An electronic meeting was held through Zoom due to the MDHHS Epidemic Order limiting meeting size and to continue decreasing the spread of COVID-19.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Denner and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

The following were electronically present: Councilmembers Relan, Read, Hodges, Robson, McConnell, and Fluitt, and Mayor Denner.

Also electronically present: Nick Sizeland, City Manager, Jane M. Blahut, Finance Director/Clerk, Katelyn Young, Assistant City Attorney, Jim Bostock, Interim Public Safety Director/Lieutenant, and Leah Smith, Assistant to the City Manager.

MICHIGAN INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

City Manager Sizeland introduced Commissioner Anthony Eid from the Michigan Independent Redistricting Commission.

Commission Eid stated that he was a member of the Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission, which was created as part of Proposal 18-2. Proposal 18-2 was passed by Michigan voters to amend the State’s constitution to establish a citizen commission with the authority to adopt district boundaries for the Michigan Senate and House of Representative, and the US Congress every 10 years/after every census. The Citizens Redistricting Commission is required to hold a minimum of ten public meetings throughout the state about the redistricting process, the role and purpose of the committee, and present information to the public regarding their plans.

REPRESENTATIVE JOE TATE

Mayor Denner introduced State Representative Joe Tate to present a brief update on the state legislative activities.

Representative Tate stated that the legislative session started in January, and that he sits as the senior member in the house appropriations committee. The Governor presented a $67 billion dollar budget with significant line items including school foundation allowances, childcare investments, great start readiness program, high water infrastructure grants, constitutional revenue sharing increase, and a one-time statutory revenue sharing increase.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Denner presented the consent agenda for approval.

Motion by Councilmember Read, supported by Councilmember Hodges, to approve the consent agenda as presented.

AYES: Councilmembers Relan, Read, Hodges, Robson, McConnell, and Fluitt and Mayor Denner
APPROVAL OF REGULAR AGENDA

Mayor Denner presented the regular agenda for approval.

Motion by Councilmember Hodges, supported by Councilmember McConnell, to approve the regular agenda as presented.

Councilmember Fluitt stated that she would like to have an update on the Dinges family incident added to the agenda.

City Manager Sizeland stated that the incident would be covered in other updates by administration already included on the agenda.

AYES: Councilmembers Relan, Read, Hodges, Robson, McConnell, and Fluitt and Mayor Denner

NAYS: None

PUBLIC COMMENT (AGENDA ITEMS)

City Manager Sizeland read twelve written comments submitted by twelve residents.

Thirty residents made verbal comments.

Councilmember Fluitt read into the record a letter for public comment received from State Senator Adam Hollier.

PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER AWARDS

Mayor Denner stated that the Public Safety Officer awards are presented to officers who demonstrate exceptional service in the line of duty. Mayor Denner asked City Manager Sizeland and Interim Director Bostock to present the 2020 Public Safety Awards.

Interim Director Bostock stated that he would also be presenting the 2019 Public Safety awards because they were not presented publicly last year.

Interim Director Bostock presented the following awards for 2019:

Department Commendation
- Lt. James Bostock
- Sgt. Michael Miller
- Sgt. Daniel Kolar
- D/Sgt. Jeremy Pittman
- D/Sgt. Michael Narduzzi
- PSO Christopher Jones
- PSO Thomas Taylor
- PSO Adam Bremer (2)
- PSO Kevin Remus (2)
PSO Michael O’Brien (2)  
PSO Scott Gilchrist  
PSO Jesse Lafriniere  

**Department Citation**  
Lt. James Bostock  
Lt. Brent Merlington  
D/Sgt. Jeremy Pittman  
PSO Christopher Jones  
PSO James Thompson  
PSO Robert Ruggero  
PSO Kevin Remus  
PSO Christopher Muklewicz  
Dispatcher Jill Mazzara  

**Life Saving Award**  
Lt. James Bostock  
Sgt. Michael Miller  
PSO Christopher Jones  
PSO Christopher Muklewicz  
PSO Erik Davis  
PSO Brady Baetens  
PSO Michael O’Brien  
PSO James Thompson  
PSO Robert Ruggero  

**Chief’s Letter**  
Sgt. Terry Hays  
PSO Thomas Taylor  
PSO Thomas Lada  
PSO Robert Ruggero  

Interim Director Bostock presented the following awards for 2020:  

