

COUNCIL MEETING – SEPTEMBER 11, 2006

A regular meeting of the Council was held on Monday, September 11, 2006 and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

The following were present: Councilmember Clark, Robson, Grano and Mayor Heenan

Also present: Dale Krajniak, City Manager, Jane M. Blahut, Finance Director/Clerk and Herold McC. Deason, City Attorney

Excused Absence: Councilmembers Kennedy, Denner and Theokas

BOND CONSIDERATION

Mayor Heenan presented to Council for consideration and discussion the bond consideration that will be on the upcoming November 7th ballot.

City Manager reviewed the allocation of the bond proceeds and discussed in detail the need specifically within the northwest sector of the City. The primary goal is outlined below:

- 1) To address the density issues, parking and general quality of life within the rental neighborhoods to promote the conversion of two family rental units to single family homes to be undertaken by the existing TIFA program.
- 2) To expand the loan program for single family home improvements to enhance the appearance of these homes through the TIFA. Currently there are 100 homes on a waiting list for \$10,000 home improvement loans. When this program was initiated in 1986, it produced an immediate positive impact for the community and by expanding it will speed community rejuvenation.
- 3) Attention is needed to encourage the continued revitalization of the commercial districts along Mac, Jefferson and Kercheval. Currently these areas have several vacancies and lack supporting off-street parking limiting their viability. These 3 commercial districts are key gateways to our community and require enhancements to better serve our residents through redevelopment, parking and landscaping.
- 4) Acquire multi family rental units that abut intersections to provide off-street residential parking and beautification of our rental neighborhoods. This action will improve both the quality of life within these districts and the desirability of the rental housing.

- 5) Assemble contiguous 2 family rental units within the northwest neighborhoods to encourage redevelopment as new, single family, owner occupied housing. This action will add to the atmosphere of revitalization within the district.
- 6) The City streets are in a state of requiring proper resurfacing. Resurfacing has fallen significantly behind schedule throughout the City due to the reduction in part in State Shared Revenues. There are approximately 1200 diseased Ash trees that will need to be removed and replaced within the community. Suggested allocation for tree removal and replacement will be a one-time allocation of \$250,000.00.

Councilmember Grano recommended included an elementary explanation of the Headlee process and how it affects taxes.

Councilmember Robson reiterated the serious challenges in the northwest sector of the City. The only way to address it is to reduce the number of rentals in the community.

Mayor Heenan expressed the urgency of the bond issue and encouraged residents of the need.

Councilmember Clark indicated the Council has attempted to address a weakness in the original request that failed and are providing specificity in its intended use. He also indicated the need to preserve the flexibility of the programs that work and be able to re-allocate funds for the programs that are working. He indicated the need is great and the rates are low which is a good time for the City to borrow the funds necessary in which to attempt revitalizing a deteriorating area of the City.

Councilmember Clark expressed gratitude for the generosity of the residents who so graciously have donated significant amounts of money that has funded so many of the amenities in Grosse Pointe Park. Many residents are unaware of these projects being funded by personal funds rather than City funds.

Resident inquired if the City has a plan to educate the residents?

City Manager indicated there are many volunteers who are interested in educating and promoting this matter.

Resident inquired what type of programs will be offered in the rental area.

City Manager indicated the TIFA tax capture will support the various loan programs within the TIFA district. The key issue is to reduce the number of rentals and revitalize and provide more parking. Also a great need to resurface streets and remove and replace ash trees exists.

City Manager reiterated need for the bond issue. The confidence level of the people who reside in the northwest sector of the City is suffering. There has been more incidences occurring at the parks and the evictions are higher than they've ever been. Properties are only worth what people are willing to pay for them. One of the greatest amenities the Grosse Pointes have is the school system. If the confidence in the school system is reduced, all property values within Grosse Pointe Park as well as all the Grosse Pointes will be affected. The time to do something is now; the risk is too great if we put this off any longer otherwise blight will be greater and expanded.

Councilmember Grano repeated the need to revitalize the northwest sector of the City. He indicated he is the only one left of his friends that live in the City. The younger people are leaving and the City has to do something to encourage these people to stay. The northwest sector of the City is the only affordable area within the community for young people to start out. By offering new housing stock would entice many families with children.

**CITY OF GROSSE POINTE PARK
RESOLUTION NO. 5**

Mayor Heenan presented to Council for consideration a resolution amending the budget for fiscal year 2006. The resolution is as follows:

SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION

WHEREAS, in accordance with Section 8.2 of the City Charter of the City of Grosse Pointe Park the City Manager has submitted to Council a budget for estimated revenues and appropriations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2006, and

WHEREAS, additional costs not included within the original 2005/06 appropriations have arisen,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the following funds budgets be amended as follows:

	Original 2005/06	Revised 2005/06	Increase (Decrease)
	<u>General Fund</u>		
City Admin	145,300	153,914	8,614
Public Safety	5,043,754	5,325,790	282,036
Justice Training	5,800	9,764	3,964
Tree Maintenance	190,100	208,927	18,827
Parks	428,800	474,867	46,067
Recreation	494,400	498,954	4,554
Fitness	415,600	421,879	6,279

Major Street Fund

Traffic Service	60,100	62,330	2,230
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Rubbish Fund

Disposal	1,069,400	1,105,492	36,092
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Building Inspection

Building	119,600	159,252	39,652
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Water/Sewer Department

Sewage Disposal	2,057,200	2,069,369	12,169
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Marina

Marina	243,200	247,547	4,347
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Motion by Councilmember Clark, supported by Mayor Heenan to approve and adopt Resolution No. 3 amending the budget for fiscal year 2006.

AYES: Councilmember Clark, Robson, Grano and Mayor Heenan

NAYS: None

Absent: Councilmembers Kennedy, Denner and Theokas

TEMPORARY TRAFFIC REGULATION 179 & 180

Mayor Heenan presented to Council for consideration temporary traffic regulation No. 179 & 180 be made permanent.

TRAFFIC REGULATION 179

Pursuant to Section 22-UTC-153 of the Code of the City of Grosse Pointe Park, the undersigned hereby promulgates the following temporary regulation for the control of traffic on Kercheval between Nottingham and Balfour within the City of Grosse Pointe Park, County of Wayne, State of Michigan.

1. At the exit drive of Pierce Middle School, I direct the removal of the sign "RIGHT TURN ONLY 8 AM TO 9 AM and 3 PM to 4 PM SCHOOL DAYS."

2. At the exit drive to Defer Elementary School, I direct the removal of a sign “NO LEFT TURN 8 AM to 9 AM and 3 PM to 4 PM SCHOOL DAYS.”

TRAFFIC REGULATION NO. 180

Pursuant to Section 22-UTC-153 of the Code of the City of Grosse Pointe Park, the undersigned hereby promulgates the following temporary regulation for the control of parking on Wayburn between St. Paul and Kercheval within the City of Grosse Pointe Park, County of Wayne, State of Michigan.

1. That a Handicap Parking Only space be erected on the East side of Wayburn in front of 1130 Wayburn.

Motion by Councilmember Robson, supported by Councilmember Clark that temporary traffic regulation Nos. 179 & 180 is made permanent.

AYES: Councilmember Clark, Robson, Grano and Mayor Heenan

NAYS: None

Absent: Councilmembers Kennedy, Denner and Theokas

CITIZEN COMMENT

Resident requested the minutes be posted on the website on a timelier basis.

With no further business the meeting adjourned.