COUNCIL MEETING – May 10, 2021
7:00 P.M.

An electronic meeting was held through Zoom due to the Wayne County Public Health Order 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, Jake Howlett, City Attorney, Jim Bostock, Interim Public Safety Director/Lieutenant, Brian Colter, City Forester, and Leah Smith, Assistant to the City Manager.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Denner presented the consent agenda for approval.

Motion by Councilmember McConnell, supported by Councilmember Robson, to approve the consent agenda as presented.

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

NAYS: None

PUBLIC COMMENT (AGENDA ITEMS)

City Manager Sizeland read one written comment submitted by one resident.

One resident made a verbal comment.

ARBOR DAY POSTER CONTEST WINNERS

Mayor Denner introduced Ms. Pat Deck, Beautification Commissioner and Chair of the Arbor Day Poster Contest, to introduce the winners.

Commissioner Deck stated that this year marks the 150-year anniversary of Arbor Day and the 38th anniversary of the City's celebration of the Arbor Week Poster Contest. The poster contest is open to all fourth graders and judging is done blindly with no names on the posters. The following six students were recognized as the 2020 winners: Matteo Canavari, Savvas Zingas, Mackenzie Andrews, Helena Trudel, Cole Paralangeli, and Pablo San Miguel.

Mayor Denner presented the following resolutions recognizing the winner and two runners-up for the 2021 Arbor Day Poster Contest:

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE PARK
RESOLUTION
IN RECOGNITION OF
ANTHONY MANNINO

WHEREAS, Mayor Denner, City Council and Members of the Beautification Commission have established the week of April 25 to May 1, 2021 as Arbor Week, and

WHEREAS, the Beautification Commission, in recognition of Arbor Week, has established as Arbor Week Poster Contest for area fourth grade students, and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the awards is to promote community awareness and involvement in Arbor Week by the students as well as an appreciation of the many benefits of trees, now, therefore, be it so

RESOLVED, that Mayor Denner, City Council, and Members of the Beautification Commission hereby recognize and honor Anthony Mannino as the winner in the City of Grosse Pointe Park Arbor Week Poster Contest.

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE PARK
RESOLUTION
IN RECOGNITION OF
EMERSON LAWRENCE

WHEREAS, Mayor Denner, City Council and Members of the Beautification Commission have established the week of April 25 to May 1, 2021 as Arbor Week, and

WHEREAS, the Beautification Commission, in recognition of Arbor Week, has established Arbor Week Poster Contest for area fourth grade students, and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the awards is to promote community awareness and involvement in Arbor Week by the students as well as an appreciation of the many benefits of trees, now, therefore, be it so

RESOLVED, that Mayor Denner, City Council, and Members of the Beautification Commission hereby recognize and honor Emerson Lawrence a runner-up in the City of Grosse Pointe Park Arbor Week Poster Contest.

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE PARK
RESOLUTION
IN RECOGNITION OF
SONIA WHIITTAKER

WHEREAS, Mayor Denner, City Council and Members of the Beautification Commission have established the week of April 25 to May 1, 2021 as Arbor Week, and

WHEREAS, the Beautification Commission, in recognition of Arbor Week, has established as Arbor Week Poster Contest for area fourth grade students, and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the awards is to promote community awareness and involvement in Arbor Week by the students as well as an appreciation of the many benefits of trees, now, therefore, be it so

RESOLVED, that Mayor Denner, City Council, and Members of the Beautification Commission hereby recognize and honor Sonia Whittaker a runner-up in the City of Grosse Pointe Park Arbor Week Poster Contest.

Motion by Councilmember Hodges, supported by Councilmember Robson, to approve the resolutions honoring the 2021 Arbor Day Poster Contest winner Anthony Mannino, and runners-up Emerson Lawrence and Sonia Whittaker, as presented.

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

NAYS: None

RESOLUTION HONORING THE TICKLISH TURKEYS

Mayor Denner stated the following resolution was requested by Councilmember Read.