**Department Commendation**  
Lt. James Bostock  
Sgt. Daniel Kolar  
PSO Thomas Card  
PSO Aristides Reyes  
PSO Scott Gilchrist  
PSO Thomas Lada (2)  
PSO Brady Baetens  
PSO Ryan Nelson  
Dispatcher Josephine Hendrix  

**Department Citation**  
D/Sgt Michael Narduzzi
City Manager Sizeland presented a brief overview of the status of issues since the last meeting:

- Communicator
- TIFA COVID Support Program
- DDA COVID Support Program
- DTE
- COVID Vaccinations
- Public Works Building
- City Hall Building
- 2021-2022 Budget
- Master Plan Update
- Drinking Water Revolving Fund

COMMITTEE AND COMMISSION REPORTS

Planning Commission
Councilmember Hodges stated that the Planning Commission met on February 9th, 2021. The sole purpose of the meeting was to host the community visioning session for the master plan update where the community was able to provide feedback through polls, comments, and the chat box. Next steps for the update include the survey that is open until March 22nd and break out sessions on dates to be determined. The interactive map on the master plan update website is also still available for community thoughts and feedback.

Personnel Committee
Councilmember Robson stated that he will be meeting with City Manager Sizeland to work on a memorandum regarding the City Manager goals and objectives. Once the draft is complete, it will be
provided to the rest of Council for feedback and suggestions and a six-month review date will be selected once the draft is finalized.

**Beautification Commission**
Councilmember Relan stated that the Beautification Commission met on February 10th and March 3rd. The Commissions discussed adding the slide show of the award winners to the webpage, ideas for communicator material which will also include the tree ordering form, and the arbor day poster contest and celebration. The Commission was also notified that Brain Colter, the City Forester, was named arborist of the year by the International Society of Arbor Culture Michigan and that the City is one of the six Michigan cities awarded the grow city award which is a step above the tree city award.

**Ordinance Review Committee**
Councilmember Read stated that the Ordinance Review Committee met on February 22nd. The committee met to discuss and solidify changes to the ordinances concerning planning commission membership, emergency generators, Michigan vehicle code updates, and dogs with changes being presented for Council. City administration also confirmed that the recodification of the City code will be presented in the upcoming budget and would make the City Code and ordinances more user friendly by being searchable and easy to find on the website.

**Diversity/Inclusion Ad Hoc Committee**
Councilmember Relan stated that the Diversity and Inclusion Ad Hoc Committee met on February 23rd with about 70 people in attendance. The agenda included discussion and presentations around a GPP community diversity survey, GPP administration diversity updates, resident point of view from Ms. JeDonna Dinges, WeGP update, Grosse Pointe School Board update, Love my Laces anti-bullying campaign update, and public comment. Councilmember Relan stated the next meeting is tentatively scheduled for the last week in April.

**Sustainability Committee**
Councilmember Fluitt stated that the Sustainability Committee met February 24th. At the suggestion of City Manager Sizeland, City Forester Brian Colter will be joining the committee as an official member. Discussion and agenda items included:
- DTE update: City Administration is going to continue working DTE to solidify participation in the strategic energy plan program which includes a DTE paid energy manager to assist the City throughout the program and with assessing City-owned facilities. The program is free for the City.
- Pesticide free update: City Manager Sizeland and City Forester Colter will be using the grounds in front of City Hall to test going chemical free and only using pesticides that are natural and organic.
- Michigan Green Communities Challenge: The committee decided to go for the bronze level certification and determine what additional goals need to be completed for the certification.
- Sustainability webpage: City Administration is working on building a sustainability webpage on the website.
- Action items: determining if there are enough bike racks in public spaces and to determine cost for recycling bins to be added to the Parks and business districts.

The next meeting will be held on April 14th.

**Ethics Review Board**
City Manager Sizeland stated that the Ethics Review Board had their first public meeting on February 25th. The purpose of the meeting was to introduce the board members to the public and adopt the
procedural rules, advisory opinion request form, opinion form, and the complaint form. The Board will meet in the future when necessary.

Mayor Denner called for a ten-minute recess.

Mayor Denner reconvened the meeting at 9:50pm.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:
SCHAAP CENTER UPDATE

Mayor Denner asked City Manager Sizeland to present the next topic of council consideration.

City Manager Sizeland stated at the request of Councilmember Fluitt, two documents were provided in the meeting packet: a fundraising letter from The Schaap Center interim director Jamie Rae Turnbull and an engineering/architect update by the project architect Smith Group. Groundbreaking is set for fall 2021 with the grand opening scheduled for spring 2023. Additional information can be found on the website www.schaapcenter.com.

