

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COMMISSION  
CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

**Regular Meeting Held January 4, 2021**

Mayor Favale called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the City Commission Chambers at the East Grand Rapids Community Center and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance. She announced the meeting was also being held electronically as allowed by the recent amendment to the Michigan Open Meetings Act in response to the COVID-19 crisis. She invited any citizen attending by computer or phone to ask questions or offer comments during the public comment times.

Present in Person: Commissioners Hamrick and Mayor Favale

Present Virtually: Commissioners Arendshorst, Duncan, Hecksel, Pachla and Walters

Absent: None

Also Present: City Attorney Huff; Interim City Manager LaFave; Finance Director Seath; Public Safety Director Herald; City Clerk Brower; Parks & Recreation Director Bunn; Recreation Supervisor Fasbender; Recreation Supervisor Granstra; Recreation Supervisor Slater, Administrative Clerk Ritzke; Administrative Clerk Molenaar; Administrative Clerk Orrs; Shea Charles

2021-01. The agenda was approved as published.

2021-02. Recreation Supervisor Fasbender spoke on behalf of the Parks & Recreation Department employees to thank Fred Bunn for his years of leadership and commitment to the community and wished him well in his retirement.

Pete Ricketson, 6356 Durham (Whitehall), a Rapid bus driver, updated the commission on the contract negotiations between the Rapid and the transportation union and asked the city to contact the Rapid leadership and urge them to treat the employees honestly and fairly.

2021-03. Commissioner Hamrick wished everyone a Happy New Year. She also welcomed Shea Charles to his first city commission meeting.

Commissioner Hecksel recognized the lasting effect Fred's enthusiastic and passionate leadership has had on the community.

Commissioner Walters noted Fred had been a great ambassador for the community and praised the department's efforts to continue offering recreation programs and outdoor recreation spaces during the COVID pandemic.

Commissioner Pachla also commended Fred Bunn on his career accomplishments and noted that he would be missed by so many. Mr. Pachla reminded residents that Christmas trees were being picked up by the Public Works Department until January 15.

Commissioners Duncan and Arendshorst thanked Mr. Bunn for his 30 years of service and wished him well after retirement.

Interim City Manager LaFave voiced his appreciation for Fred's leadership and his willingness to jump in and help in any situation needed. Mr. LaFave announced the next city commission meeting would be on Tuesday, January 19 due to the Martin Luther King holiday.

Mayor Favale presented Fred Bunn with a proclamation naming January 15, 2021 as "Fred Bunn Day" in East Grand Rapids to honor his retirement. She also announced that the planned multi-use trails at Manhattan Park would be named "the Fred Bunn Trails" as a tribute to Fred's commitment to all forms of recreation opportunities for the citizens of our area.

2021-04. Laura St. Louis of Disability Advocates of Kent County, Valerie Lefler of Feonix-Mobility Rising and Paul Ryan of the West Michigan Veterans Coalition presented information on their partnership to offer transportation to veterans and their families in the area.

Commissioner Hamrick asked that a resolution of support for this program be drafted for adoption at the next meeting.

2021-05. City Manager Employment Agreement.

City Attorney Huff outlined the basic terms of the contract with Shea Charles as the new city manager.

Shea Charles thanked Mr. Huff and Mayor Favale for working with him on the terms of the agreement and stated he hoped to begin work in early- to mid-February.

2021-05-A. Hamrick-Pachla. That a three-year employment agreement with Shea Charles as the new city manager be approved as outlined in the agenda materials.

Yeas: Arendshorst, Duncan, Hamrick, Hecksel, Pachla, Walters and Favale – 7  
Nays: -0-

2021-06. Pachla-Arendshorst. To approve the consent agenda as follows:

2021-06-A. Minutes of the regular meeting held December 21, 2020.

2021-06-B. The reappointment of David Bilardello to the Interurban Transit Partnership Board for a two-year term ending December 31, 2022.

Yeas: Arendshorst, Duncan, Hamrick, Hecksel, Pachla, Walters and Favale – 7  
Nays: -0-

2021-07. Mayor Favale reopened the meeting for public comment. No public comment was received.

The meeting adjourned at 6:42 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until January 4, 2021.

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Karen K. Brower, City Clerk