

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

**COUNCIL CHAMBERS
795 LAKE SHORE RD.
GROSSE POINTE SHORES, MI 48236**

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER - The monthly meeting of the City Council of the Village of Grosse Pointe Shores, a Michigan City was held on Tuesday, October 19, 2021, at the Municipal Building. 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, Donn Schroder, John T. Seago, and Matthew Seely

Absent: None

Also present: City Clerk Bruce Nichols
Finance Officer/Treasurer Candice Giles
City Manager Stephen Poloni
Public Works Director Mike Way

4. SETTING OF AGENDA - No changes

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 21, 2021 REGULAR MEETING

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

7. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

Richard Russell, the developer of Deeplands Development Company addressed Council to provide an update on the Deeplands Subdivision. The Covid pandemic severely delayed the final platting process at the Wayne County level. Construction delays, lack of tradesmen, material shortages, and incessant rainfall made the project more difficult than anticipated. Mr. Russell thanked Council Member Seely for his service to the city during his term in office.

8. PROCLAMATION – Council Member Matthew Seely

Mayor Kedzierski presented a proclamation in honor of Council Member Seely, recognizing his dedication to the community and as being a citizen of distinction during his term as City Council Member.

9. REPORTS BY CHAIRPERSONS OF BOARDS, COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS

A. Budget and Finance – Finance Officer/Treasurer Candice Giles

1. Approval of Bills - On motion by Council Member Seago, seconded by Council Member Schroder, and carried unanimously, it was resolved that the bills were authorized for payment.
2. Review of Financial Statements - Finance Officer/Treasurer Candice Giles, in response to the auditor's recommendation, presented a quarterly payroll report. This was the first of this type of report which will now be shown to Council at their monthly meetings. All new ARPA funding will require a written plan before it will be received as revenue for the city. The actuarial report is forthcoming. Reports of the annual investment results of the \$30 million retirement fund have been exceptionally good.
3. Finance Committee Chairman Report - Chair Sandra Cavataio explained the process for utilization of ARPA funds. These funds can be used for capital funding but cannot be used to enhance the financial position of the municipality. The next meeting of the Finance Committee is November 9th.

B. Public Safety – City Manager Poloni reported on the behalf of Chief Ken Werenski that two public safety officer candidates are now attending the police academy.

C. Public Works – Director Mike Way reported the last seasonal employee departed for school. A large tree fell in Osius Park. The SEMCOG General Assembly Meeting showed the long-range storm effect has intensified the storm water runoff loads.

D. Parks Committee – Council Liaison Matt Seely reported the pickle ball courts will be painted, and the nets will be installed next week. He recommended Council Member Schroder as his replacement for Parks Committee Liaison. 14 trees were lost in the park during the last year.

E. Harbor Committee – Chairman Donn Schroder stated that the marina decking was the biggest repair expense for the year. Completion of the decking replacement is expected before winter. The Marina had a revenue surplus this year; however, the bond premiums will increase next year and a surplus is not expected in the future. He recommended Dan Ritter as the new Harbor Committee Chair.

F. Infrastructure Report – Council Liaison Robert Barrette stated that HRC is still working on multiple infrastructure issues.

Council Member Seely stated that the seawall replacement project should cost

approximately \$250 per lineal foot. It should be less than the seawall replacement estimates that are astronomically high as the federal government and Wayne County officials suggest. Wayne County is responsible for the seawall; and they need to pay to fix it. Litigation may be required to get the repairs underway.

Mayor Kedzierski noted the line item of taxes for the Wayne County Parks paid by our city residents does not get returned to our municipality as revenue. Those funds could be used to fund the repair of the seawall. The seawall is becoming a very high priority.

G. GPSIF – Council Liaison Danielle Gehlert reported the fundraising event held by the Foundation was very successful and generated a great deal of revenue. The *BooFest* is a joint venture with the city and the Foundation. The park waterfront outlooks are under review. The next meeting of the Foundation is scheduled for November 15.

H. Communications Committee – Council Liaison Danielle Gehlert reported a Zoom meeting of the Communications Committee is scheduled for October 28th. Revisions of the website style and themes are complete. The functionality of the website is now being implemented.

I. Legal Report – City Attorney Brian Renaud reported on providing the following legal services during the previous month; review of the nuisance ordinance, attention to the floodplain ordinance amendment, landscape plan applications, FOIA request for civil violations, nuisance enforcement actions, numerous revisions of the floodplain ordinance required by a State of Michigan employee.

