

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COMMISSION
CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

Regular Meeting Held April 18, 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; Finance Director Seath; Public Safety Director Herald; Zoning Administrator Gianotti

2022-63. The agenda was approved as published.

2022-64. No public comment was received.

2022-65. Mayor Favale extended condolences to the family of Patrick Lyoya on behalf of the commission.

Commissioner Arendshorst asked the Public Safety Department to evaluate their policies to make sure this type of situation doesn't happen in East Grand Rapids.

Mayor Favale announced that former City Commissioner and Planning Commissioner Bill Graham had passed away over the weekend and expressed her sympathy to his family.

City Manager Charles commended the Public Safety Department for their quick and thorough response to a house fire on Robinson Road on Sunday and thanked the fire departments from Grand Rapids, Grand Rapids Township and Kentwood for their assistance at the scene.

Mayor Favale introduced Aaron Robert from SaboPR as the new communications specialist working with the city on the various communications efforts of the city.

2022-66. KDL Board Representative Chuck Myers, KDL Director Lance Werner and KDL Branch Manager Scott Ninemeier presented the Kent District Library 2021 Annual Report.

2022-67. Final Reading of an ordinance to amend Chapter 28 of Title II of the City Code pertaining to storm water regulations.

2022-067-A. Pachla-Schwartz. That an ordinance to amend Chapter 28 of Title II of the City Code pertaining to storm water regulations be adopted as attached in Exhibit "A."

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

Nays: -0-

2022-68. Introduction of an ordinance to amend Sections 5.26, 5.27, 5.28 and 5.30 of Chapter 50 of Title V of the City Code pertaining to the Multi-Family Residential Zoning District.

Zoning Administrator Gianotti reviewed proposed changes to the multi-family residential zoning district recommended by the Planning Commission. He noted the changes are in response to the master plan goal to expand the diversity of housing and offer more options for residents. The changes allow for more density,

height, and lot coverage while reducing setbacks to encourage new and converted multi-family housing. Mr. Gianotti further noted some sections of the C-1 commercial district were being changed to match the proposed multi-family district standards. He stated the Planning Commission will next look at expanding the multi-family residential district by rezoning several properties on Lovett and on Lake Drive.

Mayor Favale opened this issue for public comment. No public comment was received. Mayor Favale closed the public comment.

- 2022-068-A. Schulz-Arendshorst. That an ordinance to amend Sections 5.26, 5.27, 5.28 and 5.30 of Chapter 50 of Title V of the City Code pertaining to the Multi-Family Residential Zoning District be introduced as attached in Exhibit "B."

Commissioner Hamrick expressed support for these changes as she felt they were long overdue and the city needed additional diversity of housing stock.

Commissioner Arendshorst noted these changes were envisioned in the master plan and were discussed in depth by the Planning Commission.

Commissioner Pachla supported the changes as a good way to reduce existing non-conformities.

Yeas: Arendshorst, Hamrick, Pachla, Schulz, Schwartz, Wessely and Favale – 7
Nays: -0-

- 2022-69. Introduction of an ordinance to amend Section 8.17 of Chapter 81 of Title VIII of the City Code pertaining to signage in the Multi-Family Residential Zoning District.

Zoning Administrator Gianotti explained the changes would reduce the signage sizes allowed for multi-family homes with under four units to keep the signs appropriate for smaller units in residential areas.

- 2022-069-A. Pachla-Schulz. That an ordinance to amend Section 8.17 of Chapter 81 of Title VIII of the City Code pertaining to signage in the Multi-Family Residential Zoning District be introduced as attached in Exhibit "C."

Yeas: Arendshorst, Hamrick, Pachla, Schulz, Schwartz, Wessely and Favale – 7
Nays: -0-

- 2022-70. Residential Composting Pilot Program.

Deputy City Manager LaFave outlined a new program to be piloted in East Grand Rapids to offer food-scrap composting for up to 100 homes and 3 commercial businesses. Staff would work with the vendor to develop rules and educate those who sign up to participate. He requested authorization to begin the program, to allow staff to develop procedures and regulations, and to expand the program up to \$7,000 in costs if necessary.

Mayor Favale opened this issue for public comment. The following people expressed their opinions:

- John Chronowski, 775 Bagley Supported residential composting on behalf of the EGGreen Sustainability Initiative.

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

- 2022-070-A. Hamrick-Schwartz. To award a contract for food scrap composting services with Organiccycle LLC of Grand Rapids at a cost of \$3,120 per year with optional renewals through December 31, 2025, and to authorize staff to negotiate additional capacity per year if needed up to \$7,000 and to create rules and regulations as needed to operate the site.

Mayor Favale thanked Mr. LaFave for the year of research that went into this pilot program.

Commissioner Schulz looked forward to getting a report on the first year's efforts.

Yeas: Arendshorst, Hamrick, Pachla, Schulz, Schwartz, Wessely and Favale – 7
Nays: -0-

2022-71. Demonstration Projects for Mobility-Bike Action Plan.

Deputy City Manager LaFave requested authorization to initiate demonstration projects this summer on York/Lake Grove and on Alexander illustrating how pavement markings and signage would be used to assist those commuting by bike through our network of local streets to surrounding areas.

2022-071-A. Arendshorst-Schwartz. To approve the temporary Mobility-Bike Action Plan demonstration projects on Alexander, York Drive and Lake Grove.

Commissioner Arendshorst asked that public safety officers be made aware of the safe passing distance regulations for vehicles and bicycles so they can help educate the public.

Yeas: Arendshorst, Hamrick, Pachla, Schulz, Schwartz, Wessely and Favale – 7
Nays: -0-

2022-72. Contract for replacement of lead water service lines.

Deputy City Manager LaFave explained the city has a plan to replace 5% of lead water service lines each year in accordance with Federal drinking water standards. In addition to the service line replacements undertaken by city staff during routine maintenance projects, this contract will allow the replacement of about 40 services.

2022-072-A. Pachla-Schulz. To award a contract to Groundhawk Excavating of Lowell for lead service line replacements in the amount not to exceed \$189,897 plus 15% contingencies for FY 2022-23.

Yeas: Arendshorst, Hamrick, Pachla, Schulz, Schwartz, Wessely and Favale – 7
Nays: -0-

2022-73. Schultz-Pachla. To approve the consent agenda as follows:

2022-073-A. Minutes of the regular City Commission meeting held March 28, 2022.

2022-073-B. Payroll disbursements of \$231,843.99; county and school disbursements of \$231.27, and total remaining disbursements of \$206,886.21.

2022-073-C. A Letter of Understanding with the Mary Dersch as the volunteer curator for the East Grand Rapids History Room for maintenance and expansion of the historical archives owned by the City as attached in Exhibit "D."

2022-073-D. A Letter of Understanding with the Kent District Library for the operation of the East Grand Rapids History Room within the space leased for the library as attached in Exhibit "E."

Yeas: Arendshorst, Hamrick, Pachla, Schulz, Schwartz, Wessely and Favale – 7
Nays: -0-

2022-74. Budget Overview Work Session.

City staff presented highlights, trends and the timeline for reviewing and adopting the budget for fiscal year 2022-2023. City Manager Charles described the financial position and projects completed for FY 2021-22 and answered questions from the commission. He also reviewed forecasts for state-shared revenue, property assessments, and the capital investments scheduled for city properties and utility infrastructure. Mr. Charles reported staff is also working to begin implementation of several projects related to the Parks Improvement Millage, various road construction projects, and new programs throughout the departments. The details of the capital requests and budget line items will be discussed at work sessions in the upcoming weeks.

The meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until May 2, 2022.

Karen K. Brower, City Clerk

Attachments: A – Ordinance amendment to Chapter 28 regarding storm water regulations
B – Ordinance amendment to Chapter 50 regarding the multi-family zoning district
C – Ordinance amendment to Chapter 81 regarding signs for multi-family housing
D – Letter of Understanding with the Kent District Library for location of EGR History Room
E – Letter of Understanding with EGR History Room Volunteer Curator

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