COUNCIL MEETING – JULY 28, 2014

A regular meeting of the City Council was held on Monday, July 28, 2014, at 7:00 p.m., and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

The following were present: Councilmembers Arora, Denner, Robson, and Grano, and Mayor Pro-tem Theokas

Excused Absence: Councilmember Clark

Mayor Heenan arrived at 7:07 p.m.

Also present: Dale Krajniak, City Manager, Jane M. Blahut, Finance Director/Clerk, and Dennis J. Levasseur, City Attorney, and David Hiller, Director of Public Safety

MINUTES – JUNE 23, 2014

Mayor Pro-tem Theokas presented to Council for consideration the minutes of June 23, 2014 for approval, as presented.

Motion by Councilmember Denner, supported by Councilmember Robson, to approve the minutes of June 23, 2014, as presented.

AYES: Councilmembers Arora, Denner, Robson, Grano, and Mayor Pro-tem Theokas and Mayor Heenan

NAYS: None

Excused Absence: Councilmember Clark

MOBILE DATA COMPUTERS

Mayor Pro-tem Theokas presented to Mayor and Council the request for mobile data computers for the public safety vehicles.

Director Hiller stated that the mobile data computers in the scout vehicles have not been updated since 2006. The replacement from Dell Computers includes the new computers with docking station, display screens and power supplies. They are also compatible with the CLEMIS reporting system.

City Manager stated the total price is $25,702.51 and funds are budgeted for in the capital improvement fund.

Motion by Mayor Pro-tem Theokas, supported by Councilmember Robson, to approve the acquisition for the Mobile Data Computers for the public safety vehicles in the amount of $25,702.51.

AYES: Councilmembers Arora, Denner, Robson, Grano, and Mayor Pro-tem Theokas, and Mayor Heenan

NAYS: None

Excused Absence: Councilmember Clark
FINANCE REPORT – JUNE, 2014

Mayor Pro-tem Theokas presented to Mayor and Council for consideration the invoices exceeding $5,000 for the month of June, for approval as presented.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vendor</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Payment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bodman, LLP</td>
<td>Prosecuting Attorney and Misc. fees</td>
<td>$27,409</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PMI Inspections</td>
<td>Inspection Fees – May and June</td>
<td>$26,541</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goddard Coatings Co.</td>
<td>Tennis court resurfacing</td>
<td>$9,250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rizzo Services recycling</td>
<td>April-May recycling</td>
<td>$22,408</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water Commissioners</td>
<td>April Waste Water</td>
<td>$120,591</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water Commissioners</td>
<td>March Water</td>
<td>$83,588</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rizzo Service</td>
<td>Refuse pick-up, May</td>
<td>$33,094</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ford Motor Credit</td>
<td>3 new vehicles – Public Safety</td>
<td>$25,404</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michigan Cat Equipment</td>
<td>Asphalt Paver</td>
<td>$49,250</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Motion by Mayor Pro-tem Theokas, supported by Councilmember Grano, to approve the invoices exceeding $5,000 for the month of June, 2014, in accordance with Section 2.249 of the Charter.

AYES: Councilmember Arora, Denner, Robson, Grano, and Mayor Pro-tem Theokas, and Mayor Heenan
NAYS: None
Excused Absence: Councilmember Clark

NEW/OLD BUSINESS

METRO TIMES:
Resident requested the Mayor and Council ban the Metro Times stands located in the City. She attempted to read aloud a letter that depicts lewd articles and photos as the language was vulgar and offensive to people and there were children in the audience. She continued to read aloud and Mayor Pro-tem Theokas indicated she was out of order and if she did not stop immediately, he would have her escorted out of the meeting.

City Attorney advised the resident that if she believed that there is sex trafficking that she should pursue the complaint with State and Federal officials as the City has no jurisdiction to enforce those laws.

KERCHEVAL MARKET

Residents expressed concern over the Kercheval development. They stated they support the market expansion, however, the perception some people have is that it’s a means to block off Detroit, and that is not a message Grosse Pointe Park should send. They also stated there was not community input, the only people notified were those within 300 feet of the development.

Resident Jay Hackleman stated he is happy to see the development come to fruition. He stated he has the upmost confidence in the decisions of the Council.
Resident Dr. Gunderson stated her family moved from Detroit to Grosse Pointe Park and she is totally supportive of the market, however, she does not appreciate the booths located as it appears to block off Detroit.

Owner of Shaw’s Books indicated his business has been affected by this development and requested, at a minimum, the shed in front of his building be removed.

Resident Dick Schroder stated he is hopeful that the development will create more foot traffic and stated he was a resident of Detroit and there are many ways to get in and out of Grosse Pointe Park. The Council is in a position where they are damned if they do, and damned if they don’t. This development is a work in progress. He expressed his gratitude to the Mayor and Council for everything they do for the community.

