

**MINUTES OF
VILLAGE OF GROSSE POINTE SHORES, A MICHIGAN CITY
MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 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, September 15, 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 AUGUST 20, 2020 REGULAR MEETING

On motion by Council Member Gehlert, seconded by Council Member Barrette, and carried unanimously, it was resolved that the minutes were approved subject to the insertion of the public comments of Bruce Bisballe into the minutes.

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

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

6. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS - None

7. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT – Beautification Committee Member Ellen Krease

On motion by Council Member Barrette, seconded by Council Member Cavataio, and carried unanimously, it was resolved that Ellen Krease was appointed to the Beautification Committee.

8. REPORTS BY CHAIRPERSONS OF BOARDS, COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS

A. Budget and Finance –

1. *Approval of Bills* - On motion by Council Member Cavataio, seconded by Council Member Seely, and carried unanimously, it was resolved that the bills were unanimously approved for payment.
2. *Finance Committee Chairman Report*. Chair Sandra Cavataio responded to inquiry by Council Member Kucyk regarding the extent of the retiree OPID beneficiary reserve. Council then discussed the reserve and the use of HSA accounts by retirees. Cathy Hall introduced herself to Council as a candidate for Finance Officer/Treasurer.

B. Public Safety – Chief John Schulte reported one public safety officer is in Covid-19 quarantine. A grant of \$5000 from MMRRA was obtained for in car camera installations. New ballistic vests are being obtained. Our LEIN/NCIC systems passed audit with excellent results. One public safety officer candidate is in the Macomb Fire Academy and another is in the Emergency Medical Services Academy. The Chief described a felony arrest in conjunction with Grosse Pointe Woods concerning an armed robbery suspect.

C. Public Works – Interim Director Mike Way stated he is transitioning into the job and assisting those who are being reassigned among the Public Works Department. The Department is beginning the deactivation of the summer facilities. Leaf pickup will commence on October 13th. Sanitary sewer meters are nearing installation before winter sets in. October 17th is Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Day at the Grosse Pointe Farms Municipal Park.

D. Parks Committee – Council Liaison Matt Seely reported that a meeting was not held during the previous month. The master plan for the park has been revised with the relocation of several facilities. An expense estimate for such modifications is expected shortly. The splash guard for the seawall is to be upgraded. Pickle ball courts are still under consideration.

E. Harbor Committee – Chairman Donn Schroder reported a meeting of the committee was held this month. In the 2020 season, income from well rentals was \$40,000 over expenses. 130 of the 133 boat wells were filled. Ten residents remained on a waiting list for wells. Multiple nonresident occupied wells were rented at premium rates. The next meeting of the committee is scheduled for December 8, 2020.

F. Infrastructure Report – Council Liaison Matt Seely reported SEMSD sewer flows are being addressed and the city may be in the position of reducing overflow penalty charges in the future. The matter of bonding large-scale infrastructure improvements is being explored. HRC is involved with seawall restoration and preliminary budget analysis for the project.

G. GPSIF – Council Liaison Danielle Gehlert informed Council that a meeting of the foundation was held. The foundation will be going forward with consideration of a

skating rink, pickle ball courts and walking path.

H. Communications Committee – Chairman Ted Coutilish analyzed some of the results of the online survey. 559 people responded to the survey. Council discussed the findings of the survey and the method as to how the survey was conducted. Discussion ensued among Council regarding the sampling of the survey and the comments made on the blog following the survey.

I. Legal Report – City Attorney Brian Renaud reported on providing the following legal services during the previous month:

Consultation regarding a Board of Zoning Appeals petition, advice regarding a public hearing of City Council to be held by Zoom remotely, finalization of a document subpoena for waste disposal rates, consultation regarding the Open Meetings Act, preparation of a revised letter of employment for a DPW mechanic, review of a possible lot split, FOIA requests, review of seawall and soil tests conducted for informational purposes, an analysis of “no anchor zone” establishment along the shore of Lake St. Clair.

J. Manager’s Report – Interim City Manager Tom Krolczyk thanked Jennifer Serra for her extraordinary efforts and success during the pool season. The city is awaiting an estimate from HRC for a walking path, smaller pavilion, and pickle ball court at Osius Park. He welcomed Mike Way as the new Director of the Department of Public Works. In anticipation of a municipal website upgrade, discussions have begun with a potential web designer. Absentee ballots will arrive soon and be promptly mailed out. Mr. Krolczyk informed Council that the city is prepared for the upcoming November presidential election.

9. OLD BUSINESS - None

10. NEW BUSINESS

A. *Approve DPW Director Contract*

On motion by Council Member Seely, seconded by Council Member Seago, and carried unanimously, it was resolved that the employment contract with Mike Way as Director of Public Works was approved.

B. *Garbage Truck Purchase Price Approval*

On motion by Council Member Cavataio, seconded by Council Member Seely, and carried unanimously, it was resolved that purchase approval be tabled until reviewed by the new Finance Director/Treasurer.

C. *Finance Director/Treasurer Discussion*

On motion by Council Member Cavataio, seconded by Council Member Seely, and carried 6-1, with Council Member Kucyk opposing, it was resolved that an offer of employment be extended to Cathy Hall as Finance Director/Treasurer subject to

completion of review of the terms and conditions of employment.

D. 31 Colonial Rd. Construction Update

On motion by Council Member Seely, seconded by Council Member Gehlert, and carried unanimously, it was resolved that the construction project be granted a six (6) month extension. The property owners were present at the meeting.

11. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Harry Kurtz had questions regarding the municipal tax rate and comments posted on the community survey. The Mayor commented that our city is a civil city and there is no room for uncivil remarks in any forum.

Brett Smith stated that Mike Way was a great choice for a new Director of Public Works. He also had comments regarding the change of retiree health care benefits and urged Council to reconsider and reverse their position.

12. COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Council Member Gehlert thanked Communications Chair Ted Coutilish, Interim City Manager Thomas Krolczyk and Jen Serra for their exceptional efforts.

Council Member Seago expressed thanks to the public for their comments and welcomed Mike Way as the new Department of Public Works Director.

Council Member Seely praised Interim City Manager Thomas Krolczyk and Jen Serra for their ability to keep the municipal pool open during the pandemic. He also expressed appreciation to Council Member Gehlert and Communications Chair Ted Coutilish for their efforts.

13. MAYOR'S COMMENTS – Mayor Kedzierski reflected on the first remote Zoom Council meeting. He welcomed Mike Way as the new Department of Public Works Director; and expressed appreciation to Brett Smith for mentoring Mike Way.

14. NOTE DATES OF FUTURE CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS (Tues, 10/20/20-7 pm & Tues, 11/17/20 -7pm)

15. NOTE DATES OF FUTURE TOWN HALL MEETINGS - TBD

16. ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Council Member Seago, seconded by Council Member Gehlert, and carried unanimously, The meeting was adjourned at 8:59 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce R. Nichols
City Clerk