

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COMMISSION
CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

Regular Meeting Held May 2, 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; Zoning Administrator Gianotti; Captain Buikema

2022-75. The agenda was approved as published.

2022-76. No public comment was received.

2022-77. Commissioner Pachla congratulated the “We The People” team for their performance at the national tournament, and congratulated the Science Olympiad team for their 10th place finish in the state championships.

Mayor Favale thanked the Public Works Department for their assistance with the Earth Day events at Manhattan Park last weekend.

City Manager Charles announced the Public Safety Department had identified an error in the method used to report racial data for their quarterly report, so the report has been withdrawn from the agenda until the error can be fixed and the reports recalculated. Mr. Charles also noted several playground input sessions have been scheduled at the elementary schools for the new playground equipment projects.

2022-78. Final Reading of an ordinance to amend Sections 5.26, 5.27, 5.28, 5.30, 5.37, 5.59 and 5.77 of Chapter 50 of Title V of the City Code pertaining to the Multi-Family Residential Zoning District.

Zoning Administrator Gianotti explained the amended ordinance contains several provisions to encourage multi-family residential development within the MFR zoning district. He noted the next step will be to discuss whether to expand the existing MFR district to properties on surrounding streets.

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

2022-078-A. Pachla-Arendshorst. That an ordinance to amend Sections 5.26, 5.27, 5.28, 5.30, 5.37, 5.59 and 5.77 of Chapter 50 of Title V of the City Code pertaining to the Multi-Family Residential Zoning District be adopted as attached in Exhibit “A.”

Commissioner Pachla looked forward to discussions on whether to expand the MFR zoning district.

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

Nays: -0-

2022-79. Final Reading 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 stated this ordinance amendment provides separate signage regulations for multi-family housing units depending on the number of units in the building.

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

2022-079-A. Arendshorst-Schwartz. 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 adopted as attached in Exhibit "B."

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

2022-80. Pachla-Schulz. To approve the consent agenda as follows:

2022-080-A. Minutes of the special City Commission meeting held March 31, 2022.

2022-080-B. Minutes of the regular City Commission meeting held April 18, 2022.

2022-080-C. Payroll disbursements of \$231,828.76; county and school disbursements of \$-0-, and total remaining disbursements of \$500,411.95.

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

2022-81. City Manager Charles presented the departmental budget and capital requests and answered questions from the City Commission. Comprising twelve separate funds totaling \$32.5 million, the consolidated budget contains several capital projects to maintain city facilities, upgrade the city's infrastructure, and add amenities to several city parks.

Separate discussions will follow in the coming weeks regarding water and sewer rates, fees for licenses and permits, and how to address equipment replacement needs in the coming years. The budget will be adopted on June 6th following the required public hearings.

The meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until May 16, 2022.

Karen K. Brower, City Clerk

Attachments: A – Ordinance amendment to Chapter 50 regarding the multi-family zoning district
B – Ordinance amendment to Chapter 81 regarding signs for multi-family housing

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