

**VILLAGE OF GROSSE POINTE SHORES, A MICHIGAN CITY  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
TUESDAY, JUNE 18, 2019 – 7:00 P.M.**

- 1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER** - A monthly meeting of the City Council of Village of Grosse Pointe Shores, a Michigan City was held on Tuesday, June 18, 2019 in the Council Chambers of the Grosse Pointe Shores Municipal Building, 795 Lake Shore Road. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Kedzierski.

The meeting of the City Council had been immediately preceded by the unveiling of a Michigan State Historical Marker from the Michigan Historical Commission recognizing the Grosse Pointe Shores City Hall for its historical significance and status.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**3. ROLL CALL** – Clerk Bruce Nichols

Present: Mayor Thaddeus Kedzierski, Council Members Robert H. Barrette, Bruce Bisballe, Tina Ellis, Robert E. Gesell, and Matthew Seely

Absent: Doug Kucyk (excused on carried Motion of Seely /Barrette)

Also present: City Clerk Bruce Nichols  
City Attorney Brian Renaud  
Finance Officer/Treasurer Rhonda Ricketts  
Public Safety Director John Schulte  
Public Works Director Brett Smith  
City Manager Mark Wollenweber

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MAY 21, 2019 REGULAR MEETING**

On Motion of Council Member Seely, seconded by Council Member Barrette, the minutes of the meeting were approved unanimously.

**5. RECEIVE AND FILE VARIOUS BOARDS, COMMITTEES & COMMISSIONS MINUTES**

On Motion by Council Member Barrette, seconded by Council Member Ellis, the various committee, commission and board minutes were approved unanimously to be received and filed.

**6. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS**

Chase Wakefield voiced support for the Arc of Grosse Pointe/Harper Woods Pool Usage Request.

Harry Kurtz had questions and comments regarding the staffing of the Municipal Park gatehouse. Chief Schulte described the park gatehouse schedule. Mr. Kurtz also expressed support for the hiring of Allison Scarfone as the new Park Manager.

**7. PROCLAMATIONS- St. John Guild Honorees, Alex Lucido & Peter Cracchiolo**

Mayor Kedzierski presented a proclamation to resident Alex Lucido in honor of his outstanding achievement and his recognition as having received the *2019 St. John Guild Honoree of the "Lifetime Achievement Award."*

Mayor Kedzierski presented a proclamation to resident Peter T. Cracchiolo in honor of his outstanding achievement and his recognition as having received the *2019 St. John Guild Honoree of the "Verenice MaQuade Distinguished Service Award."*

**8. PRESENTATION-** Grosse Pointe Public Library, Prudence Cole - Adjourned without date.

**9. INTRODUCTION-** Allison Scarfone, the new Park Manager, was introduced to City Council. Ms. Scarfone and City Council engaged in a brief discussion regarding the Municipal Park.

**10. SPECIAL LAND USE REQUEST-** 914 Lake Shore Rd. (Action by Council Only, Not Sitting as ZBA)

Planning Commission Chairperson Mary Matuja described the petitioner's request for approval of a special land use request for the installation of an outside basketball court. Chairperson Matuja reported the Planning Commission found no adverse impact from the proposed basketball court, as it is shielded from view by shrubs. The Planning Commission voted unanimously to approve the petitioners' request for the special land use approval. No neighbors have objected to the use of the property in such a manner.

On motion of Council Member Seely, supported by Council Member Ellis, and approved unanimously (6-0), petitioner's request for approval of a Special Land Use request for the installation of an outside basketball court; provided, however, the petitioners must update a signed approval for the use from their southernmost neighbor within 60 days.

**11. PUBLIC HEARING-** Variance Request, 55 Vernier Rd.- Council Sitting as Zoning Board of Appeals

On motion by Council Member Gesell, supported by Council Member Barrette, and carried unanimously (6-0) , the Council meeting was adjourned, and reconvened as the Zoning Board of Appeals at 7:12 PM.

Planning Commission Chairperson Mary Matuja described the petitioner's request for approval of two variances to allow construction of a detached garage. More specifically, the petitioner is requesting a 6 foot wide yard as opposed to the required 9 foot side yard. In addition, a maximum of 375 feet of garage as permitted within the required rear yard. The proposed garage square footage is 380 square feet.