Councilmember Read read the following resolution:

City of Grosse Pointe Park
A RESOLUTION HONORING
THE TICKLISH TURKEYS

WHEREAS the Ticklish Turkeys are a Grosse Pointe Destination Imagination team comprised of Benjamin Bryan, Alyssa Flores, Matthew Jakubowski, Dailey Jogan, Malvina Lubanski, Liam Raether, and CJ Schindlbeck and coached by parents Matt Jakubowski and Scott Schindlbeck;

WHEREAS in 2020, this team of Pierce Middle School eighth graders participated in the technical challenge of the Destination Imagination STEM program;

WHEREAS the technical challenge, called The Big Fix, tasked the team with solving a problem with an invention;

WHEREAS the Ticklish Turkeys decided to tackle the Flint water crisis;

WHEREAS the team conducted a search of patents relating to chemistry reducing the amount of lead that dissolved into drinking water from lead pipes;

WHEREAS their research found that the current chemistry worked to reduce lead dissolution but had an unintended, negative side effect of introducing high levels of phosphates into the water, which increases algae formation;

WHEREAS the Ticklish Turkeys experimented with alternative chemistry, to find a solution that had the same or better lead anti-dilution characteristics while reducing the phosphate footprint;

WHEREAS after a round of over 50 experiments, the team found chemistry that achieved their objectives;

WHEREAS The Ticklish Turkeys was awarded a U.S. patent because the chemistry they discovered was so inventive;

WHEREAS U.S. Patent No. 10,919,789 was granted to the Ticklish Turkeys LLC on February 16, 2021 with the title Multi-Functional Lead Anti-Dissolution Compositions;

WHEREAS the Ticklish Turkeys LLC are a limited liability corporation duly organized and registered with the State of Michigan;

WHEREAS the inventors, now all freshman at Grosse Pointe South High School, plan to pursue commercialization of their patented chemistry, and;

WHEREAS the delivery of a safe water supply to its residents is among the most important functions of municipal government;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and members of the City Council of the City of Grosse Pointe Park join in recognizing the Ticklish Turkeys for their innovation, dedication, and perseverance on this outstanding achievement.

Motion by Councilmember McConnell, supported by Councilmember Relan, to approve the resolution as presented.

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

NAYS: None

MANAGERS REPORT

City Manager Sizeland presented a brief overview of the status of issues since the last meeting:

- Consolidation of Precinct 3 and 5
- TIFA COVID Support Program
- DDA COVID Support Program
- DTE
- Public Works Building
- City Hall Building
- COVID 19 Vaccination Site
- Master Plan Update

COMMITTEE AND COMMISSION REPORTS

Recreation Commission – Marina Subcommittee

Councilmember Read stated that the Marina Subcommittee met on April 13th. The Marina Supervisor is working with an engineering firm to complete an analysis report on the marina. Navigational red and green lights have been installed at the marina entrance and the committee also discussed receiving regular marina fund status reports to monitor and track the fund reserves. The subcommittee's next meeting is scheduled for June 2nd at 7pm.

Recreation Commission
Councilmember Read stated that the Recreation Commission met on May 5th. The commission approved the dog park application, rules, and incident report form. Construction on the dog park has begun with expected opening sometime in June. The pool at Windmill Pointe will be opening on schedule with a similar reservation process to last year in addition to resuming swim team and swim lessons. Summer programming will include tennis, karate, and Rock Steady boxing. The City has also partnered with the Grosse Pointe Theatre to offer summer acting classes for grades 1 through 9 and registration has already opened. The Commission also discussed the possibility of a disc golf course at Patterson Park. The next meeting is scheduled for September 1st at 7pm.

Beautification Commission
Councilmember Relan stated that the Beautification Commission met on April 22nd. The main agenda item was judging the 90 submitted posters for the Arbor Day contest. The Commission will start judging for the 2021 Beautification awards in Mid-June. The Commission also hosted the spring plant exchange outside at the Tompkins Center on May 8th. The next meeting is scheduled for May 12th at 7pm.

Planning Commission
Councilmember Hodges stated that the Planning Commission met on April 21st. MKSK provided an update on the master plan project and what has been accomplished since the survey closed and the visioning session was held. The next steps for the Master Plan update project will be the open house on May 25th and a public workshop in August where a draft of the updated plan will be available to the public. The Commission also reviewed the submitted site plan for the Wayburn 4-Unit Development. Through discussion, the Commission decided to table a decision on the site plan until a later meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for July 21st at 7pm.

