

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COMMISSION
CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

Regular Meeting Held January 3, 2022

Mayor Favale called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m. in the City Commission Chambers at the East Grand Rapids Community Center and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Commissioners Arendshorst, Pachla, Schulz, Schwartz, Wessely and Mayor Favale

Absent: Commissioner Hamrick

Also Present: City Manager Charles; Deputy City Manager LaFave; City Attorney Huff; Parks & Recreation Director Melville; Finance Director Seath

2022-01. The agenda was approved as published with the addition of Report of the Mayor and City Commissioners as Item #4.

2022-02. Tom Tilma, 1635 Hall, spoke on behalf of the EGR Sustainability Committee about future recycling events and asked the city to adopt a resolution committing to carbon neutrality and better environmental practices.

2022-03. Commissioners Arendshorst and Pachla thanked the city's public works crews for all their work clearing the streets during recent snow events.

Commissioner Wessely reminded everyone that the Public Works Department would be collecting holiday greenery and Christmas trees during the first two weeks of January.

City Manager Charles noted the Strategic Planning session would take place January 29. Mr. Charles congratulated front desk receptionist Jane Gray on her upcoming retirement, and thanked Communications Specialist Chiara Licari for all her work on the city's behalf over the last three years and wished her well in her new position.

2022-04. Mayor Favale presented a proclamation to Library Manager Dawn Lewis naming January 14, 2022 as "Dawn Lewis Day" in East Grand Rapids in recognition of her contributions to the community since 2005. The commission congratulated Mrs. Lewis on her many accomplishments and wished her well as she transitions to a part-time role within the Kent District Library system.

2022-05. Authorization to bid street maintenance projects for FY 2021-22.

Deputy City Manager LaFave requested approval to seek bids and award contracts for street maintenance projects up to budgeted amounts to secure contractors and materials early in a very competitive bidding environment.

2022-05-A. Arendshorst-Schwartz. To approve the recommended mill and overlay street projects based on the qualified low bidder within the FY 21/22 street budgets, purchase of utility castings and covers from East Jordan Iron Works within FY 21/22 budgets, a budget amendment to address the joint mill and overlay project with the City of Grand Rapids for FY 21/22 and pavement preservation projects under the Kent County Road Commission bid contract subject to the programmed and approved FY 22/23 street budgets.

Yeas: Arendshorst, Pachla, Schulz, Schwartz, Wessely and Favale – 6

Nays: -0-

2022-06. Pachla-Wessely. To approve the consent agenda as follows:

- 2022-06-A. Minutes of the regular City Commission meeting held December 20, 2021.
- 2022-06-B. Payroll disbursements of \$260,935.15; county and school disbursements of \$434,751.27, and total remaining disbursements of \$505,383.08.
- 2022-06-C. Personnel realignments in the parks & Recreation Department to reinstate the Assistant Director of Parks & Recreation position and to promote Shannyn Fasbender to that role.
- 2022-06-D. Changes to the Finance Department to reclassify one part-time position to a full-time position and to add hours to a part-time position as outlined in the agenda materials.
- 2022-06-E. Preliminary minutes of the Joint Facilities Committee meeting held October 12, 2021.

Yeas: Arendshorst, Pachla, Schulz, Schwartz, Wessely and Favale – 6

Nays: -0-

2022-07. City Manager Charles and Parks & Recreation Director Melville outlined a proposed process and timeline to implement the first phases of the Parks Improvement Millage approved by voters in November. City staff will work with school officials to determine the timeline and best process to begin replacement of the playground equipment with projects likely starting in 2023 to allow time for public/parent input and ordering components. Mr. Charles recommended the Joint Facilities Committee oversee this process and make periodic reports to both the City Commission and School Board.

The various improvements proposed for Manhattan Park, including possible pickleball courts, are dependent on public input and whether the city applies for and/or receives a grant from the State for any components. Projects could begin as soon as 2023 or may be held until 2024 if a grant is received due to state timelines.

The commission discussed the addition of more nature trails through city properties and decided to focus attention first on improving and upgrading the existing trails with better drainage, structures/bridges, security, and other safety features like lighting, if possible.

Staff members have been discussing possible locations within Gaslight Village for added amenities or a small park or greenspace and will report on these options later.

The City Commission discussed whether to seek proposals for a bond attorney and financial advisor or continue utilizing the professionals used during the recent bond refinancing for the community center. Because it is a specialized field with only minor differences in the fees and services, the commission felt it would be more prudent to continue using the current relationships to hopefully avoid interest rate increases in the time it would take to seek proposals.

The meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until January 18, 2022.

Karen K. Brower, City Clerk