City Manager Sizeland stated that per the project architects, the Smith Group, the Schaap team is continuing to involve sustainable and green practices for the new facility including.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:
PUBLIC SAFETY DIRECTOR UPDATE

Mayor Denner asked City Manager Sizeland to present the next topic for council consideration.

City Manager Sizeland stated that when the announcement closed on February 22, 14 applications had been received from applicants who cover a diverse background. Initial application review has been completed and the list of applicants moving forward and supporting information has been sent to EMPCO. Oral board interviews which will take place on March 31st and will focus on the candidate’s knowledge, skills, and abilities. Candidates will be scored, and the scores will be provided to the City Manager. The City Manager will then interview the top candidates with a panel consisting of a City Manager/Police Commissioner and a Public Safety Director. City Administration hopes to have the new Public Safety Director on board by mid-April.

Councilmember Fluitt inquired on if any part of the interview process will be open to the public or recorded.

City Manager Sizeland stated that both interviews will be private.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:
COUNCIL COMMENT

No council comment was presented.

NEW BUSINESS:
REVIEW OF PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT
Mayor Denner asked Interim Director Bostock to present a summary of the annual public safety report.

Due to sound issues, Mayor Denner asked Interim Director Bostock to try presenting again after the amendments are discussed.

**AMENDMENT ORDINANCE 207 PLANNING COMMISSION**

Mayor Denner stated that the four amendments being presented were a product of work by the City Attorney, City Manager, and the Ordinance Review Committee. Mayor Denner asked Councilmember Read to present the amendments for council consideration.

Councilmember Read stated that the first ordinance, number 222, relates to the composition of the Planning Commission and is a continuation of the discussion started at the January council meeting. The ordinance changes the Planning Commission composition by retaining the six resident members and having one ex-officio member from Council with the City administrative officer serving as the liaison and a non-voting member.

Motion by Councilmember Hodges, supported by Councilmember Relan, to approve the ordinance as presented.

**AYES:** Councilmembers Relan, Read, Hodges, Robson, McConnell, and Fluitt and Mayor Denner

**NAYS:** None

The adopted ordinance reads as follows:

**CITY OF GROSSE POINTE PARK**

Ordinance No. 222

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE CITY OF GROSSE POINTE PARK BY REVISING AND AMENDING CHAPTER 2, SECTION 2-177, OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF GROSSE POINTE PARK OUTLINING THE COMPOSITION OF THE CITY PLANNING COMMISSION,**

THE CITY OF GROSSE POINTE PARK ORDAINS:

**Section 1.** Section 2-177 of Chapter 2 of the Code of the City of Grosse Pointe Park is amended to read as follows:

**Sec. 2-177. Membership.**

The City Planning Commission shall consist of seven (7) members, six (6) of whom shall be representative, insofar as possible, of important segments of the community, such as economic, governmental, educational, and social development of the City, in accordance with the major interests as they exist in the City and shall be appointed by the Mayor subject to approval by a majority vote of the Council. One (1) member shall be ex-officio member, namely: A member of City Council shall be appointed by the Mayor subject to approval by a majority vote of the Council. All members shall serve for a term of three (3) years, except that the terms of ex-officio members shall correspond to their respective official
tenures. An Administrative officer of the City selected by the Mayor may serve on the Planning Commission as an administrative liaison and a non-voting member.

Mayor Denner stated that per the new ordinance, he would be stepping down from the Planning Commission to allow for the remaining seven members to continue their work.

**AMENDMENT ORDINANCE 27-86 GENERATOR**

Councilmember Read stated that ordinance 221 is to amend the city code regarding emergency electrical generators and was requested by City administration. When the code was originally adopted, generators were not as popular, and generators were required to be placed in the rear yard. The amendment allows for generators to be placed on the side of the house with written consent by the adjacent neighbor within 60 days of permit issuance for the installation. The City should see a decrease in variance requests with approval of the proposed amendment.

Motion by Councilmember Read, supported by Councilmember Robson, to approve ordinance 221 dealing with emergency electrical generators.

AYES: Councilmembers Relan, Read, Hodges, Robson, McConnell, and Fluit and Mayor Denner

NAYS: None

The adopted ordinance reads as follows:

**CITY OF GROSSE POINTE PARK**

**Ordinance No. 221**

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE CITY OF GROSSE POINTE PARK BY REVISING AND AMENDING CHAPTER 27, SECTION 27-86, OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF GROSSE POINTE PARK REGULATING THE USE OF EMERGENCY ELECTRICAL GENERATORS,**

**THE CITY OF GROSSE POINTE PARK ORDAINS:**

**Section 1.** Section 27-86 of Chapter 27 of the Code of the City of Grosse Pointe Park is amended to read as follows:

**Sec. 27-86. Emergency Electrical Generators**

Emergency generators may be permanently installed and utilized in all zoning districts within the City, subject to the following terms and conditions:

(a)-(b) [Unchanged.]

(c) The generator must be permanently located on a concrete slab or prefabricated equivalent located a minimum of three (3) feet from any lot line and at least fifteen (15) feet from an adjoining dwelling unit, except that such system or unit may be installed immediately to the side of a dwelling and within fifteen (15) feet of an adjoining dwelling if the person proposing to build such system
or unit has notified the immediately adjoining property owner and obtained their written consent to such installation within a period of sixty (60) days preceding the issuance of a permit for the installation.

(d)-(g) [Unchanged.]

AMENDMENT ORDNANCE 215 DOGS

Councilmember Read stated ordinance 220 would amend the current City’s ordinance as it relates to dogs. Once the dog park in Patterson Park is completed, dog walking passes will no longer be issued for Patterson Park and will only be issued for Windmill Pointe Park.

Motion by Councilmember Read, supported by Councilmember Hodges, to adopt ordinance 220 as presented.

AYES: Councilmembers Relan, Read, Hodges, Robson, McConnell, and Fluit and Mayor Denner

NAYS: None

The adopted ordinance reads as follows:

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE PARK
Ordinance No. 220

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE CITY OF GROSSE POINTE PARK BY REVISION AND AMENDING CHAPTER 17, SECTION 17-18, OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF GROSSE POINTE PARK RELATING TO DOGS IN THE PARKS,

THE CITY OF GROSSE POINTE PARK ORDAINS:

Section 1. Section 17-18 of Chapter 17 of the Code of the City of Grosse Pointe Park is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 17-18. Dogs.

(a) Prohibition. No dogs shall be permitted within either park unless permitted under Section 17-18 (b), below:

(b) Exceptions.

1.-2. [Unchanged.]

3. Service animals, as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act. Service animals shall have a harness, leash, or other tether, unless either the handler is unable because of a disability to use a harness, leash, or other tether, or the use of a harness, leash, or other tether would interfere with the service animal’s safe,
effective performance of work or tasks, in which case the service animal must be otherwise under the handler’s control to be in compliance with the rules and regulations promulgated by the Parks and Recreation Department and the City Manager.

4. Effective upon the opening of Patterson Park Dog Park, all dog walking passes will only be permitted at Windmill Pointe Park. Owners who have received a license from the Parks and Recreation Department to walk their dogs at either park during the following time periods: from January 1 until Memorial Day on weekends only during park hours; from Memorial Day through Labor Day on weekends prior to 9:30 a.m.; and after Labor Day weekend until December 31 only during park hours. License holders shall comply with the rules and regulations promulgated by the Parks and Recreation Department and the City Manager.

5.-6. [Unchanged.]

AMENDMENT CHAPTER 22-1 MICHIGAN VEHICLE CODE UPDATE

Councilmember Read stated ordinance 223 is to amend the code to include provisions from statute related to the Michigan vehicle code.

Assistant City Attorney Young stated that the current City code does adopt the Michigan vehicle code in general. However, to locally charge defendants with an alcohol blood content of 0.17 or more, the City Code needs to specifically include language from MCL 257-621(c). Including this language allows for the City to charge increased penalties for super high alcohol blood content and would keep the charges local instead of sending those charges to Wayne County.

Motion by Councilmember Read, supported by Councilmember Fluitt, to adopt ordinance 223 incorporating statutory language required to enforce the Michigan Vehicle Code.

AYES: Councilmembers Relan, Read, Hodges, Robson, McConnell, and Fluitt and Mayor Denner

NAYS: None

The adopted ordinance reads as follows:

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE PARK
Ordinance No. 223

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE CITY OF GROSSE POINTE PARK BY REVISING AND AMENDING CHAPTER 22, SECTIONS 22-1 AND 22-3, OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF GROSSE POINTE PARK TO INCORPORATE STATUTORY LANGUAGE REQUIRED TO ENFORCE PROVISIONS OF THE MICHIGAN VEHICLE CODE,

THE CITY OF GROSSE POINTE PARK ORDAINS:
Section 1. Section 22-1 of Chapter 22 of the Code of the City of Grosse Pointe Park is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 22-1. Adoption of Michigan Vehicle Code.

