

COUNCIL MEETING – MAY 13, 2019  
7:00 P.M.

A regular meeting of the council for the City of Grosse Pointe Park was held on Monday, May 13, 2019, and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

The following were present: Councilmembers Clark, Read, Chouinard, Robson, Detwiler, and Grano, and Mayor Denner

Also present: Nick Sizeland, Assistant City Manager, Jane M. Blahut, Finance Director/Clerk, Steve Poloni, Director of Public Safety, and Jake Howlett, Assistant City Attorney

Mayor Denner stated Dale Krajniak, City Manager, has filed for his retirement effective June 30, 2019. He noted Dale had wanted to retire earlier this spring and decided to wait until the budget process was completed. Dale has 33 years of service with the City, and there is not a resident who loves Grosse Pointe Park more.

MINUTES – APRIL 8, 2019

Mayor Denner presented to Council for consideration the minutes of April 8, 2019, for approval.

Motion by Councilmember Robson, supported by Councilmember Read, to approve the minutes of April 8, 2019, for approval.

AYES: Councilmembers Clark, Read, Chouinard, Robson, Detwiler, and Grano, and Mayor Denner

NAYS: None

BUDGET WORKSHOP – MAY 7, 2019  
5:30 P.M.

Mayor Denner presented to Council for consideration the minutes of May 7, 2019, for approval.

Motion by Councilmember Grano, supported by Councilmember Clark, to approve the budget workshop minutes of May 7, 2019, for approval.

AYES: Councilmembers Clark, Read, Chouinard, Robson, Detwiler, and Grano, and Mayor Denner

NAYS: None

RECONFIGURATION OF THE GROSSE POINTE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

Mayor Denner presented a copy of the letter expressing the views on current plans for the reconfiguration of the Grosse Pointe Public School System.

Councilmember Clark presented an additional statement signed by all the Councilmembers expressing agreement with and complete support for Mayor Denner's correspondence submitted to the Board of Education and the Superintendent of the Grosse Pointe Public School System on May 6, 2019.

The letters are as follows:

May 6, 2019

Board of Education:

This letter is to express my views on current plans for reconfiguration of the Grosse Pointe Public School System. After considerable contact with residents, discussion with President Summerfield and Superintendent Niehaus, analysis of the available data, and discussion with the City of Grosse Pointe Park administration, it is my view as Mayor that no schools should be closed at this time.

I agree that there is a financial challenge faced by the district, but I do not agree that it is a crisis that justifies the community trauma and long-range negative impact on all of the cities in the district that I believe is occurring and will intensify. My strong counsel is to take less disruptive short-term action to manage the operating budget while taking a step back on the reconfiguration process. Actions such as selling 389 St. Clair, reconsidering closing Barnes while relocating and expanding programs, and willingness to utilize the district's substantial operating fund surplus could be parts of a short-term financial solution. Closing any elementary school at a savings of approximately six-tenths of one percent of the operating budget while moving fifth graders to middle school and redrawing numerous elementary school boundaries is simply not justifiable in our community. Further, the elementary school population is projected to be essentially flat over the next several years. It also has the unfortunate effect of sowing divisiveness between neighborhoods.

With a slowing of the current process the Board would have the opportunity to learn the direction of State funding under our new governor, consider ways such as early childhood programs to incent families to come to the district, evaluate demographic trends and preferences of the many young professionals currently living in Detroit urban environments, and re-evaluate potentially less disruptive changes which leave in place our walkable neighborhood elementary schools (an essential part of the community identity).

Some of the topics that I believe the Board would have the time to re-evaluate include educational impact of grade configurations (e.g. K-4, K-5, K-6), impact of early childhood program expansion on future enrollment, and other revenue generating activities that serve the community such as fifth year high school and adult education. Reconsidering the relative impact of closing elementary schools compared to a middle school could also be examined in greater depth.

If the Board does elect to proceed on the current path, I know that you have become familiar with many, many concerns of our residents and city officials. Some of these that have come to my attention are:

- Safety of the children especially when crossing either I-94 or Jefferson Ave.
- Educational impact of K-4 vs. K-5 vs. K-6
- Building disposition and impact on a neighborhood, including green space
- Decline of property values – some have indicated up to 9% in affected neighborhoods
- Attractiveness of a neighborhood for young families reducing property values and reducing pupil counts
- Stressing currently successful, diverse, but sensitive neighborhoods
- Cost burden on municipalities of coping with some of the above factors

I do appreciate the considerable effort that has been applied by the Board of Education, school administration and the volunteers of the Blue Ribbon Committee. I believe that all are acting in good faith trying to lead our schools to long term success and excellence. The Board, much like municipal elected officials, work on a volunteer basis out of love for their community. This is a very difficult and complex topic, and I believe, one that merits slowing of the process and careful consideration of what has been learned in the past several weeks.

Thank you for your hard work and consideration.

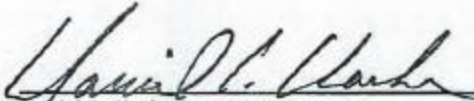


Robert W. Denner  
Mayor, Grosse Pointe Park

cc:  
Superintendent Gary Niehaus  
Grosse Pointe Park City Council  
Dale Krajniak

May 13, 2019

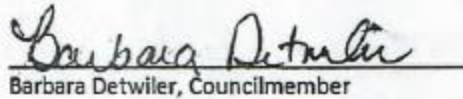
In the preamble to the Charter of the City of Grosse Pointe Park it is stated that " In ordaining and establishing this charter we do thereby declare that this community is, and always has been, predominately a residential area and we do thereby counsel all officials of the city to discharge their official duties in such a manner as to protect and further such residential character of the community." In as much as walkable neighborhood schools are an essential component of our community, we, the undersigned elected officials of Grosse Pointe Park wish to express our agreement with and complete support for Mayor Robert Denner's correspondence submitted to the Board of Education and the Superintendent of the Grosse Pointe Public School System on May 6, 2019.



Daniel E. Clark, Mayor Pro-tem



John E. Chouinard, Councilmember



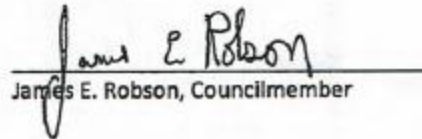
Barbara Detwiler, Councilmember



Daniel C. Grano, Councilmember



Lauri A. Read, Councilmember



James E. Robson, Councilmember

#### ARBOR DAY POSTER CONTEST

Mayor Denner and Pat Deck, representing the Beautification Commission, presented the winner and runners up for the annual Arbor Week Poster Contest.

Pat Deck stated all of the students did a beautiful and creative job on their posters. The winner, Avery Jakubowski, was presented with a resolution, t-shirt, pin and a \$75.00 award. The runners up, Amelia MacGillis, and Oliver Ellefson, were also presented with a resolution, t-shirt, and pin.

The Council thanked the students for their participation in the contest.

#### 1000 WHITTIER – VARIANCE

Mayor Denner presented to Council for consideration, acting as the Zoning Board of Appeals, a variance from Section 27-100 (b) of the Zoning Ordinance, which prohibits fences in a front yard. The applicant wishes to erect a four-foot high fence in the front yard setback. This property is located on the corner of East Jefferson and Whittier and must maintain front yards on both of these streets. The Ordinance prohibits fences in the front yard. Approval of this proposal would require that the Board of Zoning Appeals grant a variance.

Councilmember Clark stated this particular property meets several unique qualifiers due to the location of the existing neighboring homes and possesses an exception that is unique to the property itself demonstrating a hardship.

Mayor Denner indicated there were no letters received in opposition of this variance.

Councilmember Detwiler stated the improvements made to the property are very attractive and is in support of granting this variance.

Councilmember Grano stated the homeowners have met the burden and hardship for a variance.

Councilmember Read stated a similar variance was approved by the Council, acting as the Zoning Board of Appeals several months ago.

Mayor Denner stated the improvements to the property are commendable!

Motion by Councilmember Clark, supported by Councilmember Detwiler, to approve the variance from Section 27-100 (b) of the Zoning ordinance for the property located at 1000 Whittier for a front yard fence due to the uniqueness of the lot and having demonstrated a hardship.

AYES: Councilmember Clark, Read, Chouinard, Robson, Detwiler, and Grano, and Mayor Denner

NAYS: None

#### O'FLAHERTY'S LCC APPROVAL

Mayor Denner presented to Council for consideration the approval of O'Flaherty's to host three separate events scheduled for June 8, July 13, and September 21, 2019 on Charlevoix. In conjunction with these events, Marine City Venture, (O'Flaherty's) is submitting license requests to the Michigan Liquor Control Commission, to allow alcohol to be served at the events. The commission requires approval from the City Council for the use of city property, that being the street adjacent to their location.

Motion by Mayor Denner, supported by Councilmember Clark, to approve the request by O'Flaherty's for the use of city property to host the Charlevoix Street Parties scheduled for June 8, July 13, and September 21, 2019 and that an insurance certificate will be provided by O'Flaherty's holding the city harmless of all liability for the events held on those dates.

