

COUNCIL MEETING – OCTOBER 23, 2017

7:00 P.M.

A regular meeting of the City of Grosse Pointe Park City Council was held on Monday, October 23, 2017, and 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 and Dennis J. Levasseur, City Attorney

MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 25, 2017

Mayor Denner presented to Council for consideration the minutes of the September 25, 2017 meeting for approval with correction regarding the fire pumper. The statement should reflect the life of the pumper, not the age.

Motion by Mayor Denner, supported by Councilmember Chouinard, to approve the minutes of September 25, 2017, with the correction noted.

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

NAYS: None

OPT OUT PROVISION

Mayor Denner presented to Council for consideration the adoption of the Opt Out provision for health care.

City Manager stated the opt out provision is provided due to the adoption of high deductibles. This is a resolution that Council adopts annually.

The resolution reads as follows:

**GROSSE POINTE PARK RESOLUTION
AUTHORIZATION
OPT OUT PROVISION
(Exemption from the Requirements of Public Act 152 of 2011)**

WHEREAS, the Publicly Funded Health Insurance Contribution Act 152 of 2011, enacted by the legislature of the State of Michigan on September 27, 2011 (“Act”), is intended to limit a public employer’s expenditures for employee medical benefit plans; to provide the power and duties of certain state agencies and officials; to provide for exceptions; and to provide for sanctions; and
WHEREAS, under the provisions of the Act public employees in the state of Michigan are to adopt, by January 1 of each year, provisions providing for a hard cap on employer contributions to employee

health care or a cost sharing arrangement by which public employers pay 80% of health care premiums with employees paying the other 20%, and

WHEREAS, the Act requires that public employers choose certain cost-sharing obligations for public employee health insurance premiums; and

WHEREAS, Section 8 of the Act allows that, by a 2/3 vote of its governing body each year, a local unit of government may exempt itself from the requirements of the Act for the next succeeding year; and

WHEREAS, the City Council for the City of Grosse Pointe Park has historically recognized, in its role as a steward for the public funds entrusted to it, that it must efficiently manage those limited resources and traditionally engages in reviews of employee compensation packages to maximize both employee satisfaction and fiscal responsibility; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan, elects to opt out of Public Act 152 of 2011 for the next succeeding year, 2018; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council for the City of Grosse Pointe Park acknowledges its responsibility to revisit its options and responsibilities under Public Act 152 of 2011 on an annual basis.

Motion by Councilmember Clark, supported by Councilmember Arora, to adopt the Opt Out provision for health care for calendar year 2018.

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

NAYS: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Beautification Commission:

Councilmember Chouinard presented a brief overview of the Beautification Commission meeting held on October 4. He stated the commission is preparing for the annual Beautification Awards for residents, commercial and civic awards. The event is scheduled for Thursday, November 9, at 7:00 p.m. at the Lavins Center at Windmill Pointe Park. Daffodil bulbs are available for purchase at City Hall.

Public Service Commission:

Councilmember Grano presented an overview of the Public Service Commission meeting held on October 9, 2017. He stated street resurfacing south of Jefferson is approximately 80% complete, and the streets north of Jefferson are approximately 50% complete.

The City continues to work on sewers and smoke testing. Improvements to the pump station are underway.

Grosse Pointe Schools are partnering with cities in possibly providing fiber optic internet service.

Electrical upgrades are underway at the Marina.

City Manager stated the existing road millage expires in 2018. To continue to complete the major streets, an extension of the millage, at a reduced rate would need to be considered.

FINANCE REPORTS
AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER, 2017

Councilmember for Finance Detwiler presented to Mayor and Council the invoices exceeding \$5,000 for the months of August and September, 2017. For approval as presented.

The invoices are as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Payment</u>
8/1/17	Kennedy Industries	Rebuilt pump for 3 Mile pump station	\$ 18,590
8/3/17	Bodman, LLP	Retainer & Pros. Attorney fees	10,000
8/3/17	Build Safe Inspection Srv.	July Inspections	8,267
8/9/17	Green For Life Recycle	July recycle fee	11,392
8/9/17	Green For Life Refuse	July refuse removal	33,653
8/9/17	Great Lakes Water Authority	June water service	131,407
8/15/17	Great Lakes Water Authority	July waste water	145,000
9/5/17	Bodman, LLP	Retainer & Pros. Attorney fees	10,000
9/5/17	I.T. Right	10 new computers	6,250
9/5/17	KS Statebank	In car video camera & service	19,087
9/7/17	Build Safe Inspection Srv.	Building inspections fees	9,154
9/12/17	City of Grosse Pointe Farms	Public Safety radios	13,607
9/14/17	Green for Life	Curbside recycle-August	11,470
9/14/17	Green for Life	Refuse collections – August	33,883
9/14/17	J & W Tree Artisans	City trees trimmed & removed	14,715
9/25/17	Apollo Fire Equipment	Fire jackets and pants	18,520

Motion by Councilmember Robson, supported by Mayor Denner, to approve the invoices exceeding \$5,000 for the months of August and September 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

NEW/OLD BUSINESS

Resident of 1367 presented a brief overview of the history of the privacy fence abutting her immediate neighbor. She stated the fence was constructed in 2005 and the posts were placed on her side of the fence. The second issue with the fence is that a portion of the fence was collapsing due to a large tree root that caused the fence to deteriorate. To remedy her complaints, the immediate neighbor carved out a large portion of the fence to provide adequate space for the root of the tree and replaced one of the existing posts. When she contacted the public service department regarding the quality of the repair of the fence, she was told the fence is built soundly and the department has no authority to direct the manner of repair of the replacement posts.

