

COUNCIL MEETING - SEPTEMBER 25, 2006

A regular meeting of the Council was held on Monday, September 25, 2006, at 7:00 p.m. and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

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

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

Excused Absence: Councilmembers Denner and Grano

MINUTES 8-14-06, 8-28-06, 9-11-06

Mayor Heenan presented to Council for consideration the minutes of August 14th, 28th and September 11th, 2006 be approved as presented.

Councilmember Clark indicated a statement he made in the minutes of 8-28-06, paragraph 12, after the word disinvestment, should include “cycle in an” to complete his statement.

Motion by Councilmember Theokas, supported by Councilmember Robson to approve the minutes of 8-14-06, 8-28-06 and 9-11-06 with the correction noted.

AYES: Councilmember Clark, Kennedy, Robson, Theokas and Mayor Heenan

NAYS: None

Absent: Councilmembers Denner and Grano

BRENDAN WALSH – GROSSE POINTE PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD

Mayor Heenan presented Mr. Brendan Walsh of the Grosse Pointe Public School Board.

Mr. Walsh indicated he has received the resolution signed by all the Grosse Pointe Mayors indicating they wish to appoint a member of their community to serve on the Library Board and have one at large appointment that is to be represented by one community on a rotation basis which would include Harper Woods. He indicated the decision will be at the March 2007 meeting and the results would be available in April 2007.

Councilmember Clark thanked Mr. Walsh for his dedication to the School Board and noted the Grosse Pointes value education and that it is the cement that holds the

community together. It's the school system that makes Grosse Pointe such a wonderful place in which to live.

Councilmember Theokas echoed Councilmember Clarks' sentiments and expressed gratitude for the establishment of the Central Library. He noted there are many qualified applicants presented to the City Councils for recommendation to the Grosse Pointe School Board for final appointment.

Mayor Heenan and the Council expressed their gratitude to Mr. Walsh for his presentation.

DO BY HAIR COMPANY – RESOLUTION

Mayor Heenan indicated the Do By Hair Company on Kercheval has been in business in Grosse Pointe Park for twenty years. He recommended the Council adopt a resolution honoring the owners Maureen Beleck and Yvonne Maes for their hard work and dedication and long time business owners of 20 years in the City of Grosse Pointe Park.

Motion by Mayor Heenan, supported by Councilmember Kennedy to approve of the resolution honoring the owners, Maureen Beleck and Yvonne Maes of The Do By Hair Company located on Kercheval Avenue for their long time standing as business owners in the City of Grosse Pointe Park..

AYES: Councilmember Clark, Kennedy, Robson, Theokas and Mayor Heenan

NAYS: None

Excused Absence: Councilmembers Denner and Grano

FINANCE REPORT – AUGUST 2006

Councilmember Theokas presented to Mayor Heenan and Council for consideration the invoices exceeding \$5,000 for the month of August 2006 be approved as presented. He indicated the invoices are routine and recommended its adoption.

Motion by Councilmember Robson, supported by Clark to approve of the invoices exceeding \$5,000 for the month of August 2006 in accordance with Section 2.249 of the Charter.

AYES: Councilmember Clark, Kennedy, Robson, Theokas and Mayor Heenan

NAYS: None

Excused Absence: Councilmembers Denner and Grano

BOND CONSIDERATION

Mayor Heenan presented to Council for consideration the review of the upcoming proposed bond consideration.

City Manager read aloud the proposed use of funds for capital projects. He indicated the many issues Grosse Pointe Park is faced with in maintaining the quality of life for residents in the community by which they are accustomed would require significant funding levels to address such issues.

- 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. Approximately 75 two family rental unit owners have expressed interest in participating.
- 2) To expand the loan program for single family home improvements to enhance the appearance of these homes. 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 in the district. He furthered noted the Northwest TIFA would provide resources for this task.
- 3) Attention is needed to encourage the continued revitalization of the commercial districts along Mack, Jefferson and Kercheval. Currently these areas have 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 abutting 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 where feasible 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 is in need of additional resurfacing funds. Resurfacing has fallen significantly behind schedule throughout the City due in part to the reduction 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 representing approximately 800 trees at \$300 each for removal.

There were several residents enthused of the position the City is taking on improving the City and volunteered to help promote the need for the bond issue.

Christine Schlitt, representing the League of Woman Voters requested the City Council sit as an Open Forum of Government to allow a question and answer session for the residents of Grosse Pointe Park as a means of educating the residents who are not familiar with the proposed bond issue.

Councilmember Clark indicated Grosse Pointe Park has always been an open forum of government and have had several meeting that discussed the bond issue at great length and also noted the minutes are posted on the web site.

Mayor Heenan indicated members of the Council would be available on October 10 to answer any questions the League of Women Voters may have regarding the bond issue.

CITIZEN COMMENT

SKATEBOARDING PARK:

Several boys of the community presented to Mayor Heenan and Council a request for the City to provide a skateboarding park. They indicated there is no location within the City for skateboarding.

Councilmember Clark indicated he loves to provide recreation and recommended more of the particulars be provided as to what the cost would entail, the size that would be required and what the liability would be to the City and return so the Council can review the issue with the facts.

The boys indicated they would hold a fund raiser in an effort to raise money for the proposed park.

WANDA EVANS – BALLOT NOVEMBER 7, 2006

Ms.Evans introduced herself to the Council and indicated she is running for office on the November 7th ballot.

Mayor Heenan expressed his gratitude on behalf of the Council for Ms. Evans effort in attending the Council Meeting to introduce herself.

1438 BEACONSFIELD

Councilmember Robson indicated the home located at 1438 Beaconsfield has been in a deplorable condition and indicated he would like a report as to its status.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned.