

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COMMISSION
CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

Special Meeting Held March 31, 2022

Mayor Favale the meeting to order at 5:35 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; City Clerk Brower; Parks & Recreation Director Melville

2022-59. The agenda was approved as published.

2022-60. No public comment was received.

2022-61. Commissioners Hamrick, Pachla and Favale wished everyone safe travels and lots of fun on spring break.

2022-62. Contract for consulting services relating to elementary school playground replacements.

Parks & Recreation Director Melville explained the planned replacement of playground structures as approved in the Parks Improvement Millage. Proposals were solicited for consulting services to oversee the public engagement, design and bidding for the three elementary playgrounds that will be replaced in 2023. Seven proposals were received and three firms were interviewed. Staff has selected MCSA Group as the firm best understanding the scope and required services, public engagement experience and knowledge of East Grand Rapids parks and recreation offerings.

City Manager Charles reported a second interview was held with the MCSA Group principals to go over the entire process in more detail and he is confident the firm will do an excellent job on these projects.

2022-062-A. Pachla-Schulz. That a contract be awarded to MCSA Group, Inc. in the amount of not to exceed \$90,046.00 for consulting, design services, bidding and construction management of the elementary school playground replacement projects as provided in the Parks Improvement Millage.

Commissioner Schulz asked that reuse/recycling of old equipment and selecting eco-friendly materials be a consideration when planning and implementing the new playgrounds.

Commissioner Hamrick suggested the online survey be publicized extensively to gather input from residents who will be using the playgrounds during the initial design period.

Mayor Favale opened the meeting for public comment:

- John Matthews, 618 Crosswell Questioned why the city did not select or work with the low bidder to adjust any incomplete items or estimates. He felt the low bid could be adjusted to meet the expectations and still be less than the firm selected. City Manager Charles noted staff felt MCSA had a better proposal and approach to engaging parents and school staff.

No other public comment was received. Mayor Favale closed public comment.

Commissioner Pachla felt the quality of the proposal and past work done by MCSA justified not using the low bid and noted the final contract cost may be less as it was a not-to-exceed amount.

Commissioners Arendshorst and Hamrick agreed they were impressed with MCSA's knowledge of the community during the Parks & Recreation Master Plan process and were comfortable with staff's recommendation.

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

Nays: -0-

The meeting adjourned at 6:07 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until April 18, 2022.

Karen K. Brower, City Clerk