AYES: Councilmembers Clark, Read, Chouinard, Robson, Detwiler, and Grano, and Mayor Denner

NAYS: None

#### 2019-20 BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor Denner presented to Council for consideration the resolutions adopting the 2019-20 fiscal year budget. He noted a budget workshop was held earlier in the month to discuss the upcoming budget.

Mayor Denner read the resolutions:

#### **CITY OF GROSSE POINTE PARK RESOLUTION NO. 1**

**RESOLVED**, that in accordance with P.A. 5 of 1982, requiring the governing body to establish the millage rate required to balance the 2019-20 fiscal year budget and in accordance with Section 8.4 of the City of Grosse Pointe Park Charter, it is hereby determined that the millage rate for general operating purposes for the fiscal year 2019-20 be \$17.4093 or \$17.4093 per \$1,000 of Taxable Value (11.0654 general operating; 1.6381 rubbish disposal; .0812 communication fees; .9400 bond issue; 1.0000 roads; 2.6846 public safety).

Motion by Mayor Denner, supported by Councilmember Chouinard, to approve Budget Resolution No. 1 that establishes tax rates as presented.

AYES: Councilmembers Clark, Read, Chouinard, Robson, Detwiler, and Grano, and Mayor Denner

NAYS: None

**CITY OF GROSSE POINTE PARK  
SPECIAL ASSESSMENT ROLL  
RESOLUTION NO. 2**

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with Section 20.12 of the City of Grosse Pointe Park City Code whereby when any expense shall have been incurred by the City in respect to any single premise and subsequently such expense remain unpaid, and

**WHEREAS**, such premises have been advised that such unpaid bills will be placed as a lien against such property, plus fifteen percent (15%) service charge if not paid by a certain date.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that a Special Assessment Roll for delinquent bills for water and miscellaneous items be placed upon the property described in the Exhibits as presented, copies of which are on file in the City Clerk's office and are a part of these minutes, in the respective amounts set forth opposite said properties in said Exhibits, including a service charge of fifteen percent (15%) for placing the bills for water and miscellaneous items on the Special Assessment Roll, and that Special Assessment shall be due and payable at the time 2019 City taxes are next due and payable with respect to such property.

Motion by Mayor Denner, supported by Councilmember Read, to approve the Special Assessment Roll, Resolution No. 2 as presented.

AYES: Councilmembers Clark, Read, Chouinard, Robson, Detwiler, and Grano, and Mayor Denner

NAYS: None

**CITY OF GROSSE POINTE PARK  
RESOLUTION NO. 3**

**RESOLVED**, that having published proper notices and held a public hearing for the budgets of the following funds for the fiscal year 2019-20, such budgets are hereby adopted in the amounts set forth and purpose intended along with increases in related revenue sources:

**GENERAL FUNDS**

**Estimated Revenue**

Property Taxes	\$8,101,840
Licenses	39,100
State Shared Revenues	1,155,299
Charges for Services	741,565
Fines & Forfeits	447,770
Interest & Rents	341,500
Other Revenue	1,056,115

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Total Estimated Revenues \$ 11,883,189

Appropriations

City Council	\$ 49,878
Judicial	335,600
City Manager	133,075
Public Service	314,550
Elections	118,825
Financial Administration	334,071
City Clerk	195,359
Public Safety	7,260,796
Public Works	323,697
Tree Maintenance	244,620
Parks	629,783
Recreation	633,089
Fitness/Activity Center	699,737
Planning & Beautification	13,366
Transfer to Other Funds	596,743

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Total Appropriations \$ 11,883,189