Downtown Development Authority (DDA) Board
Mayor Denner stated that the DDA Board met on April 27th. The main agenda items included an update on the COVID-19 grant program and review and approval of the proposed 2021-2022 Budget. The next meeting, which is an informational meeting, is scheduled for June 9th at 7pm.

Tax Increment Finance Authority (TIFA) Board
City Manager Sizeland stated that the TIFA Board met on April 27th. The only agenda item was review and approval of the proposed 2021-2022 Budget. The Board also authorized moving forward with a parking study for the business district. The informational meeting is scheduled for June 8th at 7pm.

Eastside Community Network
Councilmember Hodges stated that the ECN is responsible for overseeing the Mack Avenue Strategy Committee that includes reps from the Detroit, Mack Avenue adjacent Grosse Pointe

communities, Wayne County, and others. The committee met the morning of May 10th to discuss the ongoing Mack Avenue planning and zoning effort by City of Grosse Pointe, potential use of stimulus funding along Mack Avenue, and the corridor cleanup/motor city makeover initiative. The Eastside Community Network will also be reopening their offices starting the week of May 17th.

Sustainability Committee
Councilmember Fluitt stated that the Sustainability Committee met on April 14th. The Committee continues to work on a dedicated sustainability page on the City website, and the MI Green Communities challenge. The Committee also discussed placement of recycling bins throughout the City parks, potential for decreased pesticide use on the lawn at City hall and expanded use of bike racks.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:
INTRODUCTION OF PUBLIC SAFETY DIRECTOR

City Manager Sizeland introduced Mr. Bryan Jarrell, who will be serving as the City's new Public Safety Director.

Mr. Jarrell provided a summary of his thirty-four years of law enforcement experience and thanked City Manager Sizeland and City Council for the opportunity to serve the community.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:
COUNCIL COMMENT

Councilmember Relan requested for clarification on the sewer separation discussed during the DDA meeting.

City Manager Sizeland stated that the current City engineers, OHM Advisors, have been using GIS and CAD to investigate all of the stormwater and sewer lines throughout the City to create a map. The engineers informed the City that in front of City Hall on Jefferson between Lakepointe and Barrington, the separation was not completed as shown on the engineered drawings, possibly due to budget concerns or other matters.

NEW BUSINESS:
2021/2022 BUDGET HEARING/APPROVAL

Mayor Denner opened the 2021-2022 fiscal year Budget Public Hearing. He noted a thorough review was undertaken at the budget workshop held earlier in the month.

Mayor Denner stated the first business item for the budget hearing was public comment.

City Manager Sizeland stated no written public comment was received.

No verbal public comment was made. Mayor Denner closed the public comment portion of the meeting.

Mayor Denner presented Budget Resolution No. 1 for Council consideration.

Motion by Councilmember Hodges, supported by Councilmember Robson, to approve Budget Resolution No. 1 that establishes tax rates as presented.

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

NAYS: None

The resolution as adopted:

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 2021-22 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 2021-22 be $16.8822 or $16.8822 per $1,000 of Taxable Value (10.7074 general operating; 1.5851 rubbish disposal; 0.0744 communication fees; 0.9500 bond issue; 0.9676 roads; 2.5977 public safety).

Mayor Denner presented Budget Resolution No. 2 for Council consideration.

Motion by Councilmember Read, supported by Councilmember McConnell, to approved the Special Assessment Roll, Resolution No. 2, as presented.

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

NAYS: None

The resolution as adopted:

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 2021 City taxes are next due and payable with respect to such property.

Mayor Denner presented Budget Resolution No. 3 for council consideration.

Motion by Councilmember Read, supported by Councilmember Hodges, to approve Resolution No. 3, for estimated revenues and appropriations as presented.

Numerous Councilmembers stated they would like to see the $14,000 DPW moving expenses line be removed from the DDA budget.

Amendment by Councilmember Read, supported by Councilmember Relan, to move the $14,000 DPW Moving Expenses line item from the DDA budget to the general fund.

Finance Director Blahut stated that the marina numbers included in the resolution were incorrect and should be $307,650 for revenues and $289,931 for appropriations.

Amendment by Mayor Denner, supported by Councilmember Read, to correct the Marina budget numbers as stated by Finance Director Blahut.

Councilmember Hodges stated that she would like to decrease the amount budgeted for the municipal radio line within the Public Safety budget based on conversations with City Administration.

