

**VILLAGE OF GROSSE POINTE SHORES, A MICHIGAN CITY
MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 17, 2012 - 7:00 P.M.**

A monthly meeting of the City Council of Village of Grosse Pointe Shores, A Michigan City was held on Tuesday, April 17, 2012 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.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Thaddeus Kedzierski, Council Members Alexander Ajlouni, MD, Robert H. Barrette, Jr., Bruce Bisballe, Kay Felt, Robert E. Gesell, Daniel T. Schulte

Absent: None

Also present: City Clerk Bruce R. Nichols
City Manager Mark Wollenwebber
City Attorney Mark McInerney
Public Safety Director John Schulte
Finance Director Rhonda Ricketts
Public Works Director Brett Smith

All correspondence and reports relating to this meeting are either attached or placed on file.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MARCH 20, 2012 REGULAR MEETING

The minutes of the March 20, 2012 Regular Council Meeting were revised as to correction of date and then approved on motion by Council Member Felt, seconded by Council Member Gesell and carried by unanimous vote.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MARCH 20, 2012 REGULAR MEETING-CLOSED SESSION

The minutes of the March 20, 2012 Regular Council Meeting-Closed Session were revised as to correction of date and then approved on motion by Council Member Felt, seconded by Council Member Gesell and carried by unanimous vote.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

Gloria Anton addressed Council regarding her concerns that the city no longer has a 24 hour public safety office at City Hall.

7. REPORTS BY CHAIRPERSONS OF BOARDS, COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS

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

1. Approval of Bills

The monthly bills were presented by Finance Officer Ricketts, reviewed, discussed and unanimously approved for immediate payment on motion by Council Member Gesell seconded by Council Member Felt. The increased BCBS premium for the month was occasioned by uneven premiums in the quarter, but will level out over the year.

2. Review of Financial Reports

The financial statements were reviewed and placed on file. Finance Officer Ricketts indicated the city finances were in accordance within normal operating parameters.

3. Finance Committee - Chairman Bisballe Report

Council Member Bisballe reported that the finance committee has met two times. The preliminary budget indicates a \$400,000 shortfall. A budget proposal is expected by mid-May.

B. Public Safety - Director John Schulte

1. Monthly Update - Director Schulte indicated that March crime statistics were typical. False alarms average about 25 per month. The department currently has 17 officers, including the chief. In-service training last year accounted for 459 of 977 total hours training.

2. Statistical and Various Other Reports - Public Safety Director Schulte reported 2011 crime statistics. His report indicated a major crime decrease of 47% compared with the year before. A steady drop in larcenies from 26 cases reported in 2009, to 16 in 2010 and six in 2012 showed a favorable downward trend. Ambulance runs totaled 172, down from 190 in 2010. There were only two home invasions in 2011.

C. Public Works - Director Brett Smith

1. Monthly Update - - Director Brett Smith reported the bid process for the new garbage truck was completed and the vehicle replacement process was underway. The winning bid for the garbage truck was from Wolverine Freightliner in the amount of \$142,477. The city was awarded \$135,000 in a municipal grant toward the purchase price. The city will cover the shortage. The vehicle is expected to be in service by the end of July. Mild weather has allowed an early start on spring preparation in the city. The Lakeshore Lane sewer repairs are requiring dewatering because of soil conditions. Assistance from the city of Grosse Pointe Farms in the sewer repair was greatly appreciated.

On motion by Council Member Bisballe, seconded by council Member Barette, and unanimously carried, Director Smith was authorized to proceed with the garbage truck purchase.

D. Parks and Harbor

1. Monthly Update

Council Member Schulte reported that the Fun Run flyer was being printed. Inline skaters will also be included on the May 6 Extended Lakefront course

2. Harbor Committee Chairman Report

Council Member Schulte reported that a 40 foot well was never constructed in the portion of the harbor allotted for same. With the construction barge in the harbor, the construction cost for the well is approximately \$8000. It will cost twice as much if we need to bring a construction barge into the harbor again to construct the 40 foot well. A motion was not needed as the cost of construction was below the \$10,000 threshold requiring Council approval.

