



CITY COUNCIL

January 8 and 9, 2010

A special-session meeting of the City of Petoskey City Council was held in the Reycraft Room of Stafford's Perry Hotel, Petoskey, Michigan, on Friday and Saturday, January 8 and 9, 2010. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 P.M. on Friday, January 8, 2010; and a roll call then determined that the following were

Present: H. Ted Pall, Jr., M.D., Mayor
William Atkins, City Councilmember
William Fraser, City Councilmember
Robert Johnson, City Councilmember
Ronald C. Marshall, Ph.D., City Councilmember

Absent: None

Also in attendance was City Manager Dan Ralley, City Clerk-Treasurer/Director of Finance Alan Terry; City Planner Amy Tweeten, Director of Parks and Recreation Allen Hansen, Acting Director of Public Works Anthony Rice, Director of Public Works Michael Robbins, and Dr. Joseph Ohren, Plymouth, facilitator of this special session.

Opening Discussion

Dr. Ohren then opened the special-session meeting of the City Council that had been called strategy planning and goal-setting for the City; asked attendees to introduce themselves; and then reported on what this special-session meeting would address.

Dr. Ohren and the City Council and City staff then continued with a discussion of decision process issues, barriers that had impeded effective decision-making, and how the City might address such barriers.

Mayor Pall then recessed the meeting at 8:30 P.M., and announced that the City Council would reconvene Saturday, January 9, 2010, in the Reycraft Room of Stafford's Perry Hotel.

The City Council then reconvened at 9:00 A.M., Saturday, January 9, 2010, with all present and accounted for.

Discuss Critical Issues/Challenges

Dr. Ohren then briefly revisited discussions that had taken place Friday evening, January 8, 2010, then led a discussion on identifying critical issues and challenges of the City; what were the most important issues that faced the City of Petoskey; and what were considered to be most important and should be addressed in the next several years.

Mayor Pall then recessed the meeting at 12:15 P.M. for lunch and advised that the City Council would reconvene at 1:00 P.M.

Draft Action Plan;
Schedule Follow-Up Session

Dr. Ohren next led the session on drafting an action plan with goals and strategies that were needed to be put in place to address the City's issues that had been ranked highest in priority; that the City Council would again meet in special session on February 6, 2010, as a follow-up session to this January 8 and 9, 2010 special-session meeting; and that a summary report would be prepared and distributed to the City Council and City staff concerning January 8 and 9, 2010, discussions prior to the February 6 meeting.

Mayor Pall then requested public comment and a summary of January 8 and 9, 2010, public comments from those in attendance are listed below:

Thomas Turcott, O.D., 101 Williams Street, reported that he had concerns with the great number of storefront vacancies on East Mitchell Street that he believed approached 50%; that he had concerns with the recent East Mitchell Street improvements and that he believed bumpouts had not been necessary; and that he believed that parking meters should be removed from the downtown area.

Mark Thompson, 1528 Willis Avenue, reported that he believed that Code Enforcement Officers would not help to improve blighted areas of the City, but that he believed that blighted areas should be resolved.

Larry Rochon, owner, Mitchell Street Pub, 426 East Mitchell Street, and Chairperson of the City of Petoskey Downtown Management Board/Downtown Development Authority Board, reported that he was impressed with the open discussion during this meeting of goal-setting by the City; that he was pleased to see the City moving in such a forward direction; and reported concerning vacancies on East Mitchell Street that he believed mainly existed within a certain area of East Mitchell Street that numbered about 7%.

There being no further business to come before the City Council, the meeting was adjourned at 4:00 P.M., Saturday, January 9, 2010.

H. Ted Pall, Jr., M.D., Mayor

Alan Terry, City Clerk-Treasurer