

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE OF THE CITY OF GROSSE POINTE WOODS HELD ON MONDAY, JUNE 17, 2024, IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS/COURTROOM OF THE ROBERT E. NOVITKE MUNICIPAL CENTER, 20025 MACK PLAZA DR., GROSSE POINTE WOODS, MICHIGAN.

Mayor Bryant called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor Bryant
Council Members: Brown, Gafa, Granger, Koester, McConaghy
ABSENT: None

Also Present: City Administrator Schulte
City Attorney Walling
Clerk’s Confidential Administrative Assistant Miotto

Motion by Granger, seconded by Brown, that all items on tonight's agenda be received, placed on file, and taken in order of appearance.

Motion carried by the following vote:
Yes: Brown, Bryant, Gafa, Granger, Koester, McConaghy
No: None
Absent: None

The first item discussed was regarding **Senior Services Millage on the 2024 General Election Ballot**.

Motion by Granger, seconded by Gafa, that the Committee-of-the-Whole receive and place on file the documents regarding Senior Services including: 2023 Year in Review (The HELM), Essential Senior Services, and an article from the Grosse Pointe News titled “Healthy Outcomes at The Helm”.

Motion carried by the following vote:
Yes: Brown, Bryant, Gafa, Granger, Koester, McConaghy
No: None
Absent: None

Prudence Cole, 43 Fairford, GPS spoke on this topic and to ask City Council to give the citizens of the community the opportunity to decide for themselves if they want to ensure the well-being

of our seniors through a state authorized millage. Statistics and survey results from citizens 50 and older, as well as 35- to 50-year-olds who are concerned about the well-being of their parents, were shared. The Helm is spearheading this initiative as they are the comprehensive and primary provider of senior services in the Grosse Pointes. Millage funds will help support the expansion of important essential services as well as wellness services, and much needed new services including adult day care, offsite programming, home visitations, and expanded evidence-based programs. The millage will also shore up the struggling PAATS transportation program. Funding for the last 45 years has been mainly provided by philanthropic efforts. These efforts must, and will, continue in order to meet the needs of the community, but that is not enough. City Managers worked together on an inter-local agreement to resolve the issues with a joint-city initiative and provided valuable assistance on lowering the proposed millage rate (.35%) and the universal ballot language.

Discussion ensued around the minimum age of citizens who can use these services (50 is proposed). The structure of the oversight commission, related to budget, was discussed to ensure accountability of the fund management. The recommended participants on commission will be similar to the library board, with each community appointing a representative. To get onto the November 2024 ballot, 4 of the 6 communities must agree (GP, GPP, GPF are all in support). There is a method to stop the millage in the future with a 6-month notice. If any city doesn't pass the millage, their citizens could still participate with a fee-based membership.

Motion by Gafa, seconded by Koester, that the Committee-of-the-Whole recommend to City Council the approval of the proposed resolution to place the Senior Services Millage on the 2024 General Election Ballot.

Motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: Brown, Bryant, Gafa, Granger, Koester, McConaghy
No: None
Absent: None

The next item discussed was regarding the **Consideration of Vacant City Council Seat Appointment.**

Mayor Bryant outlined a proposed process, which is the same process used in the past when seats were vacated. There will be a general notice, in several publications, that we are accepting applications and Council will have an open meeting on all the candidates and determine who to offer the position to fulfill the current vacant term. There were no objections to the proposed process.

The next item discussed was regarding **banners for the GPW 75th Anniversary**.

Examples were shown electronically and there was discussion around the options. Council reached consensus that they would like to see additional options.

There was no **New Business** to discuss.

Under **Public Comment**, the following individual(s) were heard:

- Erica and Andy McAnelly, 19250 Raymond St, GPW, spoke in opposition of Ordinance Chapter 6, and the specific ban on Pit Bulls.
- Mary Waters, 1276 Navarre Pl, Detroit, at large City Council Member, former State Legislature, and candidate for Congress in the 13th Congressional District, introduced herself and looks forward to working with the city of Grosse Pointe Woods.

Motion by Gafa, seconded by McConaghy, that the meeting of the Committee-of-the-Whole be adjourned at 7:52 p.m. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted,

Gretchen Miotto
Clerk's Confidential Administrative Assistant

Arthur W. Bryant
Mayor