The Michigan Vehicle Code, 1949 PA 300, MCL §§ 257.1 to 257.923, and all future amendments and revisions to the Michigan Vehicle Code when they are adopted and effective in this state are adopted by reference. Section 625(1)(c) of the Michigan Vehicle code is specifically adopted by reference, pursuant to Public Act 7 of 2012.2

Section 2. Section 22-3 of Chapter 22 of the Code of the City of Grosse Pointe Park is amended to read as follows:


Provisions of the Michigan Vehicle Code for which the maximum period of imprisonment is greater than 93 days shall not be enforced as an ordinance of the City of Grosse Pointe Park, with the exception of a violation of MCL 257.625(1)(c). As specifically adopted by reference, pursuant to Public Act 7 of 2012, the City shall enforce a violation of MCL 257.625(1)(c), which is punishable by one (1) or more of the following:

(i) Community service for not more than 360 hours.

(ii) Imprisonment for not more than 180 days.

(iii) A fine of not less than $200.00 or more than $700.00.

REVIEW OF ANNUAL PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT

Mayor Denner asked Interim Director Bostock to present the annual Public Safety Report.

Interim Director Bostock stated that the 2020 annual public safety report details department activities such as crime, traffic, fire, and ems statistics. Overall, crime decreased 38% from 2019 with 128 crimes reported. Fire calls did increase 2% from 2019 with 470 responses reported to the State of Michigan. The EMTs responded to 280 ambulance runs in the year 2020. Interim Director Bostock thanked the officers for their dedicated service and the community and businesses for their support.

Councilmember Robson stated that he would like to see reporting on training included moving forward.

Councilmember Relan inquired on if the Department records any statistics related to race.

Interim Director Bostock stated that the City does not maintain records by race or gender because it is not required by the State.

GLWA WATER SERVICES CONTRACT
Mayor Denner asked City Manager Sizeland to present the topic for Council consideration.

City Manager Sizeland stated that GLWA is asking the city to sign a 30-year water services contract to improve their bond rating status, which is important for them as a capital-intensive organization. Since 2016, the GLWA Board and Executive Leadership have maintained annual budget increases in the 2-3% range. By signing the contract, the city will experience a decrease of $155,380 in cost. Administration is recommending approval of the contract.

Motion by Mayor Denner, supported by Councilmember Read, to approve the contract as presented.

AYES: Councilmembers Relan, Read, Hodges, Robson, McConnell, and Fluitt and Mayor Denner

NAYS: None

ALMA KITCHEN SUPPORT

Mayor Denner asked City Manager Sizeland to present the next topic for council consideration.

City Manager Sizeland stated that Alma Kitchen, located on Mack Avenue, submitted a liquor license application to the Michigan Liquor Control Commission in September 2020. They are currently awaiting a church hearing on a date to be determined. The property where Alma Kitchen is located has had a liquor license held by various businesses for over 30 years. City Administration would like to request a motion to direct Administration to draft a letter to the MLCC conveying our backing of Alma Kitchens Liquor License.

Motion by Councilmember Hodges, supported by Councilmember Relan, to direct Administration to draft a letter to the MLCC conveying our backing of Alma Kitchens liquor license.

AYES: Councilmembers Relan, Read, Hodges, Robson, McConnell, and Fluitt and Mayor Denner

NAYS: None

NEW BUSINESS:
COUNCIL COMMENT

Councilmember McConnell stated that she would be assisting with the hosting of a COVID vaccination town hall on Wednesday, March 17th. Wayne County will be participating and reviewing the vaccination process for the Grosse Pointes.

Councilmember McConnell stated that she has been working with Councilmember Hodges to identify internal and external council goals and hope to have them presented for consideration at future council meetings.

Councilmember Fluitt inquired on if the City is still researching how to support businesses not located in within the DDA and TIFA districts.

City Manager Sizeland stated that the City is still investigating ways to support those businesses.
Councilmember Relan stated that he is going to request Council make the diversity and inclusion ad hoc committee an official committee at the April council meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT (NON-AGENDA ITEMS)

City Manager Sizeland read twelve written comments submitted by twelve residents.

Six residents made verbal comments.

Motion by Mayor Denner, supported by Councilmember Relan, to adjourn the meeting.

AYES: Councilmembers Relan, Read, Hodges, Robson, Fluit, and McConnell, and Mayor Denner

NAYS: None

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:48 PM.