

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE CITY COUNCIL
VILLAGE OF GROSSE POINTE SHORES, A MICHIGAN CITY
TUESDAY, APRIL 20, 2021 – 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, February 16, 2021 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, and Matthew Seely

Absent: John T. Seago [Excused on motion of Seely/Gehlert (6-0)]

Also present: City Clerk Bruce Nichols
Assistant City Manager Thomas Krolczyk
City Manager Stephen Poloni
City Attorney Brian Renaud
Public Works Director Mike Way
Public Safety Director Ken Werenski

4. SETTING OF AGENDA

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MARCH 16, 2021 REGULAR MEETING

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

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MARCH 23, 2021 SPECIAL MEETING

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

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

On motion by Council Member Cavataio, seconded by Council Member Kucyk, and carried unanimously, it was resolved to receive and file the minutes of the various boards, committees, and commissions.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS – None

9. ETHICS ORDINANCE DRAFTING COMMITTEE PRESENTATION

Ethics Ordinance Drafting Committee Chair Dr. Janice Pemberton made a presentation to Council wherein she described the purpose of the ethics ordinance, types of conduct that might conflict with the ethics ordinance, potential unethical conduct in the use of social media by public officials, various types of violations, methods of enforcement, and possible standard forms for utilization with the ordinance administration.

Dr. Pemberton reported a 12 page final draft of the proposed ethics ordinance will be delivered to Council Members on the following day for their review.

10. REPORTS BY CHAIRPERSONS OF BOARDS, COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS

- A. Budget and Finance** – City Manager Stephen Poloni presented the bills indicating normal and ordinary expenses.

On Motion of Council Member Cavataio, seconded by Council Member Kucyk, the bills were unanimously (6-0) approved for payment.

1. Review of Financial Statements

The financial statements of the municipality were presented by City Manager Poloni for review by Council.

2. Finance Committee Chairman Report

Chair Sandra Cavataio reported on the March meeting of the Finance Committee wherein replacement of various capital equipment was discussed. Current revenue is below the 2009 level. A budget deficit of \$369,000 is projected. Future discussions will be held to reduce the deficit. A Joint Meeting of City Council and the Finance Committee is scheduled for April 21, 2021. Then next meeting of the Finance Committee is scheduled for May 11, 2021.

- B. Public Safety** – Chief Ken Werenski expressed appreciation to Council Member Kucyk, for his dedicated service as a Council Member. Dylan Taylor was sworn in as our newest public safety officer. A *Unit Commendation* was awarded to the Department of Public Safety on March 24, 2021 for their successful efforts during the Covid 19 pandemic. Fireworks have been arranged for the July 4th celebration and the appropriate applications have been processed. The Public Safety Department has new body cameras, which are operational and extremely effective. The Ford House will be opening soon as their inspections are almost completed. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources has denied the city's application for a "no anchor zone" based on lower water levels and jurisdictional issues.

- C. Public Works** – Director Mike Way reported our winter equipment is stored and the summer equipment is ready for use. 73 catch basins have been cleaned. There was a water main break on North Deeplands. The Ahee clock at *Osius Park* is ready to be installed. The pool will be repainted. The *Grosse Pointe Woods Shores Little League* bases are being upgraded to a safer breakaway design.

D. Parks Committee – Chairman Joe Cipriano said the Easter Egg event was highly successful. The construction of a pickle ball court and a walking path is moving forward. There are upgrades to the kayak area. Construction projects at the park are expected to be completed by the July 4th celebration. Pool operation schedules are being prepared by Director Jen Serra. Council Liaison Matt Seely expressed appreciation to the Grosse Pointe Shores Foundation for a \$131,000 grant for a pickle ball court, a shaded awning area, improvements to the kayak area pad, and a connecting sidewalk improvement. He also expressed appreciation to Council Member Gehlert for her efforts in facilitating these improvements with the foundation.

Pool Director Jen Serra said she is looking forward to the *Arbor Day* run on May 2. The wading pool will reopen this year. Lifeguard staffing continues. Swim team activities will occur on some sort of limited basis. Locker rooms will be fastidiously cleaned, and staff will be trained on how to sanitize them throughout the season.

