

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE OF THE CITY OF GROSSE POINTE WOODS HELD ON MONDAY, JANUARY 9, 2023, 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 7:15 p.m.

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

Also Present: City Administrator Schulte
City Attorney Morita
Treasurer/Comptroller Murphy
City Clerk Antolin
Director of Public Services Kowalski
Building Department Representative Boettcher (McKenna)

Motion by Vaughn, seconded by Granger, 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

Motion by McConaghy, seconded by Gafa, that all items on tonight's agenda, be received, placed on file, and taken in order of appearance as presented.

Motion carried by the following vote:

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

The first item was regarding Zoning Ordinance: Storage Pods, Section 50-4.27. The City Administrator provided an overview regarding this item. He stated that the Zoning Board of Appeals Hearing on November 12, 2022, the petitioner, James Crowther was heard. Mr. Crowther requested to keep his storage pod on his property located at 19483 Mack Avenue, indefinitely. His appeal was tabled until this item was addressed at a Committee-of-the-Whole meeting.

Discussion ensued regarding parking space, increased square footage, taxable value, and visual appearance.

There was a vote of 4 (yes) – 2 (no), to adhere with the current zoning ordinance and not allow storage pods to be placed on the property indefinitely. The City Administrator will contact Mr. Crowther with the Committee's decision.

The next item was regarding City Ordinance: Livestock – Chickens, Section 6-3. Committee Member Koester introduced the topic of allowing a limited amount of chickens on residential property.

Paul Lechner of the Tree Commission, followed up with an overview. He is requesting to modify the ordinance to allow residents to have 2-3 hens (no roosters) and a small chicken coup. Currently, the cities of Royal Oak, Huntington Woods, and Warren, have ordinances allowing chickens in their community.

Mr. Lechner addressed significant benefits, including:

1. Pest Control (Chickens eat insects)
2. Chickens eat table scraps
3. Higher quality in egg producing
4. Teaches responsibility to children
5. Opportunity to know what you're eating
6. Alternative to rising cost of eggs

In addition, Mr. Lechner addressed the Michigan Right to Farm Act (Act 93 of 1981). This Act pre-empts any local ordinance, regulation, or resolution. It is important to follow generally accepted agricultural management practices for the care of farm animals.

Discussion ensued. Ideas and concerns were addressed, including the following:

1. Requirement of permission from neighbors
2. Direct City Attorney to review ordinance of Royal Oak and other communities
3. Kind of controls needed to proceed
4. Rodent Control
5. More information is needed to move forward with this proposal
6. Collaborate with Planning Commission and the Master Plan Update
7. Timeframe to begin
8. Consider Trial Period

The Committee-of-the-Whole would like to revisit this item within 60 – 90 days.

The next item discussed was regarding items to be removed from the Committee-of-the-Whole List:

1. Airbnb (Air Bed and Breakfast)/Residential Swimming Pool Rental
2. Chene-Trombley Park Update
3. Mack Ave. Holiday Decorations – Snowflakes
4. Ahee Jewelry 75th Anniversary Donations – Snowflakes
5. Assessing Contract – Wayne County Appraisal (WCA)
6. Dog Park – Near City Hall
7. Food Truck Ordinance
8. Vicious Dog Ordinance
9. Solar Energy Ordinance
10. Colonial Theme Ordinance Amendment
11. 2021 Rain Event – City Engineer to provide additional information
12. Solid Fence Ordinance

After discussion, there was a consensus to remove all items from the Committee-of-the-Whole List above, except item #1 (Airbnb/Residential Swimming Pool Rental) and Item #11 (2021 Rain Event). Item #1 is to be referred to the Planning Commission for further review.

Under New Business, the following individual was heard:

- Council Member Granger requested updates from the City Engineers for projects in relation to the upcoming budget meetings.

Under Public Comment, the following individual was heard:

- Margaret Potter - Vaccination of chickens

Motion by McConaghy, seconded by Gafa, that the meeting of the Committee-of-the-Whole be adjourned at 7:54 p.m. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul P. Antolin
City Clerk

Arthur W. Bryant
Mayor