

**MINUTES OF
VILLAGE OF GROSSE POINTE SHORES, A MICHIGAN CITY
MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2020 – 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, October 20, 2020 by remote video/audio participation. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 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
Interim City Manager Thomas Krolczyk
City Attorney Brian Renaud
Public Safety Director John Schulte
Interim Public Works Director Mike Way

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 15, 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. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 5, 2020 SPECIAL MEETING

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

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

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

7. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

Resident Jeff Quinlan had questions regarding increasing water and sewage rates and whether any accounting regarding the rate increase was being provided by GLWS.

Resident Norman Mourad also expressed disbelief at the amount of his water bill.

Residents Natalia [*no name given*] and Paula Fishman simultaneously expressed their disbelief with the amount of their water bills.

Council Member Gehlert reported the cost of water and sewage has increased 10% from GLWS. She indicated the billings need to be reviewed and audited for accuracy.

Council Member Seely expressed frustration with the new water billing system and believes the matter needs an audit.

Dan Ritter asked if stormwater outflows were causing the cost of the water bills to increase incrementally.

Council Member Seago discussed the dual metering of irrigation water and its deduction from sewage bills in some communities.

Marlene Smith had questions regarding restricted watering times used in the past and how they may affect the billing process.

Council Member Kucyk asked DPW Director Mike Way about the time/distance differential regarding billing of water intake and sewage disposal. Director Way responded that the GLWS charges the city for sewage based on water intake.

Mayor Kedzierski remarked on Rhonda Rickett's retirement after 30 years of exemplary and dedicated service to the city.

8. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS – Harbor and Communications Committees

On motion by Council Member Gehlert, seconded by Council Member Cavataio, and carried unanimously, it was resolved that the appointments were affirmed of Ronald Sables to the Harbor Committee. Carol Klenow and Jen Serra were confirmed as members of the Communications Committee.

9. PUBLIC HEARING- 81 Colonial Rd., Variance Request

On motion of Council Member Gehlert, seconded by Council Member Cavataio, and carried unanimously, City Council adjourned and reconvened as the Zoning Board of Appeals at 7:40 PM.

The petitioner, Joe Perrotta, explained that the second story addition variance would not change the footprint of the structure. There was no objection by any surrounding property owners.

Mayor Kedzierski described the seven factors required to grant the rear yard variance to construct a second story addition to an existing one-story garage for use as a bedroom. The addition will align with the existing foundation wall. The second story addition requires a setback of 30 feet and requires a variance of 5.7 feet. The Planning Commission recommended approval of the requested variance.

In order to grant the variance, Mayor Kedzierski stated the Zoning Board of Appeals must find a practical difficulty exists, the strict enforcement of the requirements of the ordinance would unreasonably deprive the owner of rights enjoyed by all other property owners within the same district, the requirements are unnecessarily burdensome, the variance will not cause an adverse impact on surrounding property or property values, the conditions and circumstances are unique because the smaller lot sizes and tighter physical relation to the neighbors causes a practical difficulty, the conditions and circumstances were not created by the owner as the properties lot depth is unique, that no special privileges will be conferred upon the property, the required variance is the minimum variance necessary to resolve the petitioners problem, and the requested variance will not be contrary to the spirit or intent of the ordinance.

On motion of Council Member Kucyk, seconded by Council Member Gehlert, the Zoning Board of Appeals resolved that the petitioners had met the requirements for the variance and voted unanimously (7-0) to grant the requested variance.

On motion of Council Member Kucyk, with support of Council Member Barrette, and carried unanimously, the Zoning Board of Appeals adjourned and Council reconvened into regular session at 7:48 PM.

10. REPORTS BY CHAIRPERSONS OF BOARDS, COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS

A. Budget and Finance –

1. Approval of Bills – Cathy Hall presented the check run and check register for review by Council.

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

2. Review of Financial Statements - Cathy Hall presented the financial statements for review. She indicated the annual audit is still underway.
3. Finance Committee Chairman Report - Chair Sandra Cavataio reported the October 3 meeting of the committee discussed actuarial reviews and the budget surplus. The next meeting of the committee is scheduled for November 10, 2020.

- ### **B. Public Safety –**
- Chief John Schulte reported all public safety officers are healthy without Covid-19 illness. On October 8, 2020, there was a vehicle in the water call, with our officers rescuing the driver 100 feet off shore. The *Fire Safety Open House* had the largest attendance ever. Our two recruits are progressing well in their training. The Chief thanked Sharon and Gregory Peters for their K – 9 services donation.

C. Public Works – Director Mike Way reported Fall is the busiest time for his department. There was a collapse of 25 feet of sewer at Hawthorne and Lake Shore. A sinkhole formed and emergency repairs were made with the assistance of the city of Grosse Pointe Woods. DPW employee Bruce Haynes has trimmed all the trees along the Lake Shore Road center medium. Arbor Pro has been engaged for tree trimming services. All employees of the Department of Public Works were recertified as fork lift operators. The five sewer meters have been installed, adjusted, and calibrated. The meters are now fully operational. Leaf pickup has started, but he reminds residents that the pickup is for leaves only. The balance of vegetation goes into bags for pickup.

D. Parks Committee – Council Liaison Matt Seely reported there has been no activity since the last Council meeting. Nevertheless, it was a successful year at the park due to the efforts of staff under extremely difficult circumstances.

Council Member Kucyk had questions about a park master plan. Council Member Seely said the Harbor Committee will review the matter at their December meeting and present it to Council for review.

E. Harbor Committee – Council Liaison John Seago reported the Marina is emptying for the season. During the summer of 2020, 130 of the 133 wells were rented. Next year it is anticipated that the marina will be filled to capacity.

F. Infrastructure Report – Council Liaison Matt Seely reported the sewage meters have been installed to identify overflow locations. The elevation of storm sewers located at the rear of private lots is under review. A virtual meeting was held on September 30 to discuss seawall core sample results. A subsequent meeting is scheduled with Michigan and federal officials regarding financing the seawall reconstruction.

G. GPSIF – Council Liaison Danielle Gehlert reported that a meeting was not held last month. The ice rink is still proceeding. The next meeting of the Foundation is on November 16, 2020.

H. Communications Committee – Council Liaison Danielle Gehlert welcomed Jen Serra and Carol Klenow as new members of the Communications Committee. November 10, 2020 is the next meeting of the committee. A communication plan will then be approved for submission to Council.

I. Legal Report – City Attorney Brian Renaud reported on having provided the following legal services since the last Council meeting:

FOIA request regarding a city employee, consultation regarding the Open Meetings Act, Ethics Committee membership composition, research law regarding advisory committees, and Open Meeting Act, Lake Shore seawall scope of work review, Colonial Road construction matter, review and revision of the sign ordinance, review of city manager employment contract, Deeplands Subdivision plat configuration, reviewed and analyzed 605 Lake Shore and 21 Webber lot split applications, attention to an action regarding the Board of Zoning Appeals in Wayne County Circuit Court,

and a review of the electronic municipal meetings law.

J. Manager's Report – Interim City Manager Tom Krolczyk thanked Rhonda Ricketts for her 34 years of the highest level of professional service during her tenure. Preparation is underway for the presidential election. Absentee ballots are being prepared in anticipation. Mr. Krolczyk expressed his determination to review the water bill situation in great detail. A repeat inspection of 31 Colonial Road was conducted with subpar results. Lake levels have dropped approximately 8 inches. As a result, the park water pumps have been placed in storage.

11. OLD BUSINESS - None

12. NEW BUSINESS

A. Assessment Contract Renewal

On motion by Council Member Seago, seconded by Council Member Gehlert, and carried unanimously, it was resolved that the three-year assessment Contract with WCA through September 23, 2023 is approved and staff is directed to proceed.

B. SMART/PAATS FY 2021 Municipal & Community Credit Contract

On motion by Council Member Gehlert, seconded by Council Member Barrette, and carried unanimously, it was resolved that the SMART/PAATS FY 2021 Municipal & Community Credit Contract was approved and Interim City Manager Tom Krolczyk was authorized to sign and process the agreement.

C. Water/Sewer Rate Deferment

On motion by Council Member Seely, seconded by Council Member Kucyk, and carried unanimously, it was resolved that the proposed water rate increase for October 1 through January 1, 2021 is deferred.

D. Water Bill and Analysis Discussion

This matter was discussed extensively earlier in the meeting. Council Member Seely suggested a committee be formed to review the sewage and water billing procedures.

E. Personnel Discussion Regarding New Hire

On motion by Council Member Seely, seconded by Council Member Barrette, and carried unanimously, it was resolved that the employment contract with Steve Poloni as City Manager be ratified and approved.

Mr. Poloni addressed Council and stated that he was looking forward to returning to the Village of Grosse Pointe Shores as its City Manager.

13. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Mark Hepner of the Ford House reported they are in the final stages of construction. He believes the citizens of Grosse Pointe will be delighted to have such an asset for the community. They are planning an opening on April 10, 2021. He also expressed appreciation to the staff of Grosse Pointe Shores for their assistance in completing the project.

Grosse Pointe School Board candidate Lauren Nowicki introduced herself to Council and gave a brief summary of her reasons for running for the position.

14. COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Council Members Barrette and Cavataio expressed their appreciation for the service of Rhonda Ricketts.

Council Member Kucyk discussed an email from resident Gary Mitchell regarding his retirement benefits. City Attorney Brian Renaud said the matter has been referred to Brian Fantuzzi as the employment attorney for the city. We are awaiting Mr. Fantuzzi's response. Mr. Kucyk also commented that the Boo Fest was canceled; yet a Mini Boo Fest was proceeding. Interim City Manager Krolczyk explained the Mini Boo Fest would proceed in accordance with CDC guidelines; and would be very different from the customary event.

Council Member Gehlert thanked Rhonda Ricketts for her patience and time spent explaining finances to Council Member Gehlert. She also welcomed the new committee members and Mr. Poloni's return.

Council Member Seago expressed his appreciation for the tenure of Rhonda Ricketts. He also expressed appreciation to the public safety officers who saved the woman who drove into the lake. He also commended Interim City Manager Krolczyk for the revised form of the Boo Fest.

Council Member Seely expressed his appreciation to Rhonda Ricketts and wished her the best in her retirement. He welcomed Cathy Hall and Steve Poloni to the city administration. He also commended Interim City Manager Tom Krolczyk for setting up the Mini Boo Fest with excellent safety precautions.

15. MAYOR'S COMMENTS – Mayor Kedziarski expressed frustration with the effect of the pandemic. He commented on how he officiated at a wedding ceremony on Belle Isle where in the Canadian relatives were able to see the wedding ceremony across the river from Windsor. He welcomed Cathy Hall and Steve Poloni. He commended Rhonda Ricketts for all her great work during the 33 years at the municipality.

16. NOTE DATES OF FUTURE CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS (Tues, 11/17/20-7 pm & Tues, 12/15/20 -7pm)

17. NOTE DATES OF FUTURE TOWN HALL MEETINGS - TBD

18. ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Council Member Kucyk, seconded by Council Member Barrette, and carried unanimously, The meeting was adjourned at 9:04 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce R. Nichols
City Clerk