

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE OF THE CITY OF GROSSE POINTE WOODS HELD ON MONDAY, JANUARY 8, 2024, IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS/COURTROOM OF THE ROBERT E. NOVITKE MUNICIPAL CENTER, 20025 MACK PLAZA DR., GROSSE POINTE WOODS, MICHIGAN.

The Committee-of-the-Whole meeting was moved to the Council Chambers/Courtroom.

Mayor Bryant called the meeting to order at 7:13 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor Bryant  
Council Members: Gafa, Granger, Koester, McConaghy, Vaughn  
ABSENT: Brown

Also Present: City Administrator Schulte  
Assistant City Administrator Como  
City Attorney Walling  
City Clerk Antolin  
City Planner Wolf

**Motion** by Vaughn, seconded by Granger, 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, Vaughn  
No: None  
Absent: None

**Motion** by Gafa, seconded by Vaughn, that Councilmember Brown be excused from tonight's meeting.

Motion carried by the following vote:

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

The purpose of tonight's meeting was to discuss the recommendation from the Planning Commission to approve the amendments to Chapter 32 – "Signs" Ordinance. City Planner Wolf provided an overview of these amendments in her memo dated December 21, 2023. She stated that the ordinance has been updated to comply with legal standing and that signs must be content neutral. In other words, the signs can be regulated by type, time, location, and color but not based on content. With this perspective, language throughout the ordinance was removed or changed.

The Planning Commission had extensive discussion regarding temporary signs since there is a permitting process in commercial areas but not in residential areas. In efforts to create a balance, there was consideration of not being too restrictive while not being free range with its regulation. This was discussed in order to prevent residents from placing signs up anywhere they want for as long as they want. The compromise was to leave the restriction to 30 days twice per year and it starts at the time in which code enforcement is notified and documents that there is a temporary sign up. It cannot be 60 consecutive days, specifically to coincide with multiple election years which prevent signs from being up all year round.

Additionally, there was clarification that wall signs cannot be advertisements or murals, and cannot be painted onto a building.

City Planner Wolf stated that the Planning Commission also recommended removing restrictions on font type and lettering making it easier for businesses to comply with the use of their logo.

City Planner Wolf answered questions from the Committee-of-the-Whole regarding temporary sign restrictions of other cities and the interpretation of its definition. It was suggested to place a separate section in the ordinance for "Temporary Signs" or a "Residential" section.

There was a consensus of the Committee-of-the-Whole to concur with the recommendation of the Planning Commission to approve the amendments to Chapter 32 – "Signs" Ordinance and place on the January 22, 2024 Council agenda for a first reading.

Under New Business, the following individual was heard:

- City Administrator Schulte stated that Treasurer/Comptroller Murphy will be retiring at the end of February 2024. The Deputy Treasurer/Comptroller, Steven Schmidt, has done a good job for two years at his position. His resume portrays his qualifications and will fill the Treasurer/Comptroller position as Deputy Treasurer/Comptroller for 90 days. No appointment is necessary at this time. After the 90 days, if Administration feels confident with his performance, Mr. Schmidt will be recommended to Council to be appointed as Treasurer/Comptroller. There was a consensus of the Committee-of-the-Whole to concur with Administration's succession plan upon Treasurer/Comptroller Murphy's retirement.

Under Public Comment, no one wished to be heard.

Motion by Granger, seconded by Koester, that the meeting of the Committee-of-the-Whole be adjourned at 7:34 p.m. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted,

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Paul P. Antolin  
City Clerk

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Arthur W. Bryant  
Mayor