**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE PARCHMENT CITY COMMISSION HELD ON MONDAY, JANUARY 20, 2025.**

1. **Call to order**

Mayor Britigan called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. then led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. **Roll Call**.

Present: Commissioners Britigan, Cooper, Conner, Fooy, Jordan, Madaras, and Mendoza, City Manager Stoddard, City Treasurer/Clerk Stutz, Michigan Municipal League Interview Coordinator Curtis Holt.

Absent: None.

1. **Approval of Minutes**

Moved by Commissioner Conner supported by Commissioner Mendoza to approve the minutes of the January 6, 2025 Regular meeting. **Motion Carried**.

1. **Additions or changes to the agenda.**

None. Moved by Commissioner Madaras, supported by Vice Mayor Jordan to approve the agenda as presented. **Motion Carried**.

1. **Citizen Comments – Items ON the Agenda**

None.

**6. Consent Agenda**

A**.** Questions by Commissioners were answered regarding specific items. Moved by Vice Mayor Jordan, supported by Commissioner Conner to approve the consent agenda items. **Motion Carried.**

**7. City Manager Interviews**

Commissioner Mendoza recused himself from the interview process because his partner had applied for the position. He stated that he does plan to observe, and that it sets the standard for accountability and transparency. He then suggested to the Commission to seek material information regarding one of the candidate’s termination from a previous position. Commissioner Mendoza then left “the decision-making to commissioners without conflicts of interest.” Over the next two plus hours, commissioners interviewed Jered Ottenwess, York Haverkamp (via ZOOM), Sarah Joshi separately, asking the same questions of each candidate. MML Coordinator Curtis Holt noted that all three applicants are interviewing for other jobs. He explained the next steps, adding that the MML does not participate in the contract negotiations. City Manager Stoddard excused herself at this time.

**8. Unfinished Business**

None.

**9. New Business**

A. City Manager Position - action. MML Coordinator Curtis Holt directed the commission in a ranking vote. The top two candidates were then discussed: concerns, strengths, other thoughts commissioners had. Moved by Commissioner Fooy, supported by Commissioner Conner to extend a contingent offer of employment to Sarah Joshi. Roll call vote was as follows:

Ayes: Britigan, Conner, Fooy, Jordan, Madaras.

Nays: Cooper.

Absent: None.

Abstain: Mendoza.

**Motion Carried 5-1.**

Moved by Commissioner Fooy, supported by Commissioner Conner to appoint the personnel committee along with Attorney Soltis, to negotiate the candidate contract. Roll call vote was as follows:

Ayes: Britigan, Cooper, Conner, Fooy, Jordan, Madaras.

Nays: None.

Absent: None.

Abstain: Mendoza.

**Motion Carried 6-0.**

**10. Citizen Comments**

Kristen Capelli, 318 E Thomas, thanked the commission for having the interviews open to the public and wanted to voice her opinion on the CM candidates. She felt the city needed “fresh eyes”, no bad PR, and someone who is willing to immerse themselves into the community and “be one of us”. Her vote was for York Haverkamp.

**11. Mayor and Commissioner Comments**

Commissioner Mendoza, back on the dais, said he felt the process was “as good as can be” but that he still wasn’t satisfied with the information given regarding one candidate’s termination. He asked that the personnel committee protect the city’s interests in the contract terms; he then said his vote would have been for Mr. Ottenwess.

Commissioner Cooper stated this “was a huge disappointment” to her. She felt Mr. Ottenwess’s experience would have improved the quality of life important to the residents.

Commissioner Madaras called back to Ms. Capelli’s “fresh eyes” comment, saying she sees value in that. Adding that making this decision isn’t one she takes lightly, and that she will be behind the candidate 100% if she takes the position.

Mayor Britigan reported that a card from Consumers Energy may be in residents’ mail, explaining markings they will be making for tree clearing. He then reminded everyone of the joint committee meeting on Wednesday from 6-8 pm.

**12. City Manager Comments/Reports**

City Treasurer/Clerk Stutz said City Manager Stoddard’s door is always open.

**13. Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Commission, it was moved by Commissioner Mendoza and supported by all to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

Shannon Stutz, City Clerk