

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COMMISSION
CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

Regular Meeting Held March 7, 2022

Mayor Favale 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.

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

Absent: None

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

2022-36. The agenda was approved as published.

2022-37. Dave Bulkowski, Kent County Commissioner, gave the commission an update on the project development agreement for the sustainable business park and offered to arrange a work session with the County public works personnel to talk about waste hauling and recycling fees.

Jennifer Clary, 337 Manhattan, expressed concern about the commission's approval of a DNR grant application that contains a splash pad when this has not been discussed in depth with the neighbors as promised during the Parks Improvement Millage campaign. She was also concerned the trail system at Manhattan Park seems to be moving forward without resident input. City Manager Charles stated the grant application had to be submitted this early due to the timelines involved, but that the city could revise or decline the funding later if it decides not to construct a splash pad. He further noted the proposed trails at Manhattan Park were being marked so that residents could walk the area and provide comment in April before final designs are approved.

2022-38. Commissioners Schulz and Pachla thanked the staff and facilitator for organizing and participating in the strategic planning session on Saturday and looked forward to seeing the final product.

Commissioner Wessely addressed Ms. Clary's concerns by stating that part of the millage campaign had been the assurance that the city would also seek outside funding such as grants to lessen the millage burden to taxpayers. He supported the grant application because it may help in the future, but pledged to listen to all residents who had input on all of the park projects.

City Manager Charles noted a public meeting would be held the week of April 11 for residents to give input on the Manhattan Trails design and the specific date would be publicized soon and a notice sent to residents around the park. Mr. Charles commended the Public Works Department for cleaning up after the wind damage over the weekend.

2022-39. Introduction of an ordinance to amend Sections 2.107 and 2.108 of Chapter 24 of title II of the City Code amending water/sewer billing collection procedures.

City Manager Charles explained the ordinance amendment added a hearing and appeal process to the current provisions. He also noted the current practice of adding unpaid utility bills to the July tax bills, so there is hardly ever a situation where the water needs to be turned off; however, the new ordinance can be used in extreme circumstances if needed.

2022-039-A. Pachla-Schulz. That an ordinance to amend Sections 2.107 and 2.108 of Chapter 24 of Title II of the City Code amending water/sewer billing collection procedures be introduced as attached in Exhibit "A."

Yeas: Arendshorst, Hamrick, Pachla, Schulz, Schwartz, Wessely and Favale – 7

Nays: -0-

2022-40. Arendshorst-Schulz. To approve the consent agenda as follows:

- 2022-040-A. Minutes of the regular City Commission meeting held February 21, 2022.
- 2022-040-B. Payroll disbursements of \$240,690.20; county and school disbursements of \$244,738.25; county and school disbursements of \$551,622.99, and total remaining disbursements of \$309,386.51.
- 2022-040-C. Quarterly financial statements for the period ending December 31, 2021.
- 2022-040-D. Resolution amending the FY 2021-22 budget for the quarter ending December 31, 2021 as attached in Exhibit "B."
- 2022-040-E. Resolution approving changes to ward and precinct boundaries as attached in Exhibit "C."
- 2022-040-F. Three-year contracts totaling \$14,397.12 with AT&T for telephone line services and with NexVortex for fax replacement services.
- 2022-040-G. A professional services agreement and related fee schedule with Prein & Newhof for engineering services for various city projects.
- 2022-040-H. Contract with Plummer's Disposal Service in the amount of \$33,276.00 for the supply and maintenance of portable restrooms for a three-year period through 2024.
- 2022-040-I. Purchase of turf repair and maintenance products from Harrell's at a cost of \$6,913.80.
- 2022-40-J. Preliminary minutes of the Joint Facilities Committee meeting held February 9, 2022.

Yeas: Arendshorst, Hamrick, Pachla, Schulz, Schwartz, Wessely and Favale – 7

Nays: -0-

2022-41. City Commissioners and staff discussed spending priorities for excess fund balance and American Rescue Plan Act proceeds. City Manager Charles reviewed the restrictions on American Rescue Plan funds and suggested ways to compile and prioritize a list of possible projects. The commission asked staff to compile a list of possible projects, including projects that have been deferred in recent years and projects that meet the strategic priorities as identified in last weekend's planning session. The commission would like to see options ranging from necessary capital projects to innovative/transformational initiatives and wish list items for parks. The commission will review the staff's suggestions in upcoming work sessions.

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until March 21, 2022.

Karen K. Brower, City Clerk

Attachments: A – Ordinance amendment to Sections 2.107 and 2.108
B – Resolution adopting budget amendments ending December 31, 2021
C – Resolution approving ward and precinct redistricting map

Attachments listed above are available for inspection at the office of the City Clerk.