Resident of Buckingham moved from the southwest area of Detroit. She stated she purchased a home on Buckingham in Grosse Pointe Park because they were the most progressive of all the Points and is disappointed with the market.

Resident Mr. Falls stated this may not be the perfect time to bring up this issue; however, recently was a victim of crime and requested how to go about closing off Fairfax and Essex at Alter Road. He stated that it’s not a race or class issue, but rather a crime issue. He witnessed the thief that perpetrated his property walk over from Alter Road. The road closures make the area a safer and nicer place to live.

Mayor Pro-tem Theokas recommended he speak to Director Hiller on the feasibility of road closures.

Resident of Nottingham expressed concern over the closure and music from the district.

Mayor Pro-tem Theokas stated if you have an issue with noise, he should contact the police.

Ms. Meadows, resident of Detroit, stated she shopped on Kercheval many times. She stated people think differently on issues and the Council should involve the community to hear other opinions and ideas. The message perceived by many is negative for Grosse Pointe Park.

Resident Mr. Mann stated he has lived on Wayburn for 60 years. He stated he likes the development and is happy Art’s Party Store was taken down. He expressed his gratitude to the Mayor and Council and stated this development is a work in progress and will assist in supporting a permanent improvement for the block.

Resident Mrs. Mann stated “thumbs up on the turnaround” and stated she thinks the project will be a success.

City Attorney Levasseur stated that the City reached out a number of times in order to coordinate an improvement and to seek input. The City received no response from the City of Detroit officials, which is not surprising. As far as contacting residents, all residents receive the communicator in the mail that discussed the development and articles were previously in the Grosse Pointe Times and Grosse Pointe News as well as the City’s web site. It has also been discussed at several Planning Commission meetings and Council Meetings, so to say this issue of the Council and committees has never been discussed is not true. There are very few residents who attend the open meetings.
Mayor Pro-tem Theokas stated there have been articles in the Grosse Pointe Times and Grosse Pointe News.

City Manager stated the development is a work in progress and needs to be cleaned up aesthetically.

City Manager stated ideally we would like to build a permanent market along Alter. In the future, hopefully a bigger development can be implemented jointly with the City of Detroit. We have seen the beginning of a re-birth in this area yet there are many challenges.

City Manager stated we need to address traffic flow and a community improvement between Grosse Pointe Park and Detroit. Hopefully within the next year we will be able to coordinate such a plan.

Resident of Grayton stated she travels down Kercheval daily to get to Detroit. This development is an inconvenience.

The residents expressed their desire to have community involvement going forward and have a continual dialogue.

Councilmember Arora thanked the residents for expressing their concerns and would welcome dialogue in the future and encouraged the same.

Mayor Pro-tem Theokas stated the City has had many struggles with acquiring developers interested in our property. The process starts by a developer approaching the City and it evolves from there.

Resident Donnelly inquired if the City has a vision to share.

Mayor Pro-tem Theokas stated at this time the plan is to attract developers to the City and there is no specific plan for any permanent development at that site in the City. This is not an academic exercise; we need people who are interested in investing significant money.

Councilmember Denner stated the meeting was a means of listening to the input of those present and stated the main intention was to address blight. He stated he agrees with the City Manager that calming the traffic in that area was necessary and the City needs to put more effort into the access from the Detroit side to Kercheval. He stated he is in favor of the turn around and will make an effort to re-address access to Detroit. The aesthetics leave room for improvement; however, it is a work in progress. The sheds were not built on a foundation, so when a larger development presents itself, the sheds will be removed.

Councilmember Grano stated he concurs with Councilmembers Denner and Theokas’ comments. He noted there are approximately 70 people in attendance that are very vocal and passionate and are requesting more dialogue going forward. He stated to those present, they are unaware of the history of tensions that go way back. Councilmember Grano stated he supports the sheds; he wouldn’t be in favor of bulldozing them down. Let’s just work on improving what’s already there and improving communications.

Councilmember Theokas stated the City tried to clean up Jefferson and Alter corner during the Kilpatrick administration and purchased the old Deck Bar and acquired a permit for the demolition. The City was given a stop order stating the Deck Bar is a historical building although it remained vacant for years. The
building has been an eye sore and Grosse Pointe Park is unable to address that corner because of Detroit’s actions.

Councilmember Robson stated he appreciates all of the passionate comments and the Council and administration are continually trying to make Grosse Pointe Park a better place to live.

Mayor Heenan expressed his gratitude to the audience and stated occasionally the Council needs bracing and we appreciate your comments.

Councilmember Theokas inquired if any of the Council wishes to make a motion to remove the sheds on Kercheval and return the traffic pattern to its prior state. There was no motion.

With no further comment, the meeting adjourned.