

**VILLAGE OF GROSSE POINTE SHORES, A MICHIGAN CITY
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
TUESDAY, MAY 25, 2021 – 7:00 P.M.**

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, May 25, 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, John T. Seago, and Matthew Seely

Absent: None

Also present: City Clerk Bruce Nichols
Finance Officer/Treasurer Candice Giles
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 APRIL 20, 2021 REGULAR MEETING

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

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE APRIL 21, 2021 SPECIAL JOINT MEETING

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

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MAY 4, 2021 SPECIAL JOINT MEETING

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

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

On motion by Council Member Seago, seconded by Council Member Barrette, and carried unanimously, it was resolved to receive and file the minutes of the various

boards, committees, and commissions.

- 9. PROCLAMATION** – Mayor Kedzierski read a proclamation from City Council extolling the great efforts and many years of dedicated service provided by retired Council Member Doug Kucyk.

10. PUBLIC HEARING- FISCAL YEAR 2021/2022 BUDGET, TAX RATE

A. Adoption of Fiscal Year 2021/2022 Budget

Finance Officer/Treasurer Candice Giles presented a proposed balanced budget for the Fiscal Year 2021/2022. Under the proposed budget, the tax rate is unchanged. Nevertheless, the diversion of funds into the operating budget is at the cost of several capital improvement projects that the city should be doing. The Finance Officer and City Manager responded to various questions from Council Members.

Harry Kurtz had questions regarding retiree health benefits. Council Member Seely expressed why he felt a review of our current actuary was needed.

On motion by Council Member Barrette, seconded by Council Member Cavataio, and carried unanimously (6-0), it was resolved that the recommendation of the Finance Committee and staff to adopt the proposed budget on a fund and activity basis for the fiscal year 2021/2022 specifically, the General Fund at the functional level and all other funds at the expenditure level.

B. 2021 Proposed Tax Rate

On motion by Council Member Cavataio, seconded by Council Member Barrette, and carried unanimously (6-0), it was resolved that the recommendation of the Finance Committee be adopted to establish the 2021 total tax rate of 17.7031 mils for the Village of Grosse Pointe Shores, a Michigan City with such tax being levied July 1, 2021. Such tax rate is the same as the total 2020 tax rate.

11. REPORTS BY CHAIRPERSONS OF BOARDS, COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS

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

1. *Approval of Bills* - Finance Officer/Treasurer Candice Giles presented the bills indicating normal and ordinary expenses.

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

2. *Review of Financial Statements* - The financial statements of the municipality were presented by Finance Officer/Treasurer Candice Giles for review by Council.
3. *Finance Committee Chairman Report* - Chair Sandra Cavataio reported a joint meeting of City Council and the Finance Committee was held instead of the regular. Monthly Finance Committee meeting in May. The next meeting of the Finance

Committee is scheduled for June 8, 2021 at 10 AM.

- B. Public Safety** – Chief Ken Werenski reported the entire public safety department fleet, with camera systems, has been updated and is fully operational. No employees have contracted Covid since December. Covid sanitary procedures are still in effect. There are several upcoming retirements which will require new candidates as public safety officer recruits.
- C. Public Works** – Director Mike Way stated his department is in full summer maintenance mode. Park projects, repair of drainage systems, attention to trees killed by highwater, maintenance of the splash pad, painting of the entire pool and splash pad, attaining full operation of both the splash pad and the pool, with repairs to the pool heater have required extensive efforts by the Department of Public Works. The baby pool will open after inspection by Wayne County. The Ahee clock has been installed at the pool entrance. LED lighting has been installed. A new pump will be installed at the South Pump Station. Director Way asked residents to water their lawns during the late evening and very early morning hours to help keep the municipal water rate down. The Department of Public Works is fully staffed.
- D. Parks Committee** – Director Jen Serra reported on a successful Arbor Day celebration. The pool is already open with lifeguards staffed. Finding sufficient staff is a continuing problem. Pool hours are being posted in compliance with Covid restrictions; although the restrictions are expected to be relaxed in the near future. The Swim Team program will begin soon. Director Serra extended appreciation to the Grosse Pointe Shores Foundation for the digital pace swim clock and to the Ahee family for the new wall clock at the pool entrance. The locker room will be fully open during the season. Scheduling of the pool hours will be more affected by staffing shortages rather than Covid restrictions. Council Liaison Matt Seely reported the pickle ball court construction is underway.
- E. Harbor Committee** – Chairman Donn Schroder reported 130 of the 133 available wells have been leased out. The city has received \$290,000 in revenue from well rentals. This amount is \$30,000 over last year's well revenues. The seawall repairs are estimated at \$28,000 and are being delayed until funds are available. Approximately one third of the docks have been re-decked. June 8th at 7 PM will be the time of the next meeting of the Harbor Committee.
- F. Infrastructure Report** – Council Liaison Matt Seely attended a meeting with HRC staff, Jennifer Morreale and Jesse VanDeCreek. Council Member Seely also reported that Council Member Robert Barrette is ready to return to his former position as Council Liaison to the Infrastructure Committee.
- On motion by Council Member Seely, seconded by Council Member Gehlert, and carried unanimously, it was resolved that Robert Barrette will be reappointed as Council Liaison to the Infrastructure Committee.
- G. GPSIF** – Council Liaison Danielle Gehlert reported the ice rink will return next winter. The pickle ball court construction is underway. Mike Way reported the waterfront outlooks and their gardens will be repaired soon.

