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, McConnell, Hodges, Robson, and Fluitt, and Mayor Denner.

Also electronically present: Nick Sizeland, City Manager; Jane M. Blahut, Finance Director/Clerk; Jake Howlett, City Attorney; Bryan Jarrell, Director of Public Safety; Pat Thomas, Director of Public Works; and Leah Smith, Assistant to the City Manager.

Mayor Denner made a brief statement regarding the storm event that occurred on June 25th – June 26th.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Denner presented the consent agenda for approval.

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

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

NAYS: None

PUBLIC COMMENT (AGENDA ITEMS)

No public comment was presented.

MANAGERS REPORT

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

- June 25th – 26th Storm Event
- TIFA Residential & Business Improvement Grants
- Recycling
- Jefferson Traffic Islands
- Rent relief for Storm Impacted Renters
- City Action Landlord/Tenant Storm Concerns
- DTE
- Public Works Building
- City Hall Building
COMMITTEE AND COMMISSION REPORTS

Sustainability Committee
Councilmember Fluitt started that the Sustainability Committee met on June 16th. The following topics were discussed:
- RRS is currently working with the City to identify how the recycling process can be improved
- The City electrician is exploring options to convert the street lights from regular lights to LED lights and looking at utilizing TIFA funds to potentially pay for those updates along Kercheval and Charlevoix.
- Composting was discussed and the committee agreed that the City can encourage composting but it should not be offered as a City service.
- City Forester explained that the leaves picked up at the curb are taken up north and composted and then brought back to the City as top soil which is one example of sustainable practices in action.
- Discussed adding a sustainability section as part of the procurement policy
- A sustainability page has been added to the website to help share sustainable resources and information

Public Service Committee
Mayor Denner stated that the Public Service Committee met June 15th. The main purpose of the meeting was to view the presentation and discuss the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund project which will be presented for final review and approval later in this meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:
COUNCIL COMMENT

Councilmember Relan requested an update on the posting of the TIFA/DDA Director position.

City Manager Sizeland stated that the position was posted on the City website, Michigan Municipal League, and Michigan Downtown Association websites.

Councilmember Read stated that she would like to have a standing agenda item on water infrastructure and emergency planning and response following the June 25th – 26th storm event.

Councilmember Fluitt requested that a discussion be held on the American Recovery Plan funding to determine the best use for the money.

NEW BUSINESS:
PUBLIC HEARING: DRINKING WATER STATE REVOLING FUND PROJECT PLAN

Mayor Denner stated that the purpose of the hearing and discussion is to approve the project application to the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund. Mayor Denner opened the public hearing and state that program is a low-interest funding mechanism the City can utilize to pay for infrastructure improvements. However, applying to the program does not guarantee approval. If the City is not approved for funding in 2022, the application may be utilized to secure grant funding, to re-apply next year, or a public service bond could be utilized to finance the project.
City Manager Sizeland stated that the application was originally due on July 1st with the requirement that a public hearing on the proposed project be held before that. EGLE did grant an extension for the public hearing following the June 25th-26th storm event which is why the project is being presented today. The purpose of the proposed project is to design and replace water main, water meters, existing lead water service lines, hydrants, and valves. Dead-end water mains will also be looped as feasible. The project will increase the reliability of the City’s water system, protect public health, and maintain compliance with EGLE’s revised Lead and Copper rule. The project will take place over five years 2022 – 2026 and the City is proposing funding the project with money collected from user charges. The estimated cost to users would be a total increase of up to $66.00 per bimonthly billing cycle. The total project cost is estimated at $27,700,000. City Manager introduced Mr. Patrick Droze and Ms. Krista Takacs from OHM Advisors to present the proposed project.

Mr. Droze and Ms. Takacs made a brief presentation regarding the project including:
- Drinking Water Revolving Plan Overview
- Grosse Pointe Park Statement of Need
- Recommended Improvements
- Anticipated Project Costs and Water Rates
- Environmental Impacts and Mitigation
- Project Benefits

Following the conclusion of the presentation, Mayor Denner asked if there was any public comment on the plan.

No public comments were presented.

Mayor Denner presented the project resolution for approval:

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING A FINAL PROJECT PLAN FOR WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS AND DESIGNATING AN AUTHORIZED PROJECT REPRESENTATIVE

WHEREAS, the City of Grosse Pointe Park recognizes the need to make improvements to its existing water treatment and distribution system; and

WHEREAS, the City of Grosse Pointe Park authorized OHM Advisors, Inc. to prepare a Project Plan, which recommends the construction of 81,800 ft of replacement or looping, 8-inch or larger water main, and replacement of 1,225 lead service lines and water meters;

WHEREAS, said Project Plan was presented at a Public Hearing held on July 12, 2021 and all public comments have been considered and addressed;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Grosse Pointe Park formally adopts said Project Plan and agrees to implement the selected alternative: alternative 1 with horizontal directionally drilled water main, lead service line replacement, and service meter replacement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Manager, a position currently held by Nick Sizeland, is designated as the authorized representative for all activities associated with the project referenced above, including the submittal of said Project Plan as the first step in applying to the State of Michigan
for a Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Loan to assist in the implementation of the selected alternative.

Motion by Mayor Denner, supported by Councilmember Read, to adopt the resolution adopting the final project plan for water system improvements and designating an authorized project representative.

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

NAYS: None

NEW BUSINESS:
REDISTRICTING RESOLUTION

Mayor Denner stated that as a result of the census, redistricting occurs in each state every ten years. The State of Michigan created the Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission to assure that the district lines are drawn fairly through a transparent, non-partisan process that includes citizen feedback. Harper Woods and the Grosse Pointes were in the same district until the last redistricting in 2010, which placed Harper Woods in a different district. The Grosse Points and Harper Woods have expressed over the last decade their desire to be within the same district again and this resolution calls for that to occur.

Motion by Councilmember Read, supported by Councilmember Relan, to adopt the resolution regarding decennial redistricting.

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

NAYS: None

The resolution reads as follows:

City of Grosse Pointe Park

RESOLUTION REGARDING DECENNIAL REDISTRICTING

WHEREAS, the U.S. Constitution calls for a decennial Census of the population of the country and a reapportionment of representatives to the United States House of Representatives;

WHEREAS, upon completion of the Census every 10 years, states are required to approve new districts for the U.S. House of Representative as well as state office districts for state representatives and state senators;

WHEREAS, the citizens of the State of Michigan have established a Redistricting Commission to undertake the development and approval of redistricting plans based on the 2020 Census, and to take effect starting in 2022;

WHEREAS, the U.S. Supreme Court and the Michigan Constitution have established principles that the redistricting process must meet;
WHEREAS, redistricting plans are required to follow principles of being compact, contiguous, respecting borders of municipalities and natural geographic features, respecting minority voter rights to representation, and keeping communities with similar interests together;

WHEREAS, the six small municipalities consisting of the Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods comprise all of the suburban communities of the northeastern corner of Wayne County and a tiny part of Macomb County;

WHEREAS, the citizens of all of the Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods have lived for decades as one community sharing a multitude of services including one public school system serving all of the Grosse Pointes and a portion of Harper Woods, shared mutual aid for police and fire, and many other services and expenses forming a single community of interest;

WHEREAS, the redistricting plan in place for the last decade divided this community of interest into two districts: State District 1 consisting of Grosse Pointe Shores, Grosse Pointe Woods, Harper Woods, and a neighboring part of Detroit, and State District 2 consisting of Grosse Pointe Farms, Grosse Pointe City, Grosse Pointe Park, and a portion of Detroit, two State Senate districts, and a Congressional district stretching in convoluted fashion all the way to Pontiac;

WHEREAS, division of the Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods into multiple legislatives districts does not respect the long-established redistricting principle to draw elected representatives' district boundaries to respect communities of interest;

AND WHEREAS, redistricting should allow a long-time combined community, its residents, businesses, infrastructure, and the community as a whole, to be represented together to have an effective and unified voice in Lansing and Washington, D.C.;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Grosse Pointe Park requests the Michigan Redistricting Commission approve a redistricting plan keeping Grosse Pointe Park and its neighbors in the same state and federal legislative districts, and that a copy of this resolution be immediately provided to the members of the Michigan Restricting Commission for their consideration.

NEW BUSINESS:
COUNCIL COMMENT

Councilmember McConnell requested that a budget update be provided explaining the impact of the June 25th – 26th storm event on the budget.

Councilmember Read requested that a quarterly update on the budget be provided to City Council moving forward.

PUBLIC COMMENT (NON-AGENDA ITEMS)

No public comment was presented.

CONVENE TO CLOSED DOOR SESSION - LITIGATION
Mayor Denner stated that the closed-door session was requested by administration.

Motion by Mayor Denner, supported by Councilmember Hodges, to enter into a closed-door session under section 8h of the open meetings act to consider material exempt from discussion or disclosure by state or federal statute per written attorney-client opinion letter.

AYES: Councilmembers Relan, Read, Hodges, Robson, McConnell, and Fluitt, and Mayor Denner
NAYS: None

Mayor Denner stated that the closed door session would start after a five minute break.

Mayor Denner reconvened the meeting to open session at 9:55 pm.

Motion by Mayor Denner, supported by Councilmember Robson, to adopt the recommendation as provided by the City Manager and City Labor Attorney.

AYES: Councilmembers Relan, Read, McConnell, Hodges, Robson, and Fluitt, and Mayor Denner
NAYS: None

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

AYES: Councilmembers Relan, Read, McConnell, Hodges, Robson, and Fluitt, and Mayor Denner
NAYS: None

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:00 pm.