

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE PARCHMENT CITY
COMMISSION HELD ON MONDAY OCTOBER 17, 2016.**

1. Call to order

Mayor Heasley called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. He led those present in the "Pledge of Allegiance".

2. Roll Call.

Present: Mayor Heasley, Vice Mayor Britigan, Commissioners Fooy, Hageman, and Heasley. City Manager Durham, Treasurer/Clerk Stutz, and City Attorney Soltis.

Absent None.

3. Minutes

Moved by Commissioner Heasley, supported by Vice Mayor Britigan to approve the amended Minutes of the October 3, 2016 regular meeting.

Motion Carried.

4. Additions or Changes to the Agenda

None.

5. Citizen Comments

Cheryl Jenness, 294 Glendale, had two comments. First as a private citizen, she was pleased with the newsletter. Second, on behalf of the Garden Club, she was rescinding the Club's \$1000 donation to the city, citing lack of action and displeasure with the little action that was taken, saying it was "not in keeping with the project" they "had in mind". Ms. Jenness added that the Garden Club would not donate to the festival next year as no acknowledgement of last year's donation was received. She expressed the Club's disappointment, but suggested they would be willing to donate in the future when administration would be willing to work with them.

Cheryl Post, 131 Parchmount, noted her appreciation for peace and order in the City. She said she was against the Road Diet project. She said she thought it will slow things up, squeezing big trucks off the road. Ms. Post then pulled out a copy of "Little Toot" to stress her point. She pleaded with the Commission to reject the project.

Judy Resler, 218 Maple, discussed the Road Diet as well, saying she worries about school buses, semis, and the homes north of Geno's. She said she thought having a choice (of which lane to drive in) is better. She mentioned a FOIA request she made at Kalamazoo Township that asked for speeding tickets written for the period 9/10/16 – 10/16/16 = 5. She asked if KTPD could be more productive during rush times.

Aaron Parsons, 1109 Parchmount, suggested having to back a trailer out one of the driveways on North Riverview will be very difficult with fewer lanes.

Bob Greene, 133 N Riverview, mentioned that he has friends who live in Kalamazoo on streets that have 3 lanes and they like it. He questioned the cost of the project though, stating he could see both sides of the story, based on the costs involved.

Chester Emmons, 411 N Riverview, is aware of the speeding, but says being able to park on the street is a plus for him. He also stated that the "fear of cops" in Parchment is lost and that should be brought back. He also suggested getting the traffic lights to work better.

Dawn Brady, 415 N Riverview, expressed her concern about snowfall and how often her family is unable to get in their driveway because of the plowed snow piled up. She said they usually park in the street while they dig themselves out.

Heather Dendinger, 349 Glendale, asked what is the cost of the project and what does the process look like?

City Manager Durham gave a brief history of the project, where it began in 2009 as a result of a study with the mill project. The study noted that Riverview is significantly overbuilt for the current traffic, and they recommended the Road Diet. There are plans with maps and boards that show the bedroom community feel with boulevards and landscaping. At the time, the Commission decided to wait on this. At the Commission's workshop/budget meeting early this year, the Commission asked about the project again, with the idea of phases and committed funds in the budget to complete the new study. More information will be posted when the study is complete.

Heather Dendinger responded that she looks forward to more information and liked the newsletter.

Mayor Heasley said he thought the input given today was valuable, and noted that the Commission wasn't rushing into anything.

David Post, 131 Parchmount, said he didn't think bikers used the lanes of other roads because of the junk that accumulates in them; he stated he is against the project, "don't go forward" with it.

Karen Conner-Beck, 1124 Parchmount, stated that she felt that before any money is spent on Riverview on the Road Diet, that money should be allocated to fixing Parchmount.

Nicole Parsons, 1109 Parchmount, suggested that the drop off at the Middle School could be a problem with the Road Diet.

6. **Consent Agenda**

A. Moved by Vice Mayor Britigan and supported by Commissioner Hageman, to receive the consent agenda items.

Motion Carried.

7. **Unfinished Business**

A. Appointment of City Commissioner to Fill Vacancy – applicant interview. Holly Evans, 221 Espanola, answered questions from the Commission. She is a 10 year resident of Parchment, has a degree in Human Resources from WMU and stated she was interested in getting involved in the community and thought this was a good way to serve. Ms. Evans added that she is more of a team player than a leader, but is willing to speak up when necessary. She noted that she is planning on running in the May 2017 election as well. Moved by Commissioner Heasley, supported by Commissioner Hageman to appoint Holly Evans to the Parchment City Commission to fill the vacancy through May of 2017. Roll call vote was as follows:

Ayes: Britigan, Fooy, Hageman, J Heasley, R Heasley.

Nays: None.

Absent: None.

Abstain: None.

Motion Carried 5-0

8. **New Business**

B. City of Parchment Rental Housing Code – accept for First Reading. City Manager Durham began by noting that there is still opportunity to make changes if they are wanted and/or needed. He then turned

the floor over to Attorney Soltis. Attorney Soltis went on to say that after the first draft of the code was reviewed by Commissioners and landlord comments received, he made changes that include requiring rental properties to register; inspections when properties change hands or complaints are filed; adding an appeals process. Mayor Heasley wished fees and code could be more uniform countywide, but praised Attorney Soltis's changes. Commissioner Heasley approved of the changes as well, stating it balances fairness for tenant and landlord alike. Commissioner Hageman echoed approval for this version, saying it will help with proceeding with the project. Commissioner Fooy asked would complaints be able to be made by people other than tenants, meaning neighbors. Vice Mayor Britigan cited that this version is more manageable, but voiced his concern over who the housing/appeals board would be, as the City sometimes struggles with a lack of volunteers. Moved by Commissioner Heasley, supported by Commissioner Hageman to accept the City of Parchment Rental Housing Code for First Reading. Roll call vote was as follows:

Ayes: Britigan, Fooy, Hageman, J Heasley, R Heasley.

Nays: None.

Absent: None.

Abstain: None.

Motion Carried 5-0

9. Standing Board and Committee Reports

None.

10. Citizen Comments

Bob Greene, 133 N. Riverview, in response to the rental code, said liked the idea of forming a board, and suggested having it made up of tenants, landlords, Commissioners and private citizens.

Aaron Parsons, 1109 Parchmount, suggested having the rental code require tenants to report complaints to the landlord first, and also asked how the tenants would know their rights.

11. Mayor and Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Heasley thanked Holly Evans for stepping up to serve.

Commissioner Hageman congratulated Holly Evans and noted she looks forward working with her. She also thanked all of the citizens for coming to the meeting, saying they helped educate the Commission with their concerns.

Vice Mayor Britigan told the Commission that on October 1, the CCTA assumed full responsibility over transportation in the area, creating seamless bus service. He mentioned going to a legislative breakfast with our congressman.

Mayor Heasley told everyone that he and the ViceMayor did their civic duty by riding in the Homecoming Parade the previous Friday.

12. City Manager Comments/Reports

A. City Manager Durham gave the Commissioners a code enforcement update, citing the number of code violations identified through diligent work.

13. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Commission, it was moved by Commissioner Fooy and supported by all to adjourn the meeting at 8:22 p.m.

Shannon S. Stutz
City Clerk