Council Member Gehlert asked about a civil infraction FOIA request which covered residential maintenance.

J. Manager's Report – City Manager Steve Poloni reported the Blue Cross Blue Shield health premiums are anticipated to increase 5.7% for the upcoming year. The Grosse Pointe Woods Shores Little League has a renovation project of the baseball diamond in the process of formulation. The State of Michigan has appropriated \$750,000 to be used for the Lake Shore seawall project. The State of Michigan has also set \$14 million aside for Great Lakes improvements within the state. Grosse Pointe Shores will attempt to secure some of those funds. 70% of the power outages occurring in the community have been caused by falling tree limbs. The short-term plan is to intensify tree trimming to avoid the occurrence of falling limbs.

Sum of \$15,000 was donated from the Ford House and \$10,000 was donated anonymously for video cameras.

On motion by Council Member Barrette, seconded by Council Member Schroder, and carried unanimously, it was resolved that the donations be accepted.

Mayor Kedzierski expressed concern over the repeated DTE outages occurring in the city. He indicated some plan should be formulated to make sure our concerns are heard at DTE.

Council Member Barrette indicated the recent rain has increased the growth rate of the

trees, exacerbating the falling tree limb problem. He stated individual letters to MPSC will generate more responses than complaints to DTE.

Council Member Schroder indicated DTE has become more intensive in its tree removal program to avoid power outages.

10. OLD BUSINESS -

A. Ordinance #273-Floodplain Management Ordinance Amendment

On motion by Council Member Schroder, seconded by Council Member Seago, and carried unanimously, it was resolved that Article 5 of Chapter 6 of the City Code of Ordinances is revised and amended to reflect the updated FEMA rate map.

11. NEW BUSINESS

A. Wayne County Annual Maintenance, Pavement Restoration & Special Events Permits

On motion by Council Member Barrette, seconded by Council Member Seago, and carried unanimously, it was resolved that Council approved the 2022 Combined Permit Resolution authorizing the execution of the Annual Pavement Restoration, Maintenance and Special Events Permits on local and county roads.

12. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Janice Pemberton, former chair of the Ethics Drafting Ordinance Committee expressed displeasure with the ethics policy and its adoption. Mayor Kedzierski explained the reasons for the adoption of a policy rather than an ordinance.

Municipal Court judicial candidate Richard "Chip" Berschback addressed Council and expressed his desire to be our new municipal court judge.

Raymond Rahi expressed his appreciation to Council Member Seely for his service to the city.

13. COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Council Member Seago had questions and comments regarding the deteriorating seawall. He expressed appreciation to Council Member Seely for his dedication to the city.

Council Member Seely thanked the residents for allowing him the opportunity to serve as Council Member. He also thanked staff and individual Council Members for their assistance during his four-year term.

Council Member Gehlert thanked those who attended the Council Meeting this evening. She stated that Council Member Seely has been a great advocate for the city and that it was a pleasure sitting on Council with him.

Council Member Cavataio thanked Council Member Seely for his dedication, guidance and wise advice to the Village of Grosse Pointe Shores during his term.

Council Member Schroder responded to Janice Pemberton and said the Ethics Ordinance drafting committee was an essential element to the formulation of the Ethics Policy.

Council Member Barrette stated that the Council will miss the presence of Council Member Seely.

14. MAYOR'S COMMENTS – Mayor Kedzierski thanked Council Member Seely for all his hours dedicated to the city during his term as Council Member. He expressed appreciation as to how Council Member Seely was such an integral part of the restructuring of the administrative staff of the city to allow things to work as well as they do now. The Mayor also thanked Joe Cipriano for his service on the Parks Committee. The city seeks volunteers for committees and commissions.

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

At 8:43 PM a roll call vote was carried unanimously to go into closed session to discuss employment matters.

16. MOTION TO ENTER INTO OPEN SESSION

At 9:32 PM a roll call vote was carried unanimously to return to open session.

17. NOTE DATES OF FUTURE CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS (Tues, 11/16/21-7pm & Tues, 12/14/21 -12pm Volunteer Luncheon immediately following)

18. ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Council Member Barrette, seconded by Council Member Seely, and carried unanimously, the meeting adjourned at 9:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce R. Nichols
City Clerk