The home was constructed in 1942 without a garage. The petitioner is requesting a variance or modification of the yard, lot area, and percentage of lot coverage under *Section 40 – 393 of the Zoning Ordinance.*

The petitioner having shown that a practical difficulty exists with strict enforcement of the requirements of this ordinance which would unreasonably deprive the owner of rights enjoyed by all other property owners adjoining property within the same district, and strict enforcement will render conformity with requirement as unnecessarily burdensome, and such requested variance will not cause an adverse impact on surrounding property, property values or the use or enjoyment of the property in the neighborhood, nor materially impair the intent and purposes of the public interest, and that this situation is unique because a

garage has never been constructed on the property, and that the requested variance is minimal, on motion by Council Member Barrette, supported by Council Member Bisballe, and carried unanimously (6-0), the petitioners' request for approval of the two (2) variances to allow construction of a detached garage with a 6 foot wide side yard and a square footage of 380 feet is approved.

On motion by Council Member Ellis, with support by Council Member Bisballe, and carried unanimously (6-0), the Zoning Board of Appeals adjourned and immediately reconvened as the City Council.

## **12. REPORTS BY CHAIRPERSONS OF BOARDS, COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS**

### **A. Budget and Finance – Finance Officer/Treasurer Rhonda Ricketts**

1. Approval of Bills - The monthly bills were presented by Finance Officer Ricketts, reviewed, discussed and unanimously approved for immediate payment on motion of Council Member Gesell, seconded by Council Member Barrette, and carried unanimously by Council.
2. Review of Financial Statements - Finance Officer/Treasurer Rhonda Ricketts presented the financial statements of the municipality for review by Council.

#### 3. 2018/2019 Proposed Budget Amendments

The city is required to annually “Amend” the current year budget when significant changes to the original adopted budget have been made. Currently, the city has \$1.6 million dollars in surplus funds. The sum was reduced due to Municipal Park renovations, and retiree health care account contributions (derived from real estate sale proceeds). The overall revenue and expenditure numbers are not problematic to the budget. City Council was presented with the Final Amended Budget amounts for its review and approval.

Upon recommendation of the City Finance Officer, the City Manager, and the Finance Committee, on motion by Council Member Barrette, with support by Council Member Gesell, and carried unanimously (6-0), the proposed amendments to the 2018/2019 budget were approved.

4. Finance Committee Report - Chairman Bruce Bisballe reported the committee will be reviewing medical prescription coverage at the next Finance Committee meeting scheduled in September.

### **B. Public Safety – Chief John Schulte expressed his approval of the hiring of Allison Scarfone as the Municipal Park Manager. Public safety officers' overtime is being very carefully monitored during the vacation season. A June 15th auto theft was caused by the owner leaving an unlocked vehicle with the key fob inside. The Oxford road and Willow Tree building sites are now in compliance. Grosse Pointe Shores has purchased a fire breathing apparatus which is compatible with other Grosse Pointe Public Safety departments. The Grosse Pointe Woods shared lockup facility is progressing well.**

Council Member Ellis had questions regarding the park gatehouse and the duties of those staffing the gatehouse. A wireless Park Pass scanner has been ordered for utilization at the gatehouse. Councilman Seely had questions regarding entry into the park.

### **C. Public Works – Director Brett Smith reported challenges caused by the record high lake levels. It**

was necessary to plug several storm water drains as the lake level is causing water to rise and come up through the storm water drains. Colonial Road has been paved. Landscaping into the park entrance has been completed with flowers planted. The Crestwood generator has arrived and will be installed in the very near future. The approach on Woodland Shore is under construction. The coal patch crew is still struggling to catch up with its work. Councilman Seely had remarks regarding yellow caution tape at dangerous sites along the Lake Shore Rd. seawall.

