

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COMMISSION
CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

Regular Meeting Held March 21, 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; City Clerk Brower; Parks & Recreation Director Melville

2022-42. The agenda was approved as published.

2022-43. No public comment was received.

2022-44. Commissioner Hamrick noted yard waste pick-up starts on April 4 and runs through early December.

Commissioner Pachla congratulated the Middle School and High School Science Olympiad Teams on their 7th and 4th place finishes in the recent regional competition. He also wished the High School Robotics team good luck in their tournament this weekend.

City Manager Charles reported that budget books would be delivered soon for the commissioner to review prior to the upcoming work sessions. He further reported that the Planning Commission's recommendations for changes to the Multi-Family Residential zoning district would be on The April 18 agenda. Mr. Charles congratulated the High School Boys swim team for their state championship over the weekend.

2022-45. Final Reading 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.

2022-045-A. Arendshorst-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 adopted as attached in Exhibit "A."

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

Nays: -0-

2022-46. Public Safety Department 2021 Annual Report.

Public Safety Director Herald reviewed the various accomplishments and calls for service for the department during 2021. He updated the commission on the number of violent crimes, property crimes, criminal investigations, traffic crashes, fire calls, and medical assistance requests. He reminded everyone to lock their doors, windows and vehicles to prevent crimes of easy opportunity.

2022-47. Public Safety Department 2021 Annual Analysis & Response to Resistance and Pursuits.

Public Safety Director Herald reviewed the annual report that outlines the internal investigations completed in 2021. He explained the process of reviewing reports and complaints and highlighted a few of the investigations and outcomes contained in the report.

2022-48. Update on dog park location and cost estimate.

Parks & Recreation Director Melville reported that staff had identified an area along Reeds Lake Blvd near the Remington baseball field as being well-suited for a dog park area. There is adequate greenspace, access to parking, water and restrooms. Mr. Melville reviewed a sketch of the proposed layout and a preliminary cost

estimate that is lower than anticipated because the city already owns the property and would not have to purchase land. He noted the descendants of the family that donated the property are supportive of the dog park being added to this location. Renovations to the existing restroom building are included in the cost estimate. Additional options for heating the building could also be added to provide year-round access to the restrooms. He noted he is researching how other dog parks handle public access and answered questions from the commission on either an open access system or a membership-type system where citizens would have to register their pets and accept the terms of use before being issued a key fob or access code. Commissioners had various opinions on whether to have an open access or a registration system and agreed this would need to be discussed further after collecting more information. Other suggestions for future discussion include whether any grading is necessary to prevent water ponding and mud, the benefits of heating the restrooms to other trail and park users, using parts of the old playgrounds as they are replaced, and a dog wash station.

2022-49. Update on other components from the Parks Improvement Millage.

City Manager Charles reported six public open houses have been scheduled to educate and gather input on various parts of the parks projects, mobility bike action plan, possible changes in Gaslight Village and other topics. The sessions will be held 6-7 pm on April 11, April 18, May 9, May 23, June 13 and June 27.

Mr. Charles noted the staff continues to work on timelines and communication plans, and will have a recommendation for a consultant to assist with the playground replacement process at the next meeting. He stated the schools have already begun a process to involve the students and parents in generating interest and ideas for the upcoming input sessions planned specifically for the playgrounds.

2022-50. Discussion of draft report from Strategic Planning Session.

City Manager Charles explained the ideas generated at the planning session had been compiled into a report that the staff can use to begin drafting objectives for the commission's review over the next several months. He asked for any input on the draft plan before it is presented at the next meeting for approval.

Commissioner Hamrick made several suggestions for wording in the community development section.

Commissioner Schulz asked that environmental sustainability be added as an implementation consideration in all areas of the plan.

City Manager Charles will take all of the input, make updates to the draft report, and present a revised plan to the commission at a future meeting for adoption.

2022-51. Pachla-Schwartz. To approve the consent agenda as follows:

2022-051-A. Minutes of the regular City Commission meeting held March 7, 2022.

2022-051-B. Payroll disbursements of \$240,348.25; county and school disbursements of \$69,470.42, and total remaining disbursements of \$578,868.20.

2022-051-C. A three-year contract with Thornapple Inc for the years 2022 through 2025 totaling an amount not to exceed \$262,224.00 for lawn maintenance services.

2022-051-D. Preliminary minutes of the Planning Commission meeting held February 8, 2022.

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

Nays: -0-

The meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until March 28, 2022.

Karen K. Brower, City Clerk

Attachments: A – Ordinance amendment to Sections 2.107 and 2.108
Attachments listed above are available for inspection at the office of the City Clerk.