**Major Street Fund**

Total Estimated Revenues	\$ 1,436,818
Total Appropriations	1,341,156

**Local Street**

Total Estimated Revenues & T/I	\$ 1,204,130
Total Appropriations	1,204,130

**Garbage & Rubbish Collection**

Total Estimated Revenues	\$ 1,263,244
Total Appropriations	1,259,366

**Building Department**

Total Estimated Revenues	\$ 312,369
Total Appropriations	311,857

**Downtown Development Authority Fund**

Total Estimated Revenues	\$ 106,006
Total Appropriations	106,000

**Tax Increment Financing Fund**

Total Estimated Revenues	\$ 857,030
Total Appropriations	842,550

**Indigent Defense Fund**

Total Estimated Revenues	\$ 10,186
Total Appropriations	10,186

**Drug Law Enforcement Fund**

Total Estimated Revenues	\$ 5,000
Total Appropriations	10,000

**Block Grant Fund**

Total Estimated Revenues	\$ 20,000
Total Appropriations	20,000

**Road Fund**

Total Estimated Revenues	\$ 616,727
Total Appropriations & Transfer Out	616,727

**Bond Debt**

Total Estimated Revenues	\$ 576,000
Total Appropriations	575,750



**Capital Improvement Fund**

Total Estimated Revenues	\$ 596,743
Total Appropriations	596,743

**Water & Sewer Fund**

Total Estimated Revenues	\$ 5,564,015
Total Appropriations	6,045,809

**Marina Fund**

Total Estimated Revenues	\$ 404,000
Total Appropriations	404,000

Motion by Mayor Denner, supported by Councilmember Robson to approve Budget Resolution No. 3 for estimated revenues and appropriations as presented.

AYES: Councilmembers Clark, Read, Chouinard, Robson, Detwiler, and Grano, and Mayor Denner

NAYS: None

**CITY OF GROSSE POINTE PARK  
RESOLUTION NO. 4**

**WHEREAS**, the Great Lakes Water Authority has raised rates and with having published proper notices and held a Public Hearing for water/sewer rate increases,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the following flat rate GLWA (Great Lakes Water Authority) charge of \$61.34 remain the same,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the following flat rate SS (Sewer Services) charge of \$66.90 remain the same,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the water flow rate charge of \$3.64 be increased to \$3.80,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the capital project cost of \$7.50 remain the same,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the flat rate recycling charge of \$4.24 be increased to \$4.64

Motion by Mayor Denner, supported by Councilmember Chouinard, to approve Resolution No. 4 Water/Sewer Rates and Recycling Rates

AYES: Councilmembers Clark, Read, Chouinard, Robson, Detwiler, and Grano, and Mayor Denner

NAYS: None

#### FINANCE REPORT – APRIL, 2019

Councilmember for Finance Detwiler presented to Mayor and Council the invoices exceeding \$5,000 for the month of April, 2019, for approval.

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Payment</u>
Bodman, PLC	Pros. Atty. & retainer fee	\$10,000
Build Safe	Building Inspector – March	9,600
GP Clinton Refuse	Refuse disposal – February	7,823
J & W Tree Artisans	Trees trimmed and removed	16,800
Great Lakes Water	Water usage – February	97,147
Great Lakes Water	Waste water – March	150,100
Green for Life	Rubbish for April	36,189
Green for Life	Recycling for April	11,564
Allied Hand Dryer, LLC	Hand dryers for Lavins Center	5,320

Motion by Councilmember Detwiler, supported by Councilmember Robson, to approve the invoices exceeding \$5,000 for the month of April, 2019, as presented in accordance with Section 2.249 of the Charter.

AYES: Councilmembers Clark, Read, Chouinard, Robson, Detwiler, and Grano, and Mayor Denner

NAYS: None

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor Denner presented to Council the committee reports for the meetings since the Council last met.

Beautification:

Councilmember Read summarized the meetings that were held on April 11, and May 1, 2019.

The April 11<sup>th</sup> meeting was devoted to reviewing the Arbor Week poster contest entries and selecting the winners.

The May 1<sup>st</sup> meeting began preliminary discussions for establishing a cigarette butt recycling program aimed at reducing cigarette litter. One piece of the program is raising awareness that

cigarette butts are small which eventually end up in our waterways and are the top ocean pollutant.

Brian Colter reported on the Mack Avenue Streetscape. Tree planting continues with a grant that will duplicate the Cleveland Select Pear trees on both sides of Mack.

The 2019 Beautification Awards process is underway. Commissioners will soon begin scouting the community for this year's awardees.

On May 18<sup>th</sup> the commission will host its Spring Plant Exchange at the Tompkins Center from 9:30 to 11:00 AM. Details are on the city website.

The next meeting of the commission is scheduled for June 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM at Lindell Lodge at Patterson Park.

