

**VILLAGE OF GROSSE POINTE SHORES, A MICHIGAN CITY
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2019 – 7:00 P.M.**

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER - A monthly meeting of the City Council of Village of Grosse Pointe Shores, a Michigan City was held on Tuesday, October 15, 2019 in the Council Chambers of the Grosse Pointe Shores Municipal Building, 795 Lake Shore Road. 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, Council Members Robert H. Barrette, Bruce Bisballe, Tina Ellis, Robert E. Gesell, Doug Kucyk and Matthew Seely

Absent: None

Also present: City Clerk Bruce Nichols
City Attorney Brian Renaud
Finance Officer/Treasurer Rhonda Ricketts
Public Safety Director John Schulte
Public Works Director Brett Smith

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 17, 2019 REGULAR MEETING AND CLOSED SESSION.

On motion by Council Member Ellis, seconded by Council Member Kucyk, and carried unanimously, it was resolved that the minutes be approved, subject to the correction of Council Member Kucyk’s absence from the Closed Session of the September meeting.

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

On motion by Council Member Gesell, seconded by Council Member Bisballe, and carried unanimously, it was resolved that the minutes of the various committees and commissions be received and filed.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

Bill O’Keefe had questions regarding a “Meet the Candidates” event recently held at the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club. The notice of the event had a reference to the Grosse Pointe Shores municipal website. City Attorney Brian Renard indicated the city website should not have been on the notice. The city did not endorse, authorize or sanction the event.

Harry Kurtz had comments regarding social media content and diversity in the community.

Margaret Weertz had comments regarding the maintaining of the agenda of the Council meeting.

Mary Matuja expressed appreciation for the efforts of outgoing Council Members Robert Gesell and Tina Ellis. She also asked about progress on the appointment of a new city manager.

7. PROCLAMATION - Lynn & Paul Alandt & Benson Ford, Jr. – Adjourned

8. PROCLAMATIONS – Council Members Robert E. Gesell & Tina L. Ellis

The Mayor and City Council desiring to honor Council Members Robert E. Gesell and Tina L. Ellis, and recognizing their commitment to Grosse Pointe Shores, presented a proclamation to Council Members Robert E. Gesell and Tina L. Ellis recognizing their exemplary service as members of the City Council.

9. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS- On motion by Council Member Ellis, seconded by Council Member Barrette, and carried unanimously, it was resolved that the Mayor's appointment of Dennis D'Hondt to the Harbor Committee was approved.

10. REPORTS BY CHAIRPERSONS OF BOARDS, COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS

A. Budget and Finance – Finance Officer/Treasurer Rhonda Ricketts

1. Approval of Bills - On motion of Council Member Gesell, seconded by Council Member Barrette, the approval of the bills passed unanimously.
2. Review of Financial Statements - Finance Officer/Treasurer Rhonda Ricketts presented the Financial Statements for review by Council.
3. Finance Committee - Chairman Bruce Bisballe reported that no meeting was held last month; but he pointed out the need to grant Finance Officer/Treasurer Rhonda Ricketts authority to sign a SAW grant application.

On motion by Council Member Bisballe, seconded by Council Member Ellis, and carried unanimously, it was resolved that Finance Officer/Treasurer Rhonda Ricketts was authorized to sign the SAW grant application on behalf of the city.

B. Public Safety – Chief John Schulte reported the department is working on the recruitment of one public safety officer. Efforts continue with the City Attorney in preparing the agreement for the new joint lockup facility with Grosse Pointe Woods. The Chief is also working with a labor attorney regarding employee grievances. The Ford Explorer patrol vehicle has been pulled off the road due to a recall. A pump housing was replaced on the fire truck. He thanked Council Member Ellis and Council Member Gesell for their services and assistance to the Department of Public Safety during their terms.

C. Public Works – Director Brett Smith thanked Council Members Robert Gesell and Tina Ellis for their assistance on Department of Public Works matters during their

tenures. Mr. Smith also reported that Hutch Paving has completed its paving for the year. All of this year's planned asphalt paving has been completed. Concrete work is underway in the Edgewood Subdivision. The *Boo Fest* is ready, even with a shortage of pumpkins occasioned by spring rains. Three water mains have failed since the beginning of Fall; with all having been repaired quickly. The Marina will be winterized on November 6 due to the highwater levels. The municipal water sprinkler system will be winterized by DPW staff with our newly acquired air compressor.