E. Legal Report – City Attorney Mark McInerney

Mr. McInerney reported that the tolling agreement with the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club was extended until May 29, 2012. The solar panel ordinance moratorium ends April 17, 2012 and Mr. McInerney recommended a 60 day extension of same. Mary Matuja reported that research on the solar panel matter continues.

A motion to extend the solar panel moratorium for 60 days was discussed and unanimously approved on motion by Council Member Schulte and seconded by Council Member Bisballe.

F. Manager's Report – Interim City Manager Mark Wollenweber

Mr. Wollenweber reported that a great deal of information must be disseminated to the citizens of Grosse Pointe Shores. He suggested that a newsletter be published in the near future.

The 911 phone service will not be fully operational unless we replace the existing analog telephone at a cost of approximately \$8000. The payback from savings associated with the telephone upgrade is approximately 4 months. An unused Wayne County AT&T telephone line has been disconnected with considerable savings each month.

The Grosse Pointe War Memorial has reimbursed the city for \$3500 in PEG fees. Continuing issues of video quality in the City Council broadcasts are still being addressed.

8. OLD BUSINESS

A. Engineering Services- Invitation to Bid - Update

Mr. Wollenweber indicated 11 requests for bids were sent out. Formal quotations to be taken in May

B. Legal Services- Invitation to Bid - Update

Bids for legal services were received, and opened, and will be reviewed in upcoming finance committee meetings.

C. Insurance Services- Invitation to Bid

Mr. Wollenweber indicated the city's rebate from its current insurer associated with the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority made our current insurer very attractive. The City Manager's Recommendation: Acceptance of the two year price quote from Ibex for \$15,000,000 of coverage for 2012-2013 @ \$99,754 and up to 3% maximum increase for 2013-2014; minus the annual and adjusted rebate.

A motion to adopt the city manager's recommendation from Ibex was discussed and unanimously approved on motion by city Council Member Schulte and seconded by Council member Bisballe.

D. Committee Formation – Permanent City Manager

City Council Discussion ensued regarding formation of a city manager search committee and reviewing resumes of candidates. Council members Bisballe, Schulte, Barrette will disseminate the applicants' resumes to all members of Council. Our City Attorney cautioned against Open Meeting Act violations by extensive e-mail communications among the council members regarding this matter.

Mark McInerney and Mark Wollenweber suggested e-mail accounts be reviewed regarding FOIA compliance and municipal government e-mail accounts.

A motion to approve Barrette, Bisballe, and Schulte as committee members to start the search for a permanent manager was discussed and unanimously approved on motion by City Council Member Gesell and seconded by Council Member Felt

9. NEW BUSINESS

A. Tree Board Update- Arbor Day Proclamation – Brett Marshall reported that the tree committee has been active for eight years. He also indicated that an approved tree list was being compiled. He expressed his appreciation on behalf of the city to the Boll family for their tree trimming on Lakeshore North of Vernier Road. The 2012 Arbor Day will coincide with the 2012 Fun Run.

B. Metro Act Right of Way – Resolution

A motion to approve the Metro Act right of way resolution was discussed and unanimously approved on motion by Council Member Bisballe and seconded by Council Member Barrette. Resolution is attached and incorporated by reference to these minutes.

C. City Facility Usage

Council Member Barrette read a letter from Dr. Janice Pemberton regarding employee use of the municipal garage for personal activities. Issues discussed concerned increase liability exposure; however, our insurance carrier indicated no additional premium or exposure would be reflected under our current liability policy. Mr. Wollenweber addressed the Council on the matter and indicated that allowing such activity within the municipal garage has a long history; and that most municipal staff find our current mechanic's presence to be more helpful than intrusive. At no time was the employee conducting such private activity on city payroll time.

Mr. Wollenweber is to obtain letters from insurance companies involved indicating no increase in liability exposure. He will also work with staff to formulate a policy regarding the use of garage facilities by employees during their own time.

D. Ambassador Committee Update – A motion to add Alex Lucido and Chase Wakefield to the Ambassador Committee was made by Council Member Felt, seconded by Council Member Gesell, and unanimously approved.

