

CITY STUDY COMMITTEE
PARK PLACE @ 310 NORTH RUSH STREET
SEPTEMBER 15, 2022, at 10:00 A.M.

I. ROLL CALL

Chairperson Ressel-Hodan called the meeting to order at 9:01 A.M.

Council Members Present: Dave Bluhm and Claudia Ressel-Hodan.

Ad-Hock Members Present: Sue Johnson, Amy LaBarge, Kathy O'Conner.

Absent: Kyle Jansen.

Also, Present: Village Manager Chris Brown and Clerk/Treasurer Rande Listerman.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by LaBarge approved by O'Conner to accept the agenda as presented
Motion approved. All ayes.

III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Describe scope of study.

Goals

1. Study and understand the process of becoming a city.
2. Develop a pros and cons list.
3. Explain how a change would affect the Village within the Township.
4. Study the changes in taxes that would occur.
5. Explain Township/Village options.
6. Develop a Question and Answer for public forums.

The following three goals were added to the list above.

7. Explain why we want to have a study.
8. Appoint a liaison to communicate with Township Committee.
9. Be transparent with information and encourage community engagement.

B. Generate questions to be answered by the committee.

The committee reviewed the list of questions below submitted by the Committee Chair Claudia Ressel-Hodan. Discussion was held on each topic. The committee chair Claudia Ressel-Hodan assigned topics to each committee member to research and bring the information back at the next meeting.

Questions to be researched by the committee:

1. Why did the issue of converting to a city arise?
2. Who specifically asked that the issue be researched?
3. How many times has the Village of Pentwater researched this issue? When?
4. Can we obtain a current detailed budget for both the Village of Pentwater and the Township of Pentwater?

5. Can we obtain a comprehensive list of shared services and how they are financed?
 - a. What services does the Village provide to the Township.
 - b. What services does the Township provide to the Village.
6. Which mills are associated with the specific services the Village or Township provides?
7. What defines a city?
8. What services need to be provided by a city?
9. How would taxes be provided by becoming a city?
10. What are the advantages of becoming a city?
11. What are the disadvantages of becoming a city?
12. What is the difference in a City and a Charter Township?
13. How is the ability to spend different in a Village, City or Township?
14. Is there an opportunity to change the boundaries?

C. Set meeting schedule.

Next meeting will be on Friday, October 21, 2022, at 9 A.M.

Location: Park Place Meeting Center 310 North Rush Street.

The timeline below for the study was set by the committee:

1. July 2022 through September 2022 the Committee members studied materials provided regarding the process of becoming a city.
2. September 2022 through March 2023 the plan is for the committee to hold public meetings to discuss, organize and prepare handouts for public workshops in April, May, and June 2023.
3. Report on the Committee findings will be sent to Village Council for review and further action, no later than the June 2023 Council Meeting.
4. At this point the study Committee will have completed its task. The Council will determine the next steps.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Norm Shotwell, 474 East First Street – would like to see the pursuit of why we cannot be a Charter Township. Does the State of Michigan allow any exceptions?

Nancy Arvai, 518 Madison Street - Do you have the statistics of how many communities became a city after they looked at the plan? What was the financial cost to the community?

Mary Marshall, 237 South Rutledge Street – We have to remember our trust in local government is not high. Transparency is important. Creating a Flow Chart with the details up front will assist the public's understanding. Give a reference for all Public Acts and Constitutional language so the public can research the information. Over communicate so people are not filling in the blanks with misinformation.

Paula De Gregoria, 270 Sands Street – If we became a city who votes to have property annexed into the City?

Village Manager Chris Brown – The registered voters of the village will determine if we become a city. There is a whole process for the annex of property and the property owner must initiate or request that of the city.

Glen Beavis, Township Deputy Clerk – I would like to compliment the group on their organization. However, my major take away is the pre-conceived notion is “we want to do this”. That is my takeaway of this. I think it is unfortunate the township is not involved with this. The goals are different. Having two groups study this is a complete waste of time and money.

Mary Temple, 560 South Hancock, Unit No.11 – Add a question to the list of questions to explore what both teams want to accomplish. Let’s have a dialogue.

Chairperson Claudia Ressel-Hodan - It would be appropriate to place that as one of our agenda items and have the Township come have a dialogue with us.

VI. ADJOURNMENT The meeting adjourned at 10:50 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rande Listerman, MICPT, CPFIM, CPFA, MiPMC
Clerk/Treasurer