- D. Parks Committee**- Chairman Joe Cipriano discussed unleashed dogs in the municipal park and the Michigan law regarding unleashed dogs. He pointed out potential liability attached to the violation of Michigan law regarding leashed dogs in the municipal park. The Parks Committee unanimously recommended the policy of only leashed dogs in the park. Council Member Seely asked when the leash policy goes into effect after potential passage of such restriction by City Council.
- E. Harbor Committee**- Chairman John Seago reported the Marina will be reviewed for physical condition, damages, and needed repairs after the seasonal removal of all vessels. Mr. Seago was questioned regarding the status of docks and freezing high water.
- F. Infrastructure Report**- Council Member Barrette reported there was no news on the restoration of the Lake St. Clair seawall. Mayor Kedzierski reported on a discussion held with Wayne County Commissioner Tim Killeen and Sen. Debbie Stabenow. Both are well aware of the problem regarding the shoreline. It has also become apparent that Wayne County is not able to finance the seawall restoration. Federal funds will be required to assist in the payment of any long-term restoration of the seawall.
- G. Grosse Pointe Shores Improvement Foundation**- President Brett Marshall reported the *Tot Lot* has been completed. The project was delayed by high water levels at the park. The next foundation project might be a pickle ball court along the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club border. He reminded the residents that the *Boo Fest* is a big event scheduled for October 16th.
- H. Legal Report** – City Attorney Brian Renaud discussed the results of a FOIA request to Wayne County for documents received regarding maintenance of the Lake St. Clair seawall. It appears the County of Wayne has the clear obligation to maintain the seawall.

Mr. Renaud then reported on providing the following legal services during the prior month: A review of the Deeplands development matter regarding labor and material bonds, insurance certificate, an engineering escrow; preparation of a FOIA request, conference with media representatives, review of a Title II plan: multiple issues regarding the absence of a city manager, 788 Lakeshore Rd., a FOIA request, the final draft of the joint lockup agreement with Grosse pointe Woods, and review of a city waste matter.

11. OLD BUSINESS – None

12. NEW BUSINESS –

A. GPW/GPS Consolidated Dispatch Lock-Up Agreement-*Review Only*

Chief Schulte reported on discussions with the City of Grosse Pointe Woods regarding the joint lockup facilities. The chief showed photos of the new lockup facility. Prisoner processing and breathalyzer tests will still be done at the Grosse Pointe Shores Municipal Building. The Chief gave an explanation as to some of the new regulations regarding the required procedures involved in prisoner processing. No action on the joint lockup facility was taken.

13. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Mayor Kedzierski made some introductory statements regarding what he believed the vast majority of the public comments would be concerned with. He remarked that Grosse Pointe Shores is a very open, very welcoming and diverse community. He then opened the floor to public comment.

Jeff Bickerstaff had comments regarding dogs in the park and the benefit of allowing dogs in the park on a restricted basis.

Laura Kelly had comments regarding Councilman Seely's social media posts.

Brian Geraghty had comments regarding the modification of the flooring drainage of the park bath house, which he felt were not adequate.

David Cracchiolo had comments regarding leadership and elected officials.

Margaret Weertz had comments regarding Councilman Seely's social media posts.

Anne Vanker had comments regarding Councilman Seely's social media posts.

John Clark had comments regarding Councilman Seely's social media posts.

Vito Cusenza had comments regarding publication of the annual municipal calendar, and landscape contractor leaf removal. Mayor Kedzierski stated that the \$10,000 annual cost of publishing the municipal calendar was under review.

Nancy Wilke had comments regarding Councilman Seely's social media posts.

Cynthia Douglas had comments regarding Councilman Seely's social media posts.

Maria Caltapha had comments regarding Councilman Seely's social media posts.

Stan Karnarious had comments regarding unleashed dogs in the municipal Park.

Richard Russell reported on the Deeplands subdivision construction process.

Danielle Gelhert introduced herself as a candidate for City Council.

John Seago introduced himself as a candidate for City Council.

Tina Seely had comments regarding the dedication of council members and staff.

Shannon Byrne had comments regarding Councilman Seely's social media posts.

14. COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Council Member Barrette has reviewed the comments about Council Member Seely, and his social media; however, he said the Council has no ability to take any action. He then stated that Council Member Seely should make some kind of apology.

Council Member Seely had comments regarding the vitality of debate, and the good work done during the terms of Council Members Tina Ellis, and Robert Gesell.

Council Member Ellis recapped her four years on Council during which improvements to the park were completed, the hard work of the Department of Public Works and Beautification Committee, harbor improvements, the Department of Public Safety, fiscal responsibility, taxes, record retention policies of employees, and budget cuts as all having been highlights occurring during her term.

Council Member Kucyk clarified that he did not share Mr. Seely's viewpoint on his social media posts; and, Council Members by not taking any action, does not mean Council Members approve of social media comments.

Council Member Bisballe thanked Council Member Gesell for his service on the Finance Committee and Council Member Ellis for her efforts during her term. He wanted to make it clear that he did not share Mr. Seely's viewpoints, nor did he share the viewpoints of his opponents in the audience. He also expressed the fact that Council does not comment, nor take any action regarding a social media post, it does not mean Council approves of such social media comments.

15. MAYOR'S COMMENTS – Mayor Kedzierski commented on the upcoming *Boo Fest* as a great event. A veteran's recognition day is scheduled for November 11, 2019. The Mayor expressed his great appreciation for the service of Council Members Tina Ellis, and Robert Gesell to the city during their tenure's.

16. NOTE DATES OF FUTURE CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS (Tues, 11/19/19-7 pm & Tues, 12/17/19 -12pm)

17. ADJOURNMENT A motion of Council Member Bisballe, seconded by Council Member Barrette, and carried unanimously, the meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce R Nichols
City Clerk