

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COMMISSION
CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

Regular Meeting Held March 28, 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 and Mayor Favale

Absent: Commissioners Schwartz and Wessely

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

2022-52. Approval of the agenda.

2022-052-A. Schulz-Pachla. To amend the published agenda to add a waiver application request regarding the City's defined benefit pension system, to remove the consulting services contract from the agenda, and to remove the closed executive session from the end of the agenda. A roll call vote was taken.

Yeas: Arendshorst, Hamrick, Pachla, Schulz and Favale – 5

Nays: -0-

2022-53. Avery Rose, 1591 Wood Nymph, introduced himself as a candidate for the new probate judge position on the November election ballot.

2022-54. Commissioner Hamrick wished everyone safe travels for spring break and reminded residents to lock homes, garages and cars while they were out of town.

Commissioner Schulz noted the warmer weather means more kids out on bikes and reminded motorists to watch for bikes and pedestrians.

Mayor Favale announced the first of the scheduled open houses to gather input on a variety of projects would be held the week of April 11 and urged residents to attend as many sessions as they could to learn about and comment on the new initiatives.

City Manager Charles reported portions of Lake Drive would be closed on Tuesday, April 5 for water service repair. He also noted he would be organizing a special city commission meeting later in the week to approve consulting services for the playground replacement projects.

2022-55. Introduction of an ordinance to amend Chapter 28 of Title II of the City Code pertaining to storm water regulations.

Deputy City Manager LaFave noted the updated storm water ordinance was a collaborative effort between area agencies to ensure consistent regulations throughout the region.

2022-055-A. Pachla-Arendshorst. That an ordinance to amend Chapter 28 of Title II of the City Code pertaining to storm water regulations be introduced as attached in Exhibit "A."

Yeas: Arendshorst, Hamrick, Pachla, Schulz and Favale – 5

Nays: -0-

2022-56. Application for a waiver of pension system requirements to the Michigan Department of Treasury.

Finance Director Seath reported that due to a change in plan year ending dates with the new defined benefit pension system, eighteen months of payments were paid in only twelve months, generating a notice from the Department of Treasury for the expenditures. She noted the city will have to submit a waiver application explaining the reason for the expenditures over the normal limit to avoid having to file a corrective action plan.

2022-056-A. Arendshorst-Schulz. That a waiver application for FY 2021 for expenditures over the yearly limit be approved for submission to the Michigan Department of Treasury.

Yeas: Arendshorst, Hamrick, Pachla, Schulz and Favale – 5
Nays: -0-

Commissioner Arendshorst made a motion to remove the purchase of shotguns from the consent agenda for separate consideration as he felt these types of weapons could be viewed as an intimidation tactic and were not needed given the low level of violent crime in East Grand Rapids. The motion failed due to lack of a second.

2022-57. Schulz-Hamrick. To approve the consent agenda as follows:

2022-057-A. Minutes of the regular City Commission meeting held March 21, 2022.

2022-057-B. Payroll disbursements of \$240,057.05; county and school disbursements of \$-0-, and total remaining disbursements of \$290,039.04.

2022-057-C. The purchase of six patrol shotguns and accessories from ACME Sports in Seymour, Indiana at a cost of \$10,670.10.

2022-057-D. Contract with New Life Arboricultural Services in the amount of \$10,200.00 for tree trimming and removal on city properties.

Yeas: Arendshorst, Hamrick, Pachla, Schulz and Favale – 5
Nays: -0-

2022-58. Goals & Objectives Work Session.

City staff highlighted several of the goals contained in this year's Goals & Objectives document. City Manager Charles noted he would be overseeing the implementation of the goals of the individual departments and working to determine the best use of American Rescue Act funds allocated to the city.

Finance Director Seath outlined goals to update record cards, outsource open enrollment functions and cross train members within the department on essential tasks.

Parks & Recreation Director Melville reported his department would be focusing on planning, implementing and monitoring of several park improvement millage projects as well as researching ways to increase access to Reeds Lake as suggested by the commission during the recent strategic planning session.

Deputy City Manager LaFave outlined several focus areas for his department, including mobility plan demonstration projects, solar panel system upgrades, infrastructure projects, pedestrian safety initiatives and a residential composting program.

Public Safety Director Herald reported accreditation renewal would be a major undertaking for his department this year, as well as developing a larceny abatement program.

The City Commission discussed the purchase of shotguns approved earlier in the evening and asked Chief Herald to provide additional information on the history of the weapons, when they would be used, and the training required for their use. Commissioner Arendshorst reiterated his belief that shotguns were not necessary for the public safety department and would be seen as intimidating by the public.

The meeting adjourned at 7:06 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until April 18, 2022.

Karen K. Brower, City Clerk

Attachments: A – Ordinance amendment to Chapter 28 regarding storm water regulations.
Attachments listed above are available for inspection at the office of the City Clerk.