E. Harbor Committee – Chairman Donn Schroder reported revenue for well rentals for the upcoming season are \$270,000. 13 nonresidents have wells. A 100% occupancy rate for the wells is expected. Marina decking has been replaced at the cost of approximately \$18,000. The concrete pier walls need repair. June 8th is the next scheduled meeting of the Harbor Committee.

Council Member Seely noted the increase in well fees was necessitated by the contractual incremental payment of bond premiums on the marina.

F. Infrastructure Report – Council Member Barrette has continued his review of DTE infrastructure within the city. Tree trimming is desperately needed to avoid outages. At the southern end of the city, the DTE lines may be undersized and unable to carry sufficient loads as may be required. Council Member Seely asked Public Works Director Way about the status of the SEMSD situation. Director Way says the city is receiving pressure from SEMSD to make faster progress on our waste water discharge system.

G. GPSIF – Council Liaison Danielle Gehlert reported that last month's meeting of the foundation approved \$131,000 in park improvements. The position of vice president of the foundation is vacant. The next meeting of the foundation will be May 10, 2021.

H. Communications Committee – Chairman Ted Coutilish and Council Liaison Danielle Gehlert confirmed that all funds earmarked for the Communication Committee are on hold pending the budget approval process. The committee has issued an RFP for certain communications needs of the city. All actions of the committee remain pending until the budget is resolved.

I. Legal Report – City Attorney Brian Renaud reported on having provided the following legal services since the last meeting of City Council: resolution of a Wayne County Circuit Court BZA appeal which was denied by the circuit court judge in favor of the city, Federal Judge Lawson has moved the sign ordinance case to a facilitation track, drafting of a new sign ordinance, matters relating to the *Open Meeting Act* were addressed with administration, and DNR action on the “no anchor zone” application.

J. Manager's Report – City Manager Steve Poloni reported on an upcoming Joint City Council/Finance Committee scheduled for April 21, 2021. He also noted that the *Mayor's Prayer Breakfast* was canceled due to Covid restrictions.

11. OLD BUSINESS

A. Street Addition Certification Resolution Correction, East & West Deeplands Lane

On motion by Council Member Seely, seconded by Council Member Gehlert, and carried unanimously, (6-0) it was resolved that pursuant to the request of MDOT, the correction to the street addition was approved. City Clerk Nichols shall provide the resolution in appropriate written form for use by MDOT.

12. NEW BUSINESS

A. Sign Ordinance Approval – Tabled

B. Facebook Page Discussion

Council Member Gehlert indicated the potential of a free Facebook page, which can be maintained by Communications Committee Chairman Ted Coutilish, at no charge to the city.

On motion by Council Member Seely, seconded by Council Member Barrette, and carried unanimously (6-0), it was resolved that an official municipal Facebook page would be created and administered within guidelines set forth by the joint efforts of the Chairman of the Communications Committee and an Administration member to be chosen by the City Manager.

13. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

GPS retiree Brett Smith had comments regarding retirees' benefits.

Dr. Robert E. Lee had comments regarding the proposed ethics ordinance and the exclusion of city officials from the Ethics Ordinance Drafting Committee. He suggested a high level of scrutiny for the proposed ordinance.

14. COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Council Member Cavataio thanked City Manager Poloni for his efforts in the budget process.

Council Member Gehlert thanked all the administrative staff for their efforts; and suggested consideration of recognition of Fragile X Day for autistic awareness on July 22nd.

15. MAYOR'S COMMENTS – Mayor Kedzierski expressed appreciation to the Ahee family for the repair of the outside Rolex clock at *Osius Park*. He also read a letter from a

resident praising Public Safety Officers for their help during the resident's recent emergency situation.

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

On a unanimous roll call vote (6-0) to enter into closed session to discuss labor negotiations, City Council adjourned at 8:43pm.

17. MOTION TO ENTER INTO OPEN SESSION

On a unanimous roll call vote (6-0), City Council re-entered open session at 9:10pm.

18. NOTE DATES OF FUTURE CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS (Tues, 5/18/21-7pm & Tues, 6/15/21 -7pm)

19. NOTE DATES OF FUTURE TOWN HALL MEETINGS – TBD

20. ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Council Member Barrette, with support by Council Member Seely, and carried unanimously the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Bruce R. Nichols
City Clerk