- D. **Parks Committee-** Council Liaison Doug Kucyk (Excused) and Council Member Seely reported on the upcoming July 4 party at Osius Park. Wi-Fi service will be operational at the park in the very near future.
- E. **Harbor Committee-** Chairman John Seago reported that sandbags are working well and keeping back the high water levels in the Marina. Our floating docks have worked exceptionally well during this historically high water level.
- F. **Infrastructure Report-** Bob Barrette reported there is more work being done on Woodland Shore. Other road work in the city is also being reviewed. Core drilling along the Lake Shore Rd. seawall must be performed before any seawall planning can be formulated.
- G. **Grosse Pointe Shores Improvement Foundation-** President Brett Marshall reported the construction of the *Tot Lot* has been delayed by the high water level in the park. Once construction has commenced on the *Tot Lot*, it should be completed within two weeks. As of this year, the Grosse Pointe Shores Improvement Foundation has contributed \$235,000 in improvements and grants for the city.
- H. **Legal Report** – City Attorney Brian Renaud reported on providing the following legal services during the previous month: conferring with city administration about employment of a Park Manager, discussions regarding the Michaux Court proceeds from a tax forfeiture sale, Deeplands Development matters being monitored, attendance at a Wayne County meeting regarding seawall maintenance and responsibility for such maintenance. Discussion then ensued among Council Members and the city attorney regarding the repair of the Lake Shore Rd. Seawall, and its progress.
- I. **Manager's Report** – City Manager Mark Wollenweber reported the Ford House *Legacy on the Lake* event is scheduled this week. On July 17th, the Ford House will be open to local public officials for a viewing of the new renovations. The city received \$114,000 in rebates on our annual insurance premium. Mr. Wollenweber reported that the National Park Service, United States Department of Interior, has listed the *William Hawkins Ferry House* at 874 Lake Shore Rd. in the *National Register of Historic Places*.

### 13. OLD BUSINESS –

#### A. The Arc of Grosse Pointe/Harper Woods-Pool Usage Request

On motion of Council Member Seely, seconded by Council Member Ellis, and carried unanimously (6-0), and with the recommendation of City Staff, Council approved the annual pool Usage request by ARC based upon the recommendation of Pool Supervisor, Kay Drake and the Parks Committee.

**14. NEW BUSINESS –**

**A. Detroit Area Agency on Aging Proposed FY 2020-FY 2022 Multi-Year Plan Approval**

On motion of Council Member Seely, seconded by Council Member Barrette, and carried unanimously (6-0), the Detroit Area Agency on Aging Proposed FY 2020-FY 2022 Multi-Year Plan was approved as submitted to Council. The City Manager was authorized to complete and sign the review and approval form and return it as approved.

**15. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

Helen Bai reported that the “Sponsor a Garden” program and the Grosse Pointe Shores Improvement Foundation provide all funding for plantings in the municipality. She had compliments regarding Grosse Pointe Shores Park staff. She also reported the “Shred Day” was a great success.

Dr. Rahi had questions regarding the funding of the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club fireworks, and commended the Finance Committee on their good work.

Resident Vito Cusenza had questions regarding The Helm organization.

**16. COUNCIL MEMBERS’ COMMENTS**

Council Member Seely reminded residents not to miss the Fourth of July Concert and fireworks at the Municipal Park.

**17. MAYOR’S COMMENTS –** Mayor Kedzierski reported the first swim meet is occurring this week. He also had comments regarding the July 4 concert and fireworks, and the community *Splash Party* to be held on July 14<sup>th</sup>. With the current highwater levels, the Mayor expressed pleasure with the decision made many years ago to utilize floating docks.

**18. REQUEST TO ENTER INTO CLOSED SESSION – Roll Call Vote**

With the Mayor having called for a roll call vote to enter into a closed session to consider a written opinion of legal counsel regarding employment contract matters, and the roll call vote having approved entering into closed session, (5-1 with Council Member Bisballe voting “No”), Council entered into closed session at 8:55 PM.

**19. RESUME OPEN SESSION**

Council, having deliberated in closed session, open session resumed at 9:45 PM.

**20. NOTE DATES OF FUTURE CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS** (Tues,7/16/19-7 pm & Tues, 8/20/19 -7pm)

**21. NOTE DATES OF FUTURE TOWN HALL MEETINGS** (Sat, 9/14/19-10am)

**22. ADJOURNMENT** - on motion by Council Member Bisballe, seconded by Council Member Ellis, and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 9:47 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bruce R Nichols, City Clerk