Amendment by Councilmember Hodges, supported by Councilmember Relan, to reduce the municipal radio line within the Public Safety budget by $30,000 for a total appropriation of $50,000.

Vote on Amendment 3 (municipal radio line)

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

NAYS: None

Vote on Amendment 2 (correcting Marina budget totals)

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

NAYS: None

Vote on Amendment 1 (moving DPW expense line item from DDA to General fund)

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

NAYS: None

Vote on Original Motion (adopting resolution no 3 as amended)

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

NAYS: None

The resolution as adopted with amendments:

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 2021-22, 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	$8,864,206
Licenses	39,100
State Shared Revenues	1,235,025
Charges for Services	593,862
Fines & Forfeits	400,000
Interest & Rents	304,700
Other Revenue	1,329,963
Total Estimated Revenues	$ 12,766,856

Appropriations

City Council	$ 111,658
Judicial	342,900
City Manager	184,740
Public Service	389,972
Elections	129,197
Financial Administration	324,413
City Clerk	195,190

Public Safety	7,740,850
Public Works	342,418
Tree Maintenance	269,155
Parks	682,096
Recreation	585,981
Fitness/Activity Center	656,919
Planning & Beautification	13,948
Transfer to Other Funds	797,000
Total Appropriations	$ 12,766,437

Major Street Fund

Total Estimated Revenues	$ 1,139,051
Total Appropriations	1,139,051

Local Street

Total Estimated Revenues & T/I	$ 923,683
Total Appropriations	923,675

Garbage & Rubbish Collection

Total Estimated Revenues	$ 1,304,385
Total Appropriations	1,304,329

Building Department

Total Estimated Revenues	$ 304,363
Total Appropriations	282,670

Downtown Development Authority Fund

Total Estimated Revenues	$ 125,060
Total Appropriations	125,000

Tax Increment Financing Fund

Total Estimated Revenues	$ 1,443,318
Total Appropriations	1,440,670

Indigent Defense Fund

Total Estimated Revenues	$ 34,000
Total Appropriations	34,000

Drug Law Enforcement Fund

Total Estimated Revenues	$	3,000
Total Appropriations		3,000

Block Grant Fund

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

Road Fund

Total Estimated Revenues	$	649,919
Total Appropriations & T/O		649,919

Bond Debt

Total Estimated Revenues	$	638,097
Total Appropriations		636,725

Capital Improvement Bonds Series 2019

Total Estimated Revenues	$	2,134,287
Total Appropriations		2,134,287

DPW Public Works/TIFA

Total Estimated Revenues	$	3,948,897
Total Estimated Appropriations		3,948,897

Capital Improvement Fund

Total Estimated Revenues	$	797,000
Total Appropriations		788,165

Water & Sewer Fund

Total Estimated Revenues	$	5,564,015
Total Appropriations		6,334,150

Marina Fund

Total Estimated Revenues	$	307,650
Total Appropriations		289,931

Mayor Denner presented Budget Resolution No. 5 for Council consideration.

Motion by Councilmember Read, supported by Councilmember Fluitt, to approve the increase in recycling rates, Resolution No. 5, as presented.

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

NAYS: None

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE PARK
RESOLUTION NO. 5

WHEREAS, that having published proper notices and held a Public Hearing for rubbish and recycle rates,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the recycle rate of $8.71 be increased to $9.95 through the bi-monthly water bill.

Mayor Denner stated that the 2021-2022 fiscal year budget was now adopted.

NEW BUSINESS
LETTER OPPOSING HB 4722

Mayor Denner asked Councilmember Read to present the topic for consideration.

Councilmember Read stated House Bill 4722 seeks to eliminate municipality's ability to regulate short-term vacation rentals. This bill was previously discussed in the Michigan House in 2019 and this version has been referred to the Committee on Commerce and Tourism.

Motion by Councilmember Read, supported by Councilmember Robson, to approve the letter as presented.

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

NAYS: None

The letter reads as follows:
Dear Commerce & Tourism Committee members:

We, the Grosse Pointe Park City Council, are writing to oppose House Bill 4722. This one-size-fits-all legislation places an undue burden on communities like ours. We are a city of 11,555 residents. Approximately 21% of our property parcels are rental properties. That accounts for roughly 13.5% of our taxable totals. The overwhelming majority of our residents are homestead property taxpayers. We are not a resort community whose economy is dependent on tourism.

