council Member Seely, seconded by Council Member Gehlert, and carried unanimously, it was resolved that the Intergovernmental Public Safety training Agreement for Mutual Aid Partners among Grosse Pointe Park, Grosse Pointe Farms, Grosse Pointe Woods, Grosse Pointe Shores and Harper Woods was approved.

D. Cook Rd. (South Station) Pump Replacement Purchase

Public Works Director Mike Way explained how the Cook Road pump was an integral

part of the municipal drainage system. It is also necessary that there is a redundant backup unit. The matter of purchasing a new pump was discussed. By rotating three pumps into the backup/use cycle, a backup pump will always be available for immediate installation. Steve Poloni and Mike Way both advised that secondary pump failure would result in catastrophic basement flooding in the city.

On motion by Council Member Seely, seconded by Council Member Barrette, and carried unanimously, it was resolved that the quoted repair authorization for the existing pump and the purchase of a new submersible sewage pump in the combined amount not to exceed \$40,000 were authorized; and once the new pump is installed, the third pump will be rebuilt and retained as a redundant backup pump.

E. Public Safety Director Update - tabled until after closed session.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Chase Wakefield had comments regarding the Friends of Grosse Pointe Shores Facebook page. Mayor Kedzierski stated the Facebook page is not run by the municipality.

Brett Smith wished Chief Schulte the best during his retirement. He complimented Chief Schulte on his leadership in the city. He also expressed welcome to incoming City Manager Steve Poloni.

Steve Poloni described Chief Schulte as the consummate professional and extended his congratulations and best wishes for the Chief's retirement.

11. COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS

All members of Council thanked Chief Schulte for his service, and leaving the department in great shape with very capable trained staff. They acknowledged his long record of accomplishments and efforts on behalf of the city.

Council Member Seago welcomed Steve Poloni as the new City Manager. He also thanked Tom Krolczyk for his stellar effort and work as Interim City Manager.

Council Member Seely discussed the new and improved upcoming municipal website.

12. MAYOR'S COMMENTS – Mayor Kedzierski informed Chief Schulte how safe the residents of Grosse Pointe Shores felt with him leading the Public Safety Department.

13. MOTION TO ENTER INTO CLOSED SESSION UNDER SECTION 8 (h) OF THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT

At 8:50 PM, Mayor Kedzierski called for a roll call vote to go into closed session to consider material and a written opinion of retained outside legal counsel exempt from disclosure per state statute.

The motion to go into closed session was approved unanimously (7-0) by Council in the roll call vote. The closed session began at 8:51 pm.

14. MOTION TO ENTER INTO OPEN SESSION

On Motion of Council Member Seely, seconded by Council Member Barrette, and carried unanimously (7-0), the closed session was ended and Council reconvened in open session at 9:20pm.

On motion of Council Member Seeley, seconded by Council Member Barrett, and carried unanimously (7-0) it was resolved that the matter discussed in the previous closed session was turned over to the City Manager and attorney Ryan Fantuzzi to resolve with a municipal employee.

15. MOTION TO ENTER INTO CLOSED SESSION UNDER SECTION 8 (h) OF THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT

At 9:25 PM, Mayor Kedzierski called for a roll call vote to go into closed session to consider the selection of a Public Safety Director with such discussion being exempt from disclosure per state statute.

The motion to go into closed session was approved unanimously (7-0) by Council in the roll call vote. The closed session began at 9:26 pm.

16. MOTION TO ENTER INTO OPEN SESSION

On Motion of Council Member Seely, seconded by Council Member Barrette, and carried unanimously (7-0), the closed session ended and Council reconvened in open session at 9:31pm.

On motion of Council Member Seely, seconded by Council Member Gelhert, and carried unanimously (7-0) it was resolved that an offer of conditional employment to Ken Werenski for the position of Director of Public Safety would be made, with the requirement that he meet the required conditions of employment with the municipality.

17. NOTE DATES OF FUTURE CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS (Tues, 2/16/21-7pm & Tues, 3/16/21 -7pm)

18. NOTE DATES OF FUTURE TOWN HALL MEETINGS - TBD

19. ADJOURNMENT - On motion by Council Member Gehlert, seconded by Council Member Barrette, and carried unanimously, it was resolved that the meeting was adjourned at 9:34 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Bruce R. Nichols
City Clerk