Council Member Felt reported that contact has been made with the local school officials regarding issues and concerns of potential new residents. A group of realtors is now associated with the committee to examine other potential concerns by prospective new residents. The Junior League Show House will also be a location for promotion by the committee. The sign ordinance needs review to allow reasonable outside realtor promotion of the sale of homes in the community. Funding from the Grosse Pointe Shores Foundation for the GP Fish Art promotion is uncertain. The approximate cost of the promotion is \$2500 and private contributions will be encouraged.

E. Proposed use of larger recycling bins

Council Member Barrette reported a consensus of the need for larger recycling containers. A sample of the larger receptacle was shown to City Council by Public Works Director Smith. There has been a 29% increase in recycling since 2007. Director Smith asked for directions from City Council in this matter. Council will receive the results of Public Work Director Smith's receipt of recycle receptacle research relatively soon.

F. Blue Ribbon Operations Committee

Council Member Schulte presented the names of those individuals willing to serve on the Blue Ribbon Operations Committee, and moved that the nominations to the committee be approved. The motion having been seconded by Council Member Barrette, the motion was unanimously approved.

The names of those to serve on the committee are as follows:

John Booth
Alan Broad
Elizabeth Eldridge
Connie Houin
Dr. Quresh Khairullah
Mary Anne LaHood
Marlene Stahl
Dan Schulte, Liaison

The interest of John Renick in serving was noted by Council Member Felt and he was unanimously appointed by Council. The focus and objectives of the committee were discussed. It was the general consensus of the Council that the committee should decide on their own what areas they would like to focus on regarding the municipality. Council has requested the committee to provide a report at the next meeting of city Council as to their proposed direction.

G. Services for Older Citizens and Meals on Wheels

This item was added and Council Member Felt requested that the finance committee take the request for a donation from Services for Older Citizens and Meals on Wheels under consideration, and make a recommendation to Council at the next meeting

10. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Charles Leahy addressed the Council regarding Open Meetings Act and the Board of Review. He indicated that he has withdrawn his complaint at the state level and complemented the board on resolving the issues he pointed out at earlier meetings.

Mary Matuja reported to Council regarding beautification issues and the Sponsor-a-Garden project.

Vito Cusenza asked questions regarding the GP Fish project and donations through the Grosse Pointe Shores Foundation.

George McMullen introduced Valerie Kindle as a candidate for the new District 1 State Representative. Valerie Kindle then addressed Council.

11. COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Council Member Barrette expressed concern with the GP Fish art program and lack of communication about it to him.

Council Member Felt encouraged residents to review Helen Bai's cookbook.

Council Member Bisballe stated that the finance committee encourages participation from all members of the community.

Council Member Gesell reiterated Councilman Bisballe's statement.

Council Member Schulte indicated his belief that subcommittees should not have closed sessions. Tax increase issues are looming and street repairs also need attention.

12. MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Kedzierski stated that swim team registration is upcoming and he encourages citizen participation. A second town hall meeting is set for Saturday, April 21. Mayor Kedzierski also stated that a salutary resolution concerning Ed Deeb will be before council at the next meeting.

13. DATE OF FUTURE CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS: Tues. 05/15/12 & 06/19/12 7:00pm

14. Closed Session – Discussion with City Attorney Regarding Grosse Pointe Yacht Legal Opinion.

ROLL CALL VOTE ON CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSS LEGAL OPINION ABOUT THE GROSSE POINTE YACHT CLUB WITH THE CITY ATTORNEY AS PERMITTED BY SECTION 15.268 (C) OF THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT.

AYES: Mayor Thaddeus Kedzierski, Council Members Alexander Ajlouni, MD, Robert H. Barrette, Jr., Bruce Bisballe, Kay Felt, Robert E. Gesell, Daniel T. Schulte

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried 7-0

The City Council went into closed session at 9:47 PM.

15. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting of the Council was adjourned by motion unanimously approved at 10:50 pm

Bruce R. Nichols, City Clerk.