By charter, we are a residential, suburban community:

"*In ordaining and establishing this Charter we do hereby declare that this community is, and always has been, predominantly a suburban residential area and we do hereby counsel all officials of the city to discharge their official duties in such manner as to protect and further such residential character of the community*." (Preamble, Charter – Grosse Pointe Park, Approved by Electors: December 11, 1950).

We are a dense inner-ring suburb (5000+ residents per square mile). We are neighbors who are bound together by institutions like schools, houses of worship, little league, and parks. House Bill 4722 will have the unintended effect of destroying the character of communities like ours in favor of nonresident owners. This bill would not allow our city to determine the number of short-term rentals permitted, the numbers of days a property could be rented, or otherwise enact zoning ordinances to protect our community.

House Bill 4722 puts in place a preemption upsetting the delicate balance between property rights and the established, transparent process for local decision-making. The Michigan Zoning Enabling Act establishes the process for local government to draft regulations driven by public input through an open process. House Bill 4722 undermines that process and removes the voice of local citizens, rendering local government powerless to respond and act.

Our residents look to us, its elected body, to establish and maintain community standards, including protecting the property rights of all residents. The proliferation of short-term rentals in communities like ours present a host of issues, including destabilizing neighborhoods and depleting enrollment in our local schools. We are facing declining enrollment in our local school district; this legislation would only exacerbate the problem. This is a community of neighborhood schools and sidewalks. Our non-homestead properties are filled with renter-residents who are part of the fabric of our community. They are college and graduate students, professionals and tradespeople, families with school age children, empty-nesters and seniors who choose to be close to family and amenities.

In 2019, the Michigan State Housing Development Authority forecast a housing shortage of 150,000 homes in Michigan by 2045. The housing shortage will be felt where people live and work, in cities, neighborhoods, bedroom communities, and suburbs. We would all be affected by this legislation and powerless to determine and set our community standards.

Please help maintain the integrity of our community and defeat this bill as written.

We request that this letter be entered into the official committee record.

Respectfully submitted,

The City of Grosse Pointe Park

NEW BUSINESS:
ETHNIC INTIMIDATION ORIDNANCE DISCUSSION

Mayor Denner asked Councilmember McConnell to introduce the topic as the requestor.

Councilmember McConnell stated that she requested the topic based on the ongoing concerns regarding the display of the KKK flag on the 1300 block of Wayburn and the inability of the Wayne County Prosecutor to press charges based on the current laws in place. She stated that she has done preliminary research to see what can be developed for our City to create better accountability and penalties for individuals who seek to harass and intimidate residents within the City. She would like the topic referred to the Ordinance Review Committee for further consideration and discussion.

Mayor Denner expressed concern that this is a new area of law for Michigan and would prefer that a larger city be the first to develop it. He stated that the effort to develop appropriate language and the potential cost for defending legal challenges to the new ordinance would tax the resources of a small city such as Grosse Pointe Park.

Councilmember Read agreed that the Ordinance Review Committee would investigate and discuss the topic further.

NEW BUSINESS:
COUNCIL COMMENT

Mayor Denner stated that he wanted to clarify for the community the City's role in the future of Trombly Elementary School property. The City is not involved, and the final decision will ultimately be made by the Grosse Pointe School System as the property owners. The property can continue to be used by the school system, however, a change in use would be subject to city zoning requirements.

Councilmember Hodges stated that as the Councilmember for Finance, she will be working with City Administration on the development of a reserve policy to bring back to City Council for further consideration in the future.

Councilmember Read stated that she would like to see the budget be utilized as a living document and requested a quarterly budget report be provided to City Council moving forward.

Councilmember Robson thanked the Department of Public Safety in honor of National Police Week.

Councilmember Relan stated ongoing concern with traffic issues around the Schools and requested an increase Public Safety presence during drop-off and pick-up.

PUBLIC COMMENT (NON-AGENDA ITEMS)

City Manager Sizeland started no written comments were received.

Three residents made verbal comments.

Motion by Councilmember Relan, supported by Councilmember Read, to adjourn the meeting.

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

NAYS: None

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:45 PM.