

COUNCIL MEETING – OCTOBER 24, 2016  
7:00 P.M.

A regular meeting of the City of Grosse Pointe Park City Council was held on Monday, October 24, 2016, at the Okulski Theater at Windmill Pointe Park. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

The following were present: Councilmembers Clark, Arora, Chouinard, Robson, Detwiler, and Grano, and Mayor Denner

Also present: Dale Krajniak, City Manager, Jane M. Blahut, Finance Director/Clerk, Tom Rheaume, and Assistant City Attorney

MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 26, 2016

Mayor Denner presented to Council for consideration the minutes of the September 26, 2016, meeting for approval as presented.

Motion by Councilmember Robson, supported by Councilmember Chouinard, to approve the minutes of September 26, 2016, for approval as presented.

AYES: Councilmembers Clark, Arora, Chouinard, Robson, Detwiler, and Grano, and Mayor Denner

NAYS: None

ST. CLARE DE MONTEFALCO PARISH  
90<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

Mayor Denner presented to Council for consideration a resolution honoring St. Clare de Montefalco Parish 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, Mayor Denner and Members of Council recognize St. Clare De Montefalco Parish for its long standing service to the City of Grosse Pointe Park and neighboring communities,

WHEREAS, in 1923, Louis Rabaut, Honorable P.J.M. Hally, E.J. Hickey, and B.A. Seymour approached Bishop Gallagher and sought to have a parish established in Grosse Pointe Park. After several years of consultation, their prayers were answered and the Order of St. Augustine agreed to take charge of the new parish named St. Clare de Montefalco,

WHEREAS, the first Sunday Mass was held on October 3, 1926, at the Colony Theater (located on Mack and Balfour). There were over 500 new parishioners in attendance over three Masses,

WHEREAS, in 1927 St. Clare School building was completed and opened in September, with the Dominican Sisters from Columbus, Ohio in charge. Initial enrollment of 300 students swelled to 420 by the next year,

WHEREAS, in 1936, the first class to have completed all eight grades at St. Clare graduates,

WHEREAS, in 1941, property south of Mack between Audubon and Whitter was purchased for a new church, and construction began in 1951.

WHEREAS, in 1963, school enrollment soared to 1,184 children. The City of Grosse Pointe Park approved the closure of Audubon between Mack and Charlevoix so St. Clare could expand. Ground was broken for a new school building and gym, across the "street", named the Sweeney Center.

WHEREAS, in 1996, the convent closed and was demolished, and the Memorial garden and new Parish Office was dedicated the next year,

WHEREAS, in 1999, restoration and remodeling of the church, including newly-located Baptismal Font, took place,

WHEREAS, in 2012, after 86 years, the Augustinians depart and the Michaelite Fathers arrive to take charge of St. Clare Parish, the first one in the United States,

WHEREAS, in 2016, St. Clare de Montefalco Parish begins a year-long celebration of 90 years in the community,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Mayor Denner and Members of Council recognize St. Claire de Montefalco for its tenure that offers spiritual guidance to residents from all over.

Motion by Mayor Denner, supported by Councilmember Chouinard, to adopt the resolution for St. Clare de Montefalco Parish in honor of their 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

AYES: Councilmembers Clark, Arora, Chouinard, Robson, Detwiler, and Grano, and Mayor Denner

NAYS: None

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

##### PLANNING COMMISSION:

Councilmember Robson provided a brief overview from the Planning Commission on the redevelopment on Mack Avenue. The first block is between Maryland and Lakepointe that includes landscape, sidewalks, trees, and planters. The project will be completed within the next four years.

##### BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION:

Councilmember Chouinard announced that the Beautification Commission is hosting the daffodil bulb sale for \$3.50 a dozen and are available at City Hall. The annual beautification awards ceremony is scheduled for November 10, 2016, at the Tompkins Center. A memorial plaque and tree were planted in honor of Robert Ramsey, the former Chairman of the Beautification Commission.

Councilmember for Finance Detwiler presented to Mayor and Council for consideration the invoices exceeding \$5,000 for the month of September, 2016, for approval as presented. The invoices are as follows:

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Payment</u>
Bodman, PLC	Legal fees	\$ 10,000
City of Grosse Pointe Farms	Radio fee	16,325
PMI Inspections	Building inspections	12,827
Rizzo Service	August & September refuse	67,767
Rizzo Service	August & September recycling	22,596
Compass Minerals	Road salt	11,435
Great Lakes Water Authority	July – water	156,094
Great Lakes Water Authority	August – wastewater	135,500
Grosse Pointe Clinton Refuse	July & August - refuse disposal	16,780

Motion by Councilmember Detwiler, supported by Councilmember Arora, to approve the invoices exceeding \$5,000 for the month of September, 2016, for approval as presented in accordance with Section 2.249 of the Charter.

AYES: Councilmembers Clark, Arora, Chouinard, Robson, Detwiler, and Grano, and Mayor Denner

NAYS: None

#### CLOSED DOOR SESSION

Mayor Denner requested that a closed door session be held immediately following the regular meeting pursuant to discuss litigation.

Motion by Councilmember Clark, supported by Councilmember Grano, that a closed door session be held immediately following the regular meeting pursuant to litigation.