#### Recreation:

Councilmember Chouinard summarized the meeting that was held on May 1

- Pool will be opening Memorial weekend
- Equipment replacement has been undertaken
- Summer programs are scheduled to begin with the new summer season
- Pickle Ball is a big success
- Locker room benches have been replaced
- Marina finger piers No. 2 and No. 4 are under water and a contractor has been hired to heighten the piers
- The marshmallow drop was a big success
- After 6 on Kercheval events are scheduled for June 22<sup>nd</sup>, July 27<sup>th</sup>, and August 24<sup>th</sup>
- Charlevoix Street Parties are scheduled for June 8<sup>th</sup>, July 13<sup>th</sup>, and September 21<sup>st</sup>

#### Planning:

Councilmember Clark summarized the meeting held on May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

- A draft of the Master Plan will be sent to the Council by May 20<sup>th</sup>
- Citizen input will be heard at the meetings scheduled for June 25<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM, June 27<sup>th</sup>, at 2:00 PM and July 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 PM
- The Master Plan should be available by late August

There is a Survey on the city website to offer input in to the City's Master Plan.

CLOSED DOOR SESSION

Mayor Denner requested that a closed-door session be held immediately following the regular meeting pursuant to personnel matters.

Motion by Mayor Denner, supported by Councilmember Detwiler, that a closed-door session be held immediately following the regular meeting pursuant to personnel matters.

AYES: Councilmembers Clark, Read, Chouinard, Robson, Detwiler, and Grano, and Mayor Denner

NAYS: None

#### NEW/OLD BUSINESS

Councilmember Read inquired what the status of the traffic signage at Maryland and Kercheval and noted the cross walks on St. Paul are fading.

Director Poloni stated that the public works department has ordered the signs and were waiting to install them at Maryland and Kercheval.

Councilmember Read inquired if DTE was going to provide a weekly schedule of where they will be working.

Assistant City Manager Sizeland stated there is a weekly schedule on the City's website of where DTE and Infra Source will be working and restoration is underway on Balfour and Berkshire.

Councilmember Clark inquired what the status of signage on Charlevoix is.

Director Poloni stated a "No parking here to corner" on Charlevoix and Beaconsfield is scheduled to be installed near Howler's and Growler's.

Councilmember Robson requested an increase in patrol presence on Charlevoix.

Councilmember Grano stated the building site on Bishop still does not have construction fencing around the property and is a liability. Can the administration include building permits that include construction fencing around the parameter of the site. He noted the property on Windmill Pointe Drive has more than adequate fencing.

Mayor Denner directed the City Attorney to review and get back with Administration on whether we can do that administratively.

Councilmember Detwiler apprised those present that a walk in support of "Keeping Trombly Open" has been planned for Friday morning at 7:30 AM. The walkers plan to cross Jefferson to demonstrate the safety issue.

Resident of 817 Pemberton questioned the increase in recycling charges.

Mayor Denner indicated the revenues billed to homeowners is approximately \$10,000 less than expensed.

Resident of Balfour expressed dissatisfaction with communications with DTE.

Mayor Denner directed Assistant City Manager to follow up with DTE

Assistant City Manager Sizeland stated he is meeting with the DTE representative in the coming week.

Resident of Nottingham apprised the Council of some concerns pertaining to the proposal to close schools.

Mayor Denner stated the Grosse Pointe Public School System Board is the group who will be making the decisions and it is their process and the City cannot get involved.

Resident of Barrington encouraged residents to lobby the state legislature for an increase in per pupil school funding.

Resident of Lakepointe expressed the need for a dog park in the city.

Mayor Denner stated that issue was brought up several years ago and will probably be revisited again.

Resident of Westchester expressed a safety concern for the children crossing Jefferson, if Trombly closes.

Mayor Denner stated Jefferson is a county road which limits Grosse Pointe Park the ability to make changes. The City cannot create cross walks where we feel is needed.

Resident of Devonshire inquired as to the succession of the City Manager.

Mayor Denner stated the issue of succession is the topic that will be discussed in closed door session.

Representative of the Grosse Pointe News asked for comment on Dale's retirement.

Mayor Denner stated Dale is beyond retirement age and he agreed to stay on to complete some projects. He has scheduled his retirement date for June 30, 2019.

Resident of Pemberton stated there are cross walks that are so faded, they're non-existent and requested they be made a priority with the public works department.

Director of Public Safety Poloni stated the public works department will be striping the crosswalks weather permitting.

Resident of Beaconsfield stated Fairfax Market has installed a pizza oven that required a commercial ventilator that is extremely loud.

Mayor Denner stated Assistant City Manager Sizeland will follow up with permit requirements.

Resident of Berkshire invited the Mayor and Council to the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Grosse Pointe Pride March on June 22<sup>nd</sup> beginning at 9:30 AM at Grosse Pointe South and ending at Maire Elementary with a family friendly picnic. Mayor Denner asked that she send the information to council via email.

With no further business, the meeting recessed to closed door session.

The meeting reconvened to open door session and with no further business, the meeting was recessed.