- H. Communications Committee** –Council Liaison Danielle Gehlert reported the Communications Committee had a meeting; however, there is no money in the budget for funding the Communications Committee. Implementation of the municipal Facebook page will go forward as it is without cost. Everything else planned by the committee is pending funding. Chairman Ted Coutilish reported the Facebook site will be reviewed and hopefully launched in the near future. Guidelines for social media conduct have been formulated. The newsletter has been improved.
- I. Legal Report** – City Attorney Brian Renaud reported on having provided the following legal services since the last meeting of City Council: Attention to the federal court sign litigation case involving the city, revision of the sign ordinance, analysis of a solar energy application, and a FOIA request for municipal climate change plans. Council Member Seely asked about reimbursement for the city attorney fees associated with the federal sign litigation occurring prior to the insurance carrier accepting the claim and providing an attorney for the city’s defense.
- J. Manager’s Report** – City Manager Steve Poloni reported the municipal building driveway has been repaired and the parking lot has been recoated. SEMSD appears to be willing and ready to grant an extension for compliance with the required infrastructure improvements.

12. OLD BUSINESS- None

13. NEW BUSINESS

A. Audit Engagement Letter

Finance Officer/Treasurer Candice Giles remarked that the current auditor is very knowledgeable about the financial operations of our city.

On motion by Council Member Barrette, seconded by Council Member Seely, and carried unanimously, it was resolved that an engagement letter would be entered into with our current auditor, Maner Costerisan for the next year ending with the final audit of the June 30, 2023 financial statements.

B. Capital Improvement Bond Resolution

Representatives from Bendzinski and Company - Municipal Finance Advisors along with HRC representatives Jesse VanDeCreek and Jennifer Morrealle were present. Four infrastructure projects requiring bonding were listed as (1) SEMSD reconstruction at approximately \$7.2 million; (2) Lakeshore Road water main replacement at approximately \$3.9 million; (3) Oxford Road water main, sewer and road replacement at approximately \$2 million; and (4) road and street improvements as required under MDOT regulations. The required bond issue to complete all projects would be \$16,300,000.

Bob Bendzinski reported on the municipal bonding process, and the amount of bonds to be issued.

There were no questions from the public.

Mayor Kedzierski pointed out many of the improvements are required under our SEMSD agreement. It appears the interest rate would be approximately 2.5% and callable by the city after nine years.

On motion by Council Member Seely, seconded by Council Member Cavataio, and carried (4-2), with Council Members Gehlert and Seago opposing, it was resolved that a Notice to Taxpayers and Electors of Intent to Issue Capital Improvement Bonds and the Right of Referendum relating to the issuance of those bonds would be published in accordance with the Michigan state statutes.

C. Sign Ordinance #270

City Attorney Renaud explained the existing and proposed sign ordinances. He recommended that Council approve the proposed new sign ordinance. There was no public comment. The matter was tabled until after the closed session of City Council as scheduled on the agenda of tonight's meeting.

D. City Council Vacancy

Mayor Kedzierski suggested that the city request submission of applications for the vacancy on City Council by 5 PM Friday, June 4, 2021. Council will then meet in a Special Council Meeting on June 8 at 7 PM to interview those applicants in order for a council candidate to be approved at the June 15th regular Council meeting.

14. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Richard Rappa had comments regarding the raising of the grade in the Deeplands subdivision. He expressed concern with drainage runoff problems for the continuous property owners. Councilman Seely said a meeting was upcoming with the city inspector to resolve the issue.

15. COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Council Member Barrette attended a University of Michigan webinar regarding wind and solar power. The use of roof mounted solar panels was discussed. At this point, there does not seem to be anything to be done in our city regarding renewable energy.

Council Members Cavataio and Gehlert thanked staff for their efforts with the budget and their work with the opening of the Municipal Park.

Council Member Seago thanked Doug Kucyk for his meritorious service on City Council.

Council Member Seely complimented Steve Poloni for his ability to move forward on a multitude of municipal projects.

16. MAYOR'S COMMENTS – Mayor Kedzierski thanked the Stahl family for providing T-

shirts for Arbor Day participants. He also remarked on Council Member Kucyk's exemplary service. He expressed initiation for the new municipal park clock from the Agee family. He asked that candidates for the City Council vacancy come forward and apply.

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

At 9:10 PM, Mayor Kedzierski asked for a roll call vote to enter CLOSED SESSION to discuss a litigation matter with legal counsel.

The roll call vote unanimously approved entering closed session. (6-0)

18. MOTION TO ENTER INTO OPEN SESSION

On motion by Council Member Seely, seconded by Council Member Gehlert, and carried unanimously (6-0), it was resolved that City Council would resume open session at 10:40 PM.

On motion by Council Member Seely, seconded by Council Member Gehlert, and carried unanimously (6-0), it was resolved that staff and counsel were authorized to proceed with the negotiation and resolution of an outstanding litigation matter.

19. SIGN ORDINANCE APPROVED.

On motion by Council Member Seely, seconded by Council Member Gehlert, and carried unanimously (6-0), it was resolved that the proposed revised sign ordinance would be adopted in full.

20. NOTE DATES OF FUTURE CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS (Tues, 6/15/21-7pm & Tues, 7/20/21 -7pm)

21. NOTE DATES OF FUTURE TOWN HALL MEETINGS – TBD

22. ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Council Member Seely, seconded by Council Member Seago, and carried unanimously, it was resolved that the meeting be adjourned at 10:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce R. Nichols
City Clerk