AYES: Councilmembers Clark, Arora, Chouinard, Robson, Detwiler, and Grano, and Mayor Denner

NAYS: None

#### PRESENTATION – STORM EVENT

Mayor Denner welcomed the residents in attendance that experienced flooding on September 29<sup>th</sup>. He stated that the City Manager was going to provide a presentation of the time line for the storm that occurred on September 29<sup>th</sup> followed by the engineers report from Stantec Engineering and a representative from the Assistant City Attorney who will provide a brief update and an opportunity for questions.

City Manager stated the rain event that occurred on September 29<sup>th</sup>, was an historic event that measured 4.94 inches of rain in approximately 12 hours. This is more than the prior Detroit area record of 4.74 inches in 1925 and the 2014 storms which flooded the regions, particularly Warren, Michigan.

The rain began in the late evening of the 28th and continued throughout the night, measuring approximately 2.3 inches. At approximately 7:30 a.m. the rain was coming down at an extremely rapid pace and by 9:30 the measurement was close to 2.5 additional inches. Due to the saturated grounds from the rain received during the night, the absorption rate was high. All pumps were operating. However, with the excessive amount of rain fall, the inflow of water into the station exceeded its ability to pump out.

Compared to prior events, the City Manager noted the June 18, 1996 rain event measured 1.8 inches of rainfall, on August 11, 2014, the measurement was 2.83 inches of rainfall, and on August 16, 2016, 2.27 inches of rainfall. All storms significantly less than the September 29<sup>th</sup> rainfall of 4.94 inches of rainfall. City Manager noted the average normally received for the entire month of September is approximately 3.8 inches of rain.

City Manager stated Grosse Pointe Park had the ability to discharge into Foxcreek until 1998. The Court mandated closure of the outlet was a result from a lawsuit that prevented Grosse Pointe Park from discharging into Foxcreek.

City Manager described in detail the pump station operations noting once water levels reached the floor level of the transformers, which is one story below ground level, it was necessary to turn the pumps off to eliminate damaging the pumps. If the pumps had not been turned off it could have caused permanent damage and the pumps would not be operational until repairs could be made which could be at a minimum days or possibly weeks without any sanitary service for the City. The transformers were submerged in water, causing damage in excess of \$200,000. The pump station transformer floor level has never flooded before and the building has been in place since 1938.

City Manager stated the city separated the sewer system in 1996 and was completed in 1999. This separation, however, did not eliminate all rainwater from the sanitary lines. Each home has drain tiles that divert rainwater into the sanitary system, especially when the ground is saturated and the water immediately absorbs into the ground and travels to the pump station. There are also homes that have some downspouts still connected along with the yard drains and drive way drains.

City Manager stated there were notices on the website, Facebook page, Nixle, and the GP Schools were provided information to undertake a school fan-out. He noted Nixle is managed by the public safety department and will work on coordinating on future notices in a more timely manner.

Stantec Engineer Adam Hoff presented a brief overview of the system and elevation. He recommended an improvement plan consisting of the following:

#### SHORT TERM SOLUTIONS:

- Private Property Connections
- Existing Pipe Materials
- Vented Lids and Castings
- CCTV Inspections

#### MID TERM SOLUTIONS:

- Flow monitoring/micro-monitoring
- SWMM Model of system
- Conclude SSES and Risk Assessment
- Continue ongoing program of routine cleaning and CCTV Inspection
- Work with the community to separate the remaining footing drains and downspouts from the sanitary sewer system
- Evaluate the possibility of expanding flow

#### LONG TERM SOLUTIONS:

- Continue ongoing program of routine cleaning and CCTV Inspection
- Implement any additional recommendations resulting from the SSES

Engineer Hoff also stated traditional I/I Investigation would include smoke and dye testing, manhole inspections, flow metering and modeling, CCTV, and pilot areas or large scale.

Many residents inquired as to the insurance claims and when would it be determined if the carrier is going to cover such claims.

Assistant City Attorney Rheume indicated the carrier has not made a determination and all discussions regarding claims must be avoided due to litigation.

Resident inquired if the transformers were at a higher level, would it have prevented the flooding.

City Manager stated the system could not handle the 4.94 inches of rain and if the transformers were a floor level higher, the basement flooding would still have occurred as the inflows exceeded the pumping capacity of the station.

Engineer Hoff stated one of the challenges Grosse Pointe Park is faced with is it is an older city and the station was put in place in 1938. The transformers have been moved up to the mezzanine level floor. Also if the City wants absolute protection against sewage backup, a system can be designed, however, the cost would be astronomical for a storm of this magnitude.

Engineer Schofer stated that the rainfall experienced by the Park on September 28-29 constituted an extreme event. The rainfall data indicates it was a 150 to 200 year storm event, meaning that in any given year there is only a half percent chance of the city experiencing such a storm.

Mayor Denner stated every person at city hall, elected officials, and contractual workers worked very hard and it still did not prevent the flooding that caused damage to your homes. We have heard all your complaints and will try to address these issues so this does not happen again. This was truly a devastating event for the residents affected.

With no further business, the meeting recessed to closed door session.

The meeting reconvened to open door session and with no further business the meeting adjourned.