Mayor Denner stated he has spoken briefly to the homeowner regarding the fence and indicated that it appears to be a civil matter and should be handled by the City Attorney or the parties themselves.

Resident and shop owner inquired when the alley that has been designed for traffic flow off of Kercheval will be repaved.

City Manager stated spring of 2018 would be the earliest.

RESOLUTION – COUNCILMEMBER LAURIE ARORA

Mayor Denner presented to Council for consideration the adoption of a resolution honoring Councilmember Laurie Arora.

The resolution reads as follows:

COUNCILMEMBER LAURIE ARORA

WHEREAS, Laurie Arora was elected to City Council on November 3, 2009, and was sworn into office on Monday, November 9, 2009, and

WHEREAS, Laurie Arora is a successful professional in the non-profit sector. She holds a bachelor's degree from Michigan State University, and MBA from the University of Detroit and completed a Fellowship program at Michigan State University, and

WHEREAS, Laurie Arora served on the Recreation Commission, Ordinance Review Committee, and Communications Committee, and served as a Council representative for SEMCOG, and

WHEREAS, Laurie Arora and her husband have resided on Devonshire Road in Grosse Pointe Park since 1990. They have three children who have attended the Grosse Pointe Public Schools where Laurie has been an active volunteer, and

WHEREAS, Laurie Arora supported the consolidation of the Dispatch services with Grosse Pointe City resulting in an additional revenue of \$92,000 annually and a savings of \$100,000 in expenditures, supported many of the Grosse Pointe Park Foundation projects that enhanced the community for all residents to enjoy, supported the millage to repave and maintain the streets within the community, and many, many more actions that resulted in making Grosse Pointe Park a City that all residents are proud to live in, and

WHEREAS, Laurie Arora has actively engaged the residents of Grosse Pointe Park and advocated on their behalf on many issues and concerns, resulting in their resolution and the support of the quality of life throughout the City,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Mayor Denner and Members of the Grosse Pointe Park City Council acknowledge the many contributions Laurie Arora has made to the City of Grosse

Pointe Park in serving as Councilmember for two, four-year terms and she will be greatly missed.

Mayor Denner presented Councilmember Arora with a crystal box and a pewabic tile of Grosse Pointe Park.

Councilmember Denner stated Laurie came to the Council in a contested election and was very successful. To do that, you have to be extremely dedicated! Throughout the years, Laurie's approach was collegial and helpful, it provided other to see perspectives from a different view. Laurie has always been very diligent in preparing for meetings. She has been an invaluable asset to the Council and will be greatly missed.

Councilmember Robson stated he recalls when Laurie was campaigning for office and she stated she was going to hit the ground running! Well she's never stopped or slowed down. Laurie is energetic and enthusiastic and will be missed.

Councilmember Grano stated Laurie has made the entire Council work harder and that's a good thing. You've encouraged us all to work harder! We appreciate everything you have brought to the Council and everything you have done for the community.

Councilmember Detwiler stated Laurie has raised the presence of social media and transparency and thanked her for all her efforts.

City Manager stated Laurie has taken pride as a resident and councilmember and will be missed.

City Attorney Levasseur stated Laurie can remove him from speed dial. He stated one of the pleasures of practicing law is having smart and engaged clients. He wished Laurie and her family well.

Councilmember Chouinard stated Laurie has been a very dedicated councilmember and wished her and her family well.

Councilmember Clark stated he has seen a lot of people come and go. He stated he has worked with six women Councilmembers and the City has benefited greatly from Laurie's contributions. Laurie has always been very incisive and a strong commitment and interest in the community.

Councilmember Arora stated when she first ran for Council, she was the opposition and then as her colleagues realized she was here to work and developed a collegial working relationship. We all did it together.

Councilmember Arora urged Councilmember Robson to continue pushing blight issues. She thanked Councilmember Detwiler for all her work on the finance reports and stated Councilmember Grano has a special niche in making the community attractive to the

millennials. She encouraged Councilmember Chouinard to keep asking his questions and stated Councilmember Clark is a great leader on the Ordinance Review Committee.

Councilmember Arora stated she is so glad that Mayor Denner is our Mayor and the city benefits so much because of his leadership.

Councilmember Arora expressed her gratitude to all the residents for their participation and engagement in local government and to keep expecting accountability from your local government.

Mayor Denner invited all present to coffee and cake to wish Laurie Arora well.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned.