

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COMMISSION
CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

Regular Meeting Held June 6, 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, Schwartz, Wessely and Mayor Favale

Absent: Commissioner Schulz

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; Lori Parmenter

2022-89. The agenda was approved as published.

2022-90. James Detamore, 451 Cambridge, gave several examples of injuries and lawsuits relating to splash pads from around the country and urged the city commission to reconsider the risks and liabilities associated with installing a splash pad at Manhattan Park.

2022-91. Commissioner Hamrick highlighted an email from a resident near Manhattan Park in favor of the improvements planned for the trails and playground area, including the splash pad.

Commissioner Pachla congratulated the girls track team on their first state championship.

Commissioner Wessely thanked City Manager Charles, Public Safety Director Herald, Sergeant Smith and Public Safety Officer Hollis for the time spent recently explaining city policies and hosting a patrol ride-a-long.

City Manager Charles reminded everyone about the June 13 and June 27 open houses to gather input on various city initiatives. He noted the Manhattan Park improvement page on the website has been updated with new FAQ documents. Mr. Charles also commended the Public Safety Department for assisting boaters in a canoe that had tipped over near Collins Park earlier in the day.

2022-92. A public hearing was held pertaining to the General Fund budget and the property tax levy for Fiscal Year 2022-23. No public comment was received. Mayor Favale closed the public hearing.

2022-93. A public hearing was held on the special assessment roll of delinquent accounts for placement on the July 1, 2022 tax roll. No public comment was received. Mayor Favale closed the public hearing.

2022-093-A. Pachla-Arendshorst. That the special assessment roll of delinquent accounts totaling \$50,827.93 be certified and placed on the July 1, 2022 tax roll.

Yeas: Arendshorst, Hamrick, Pachla, Schwartz, Wessely and Favale – 6

Nays: -0-

2022-94. Introduction of an ordinance to amend Section 3.130 of Chapter 35 of Title III of the City Code pertaining to the Parks & Recreation Commission.

City Manager Charles explained the amendment would add a residency requirement for members of the Parks & Recreation Commission that was somehow omitted when the ordinance was originally adopted.

2022-094-A. Arendshorst-Pachla. That an ordinance to amend Section 3.130 of Chapter 35 of Title III of the City Code clarifying membership requirements for the Parks & Recreation Commission be introduced as attached in Exhibit "A."

Yeas: Arendshorst, Hamrick, Pachla, Schwartz, Wessely and Favale – 6

Nays: -0-

2022-95. Resolution regarding Climate Action Goals.

City Manager Charles explained the EGR Sustainability Initiative has requested the City Commission adopt a resolution committing to carbon neutrality by 2035 and the development of a plan to achieve neutrality by the end of next year.

John Chronowski of the EGR Sustainability Initiative reviewed the history of the group and the recycling events they've hosted for the community.

Brad Hunter, 2252 Hall, stated this was an opportunity for the city to continue the work done by staff and prior officials in protecting the environment and promoting sustainable practices.

Tom Tilma, 1635 Hall, noted 15 other Michigan municipalities have adopted similar pledges and supported East Grand Rapids doing the same. He suggested applying for grants and hiring a consultant to help develop an implementation plan.

2022-095-A. Wessely-Arendshorst. That the request to adopt a resolution setting climate action goals be referred to the Finance Committee and Infrastructure Committee for consideration and review.

Commissioners Wessely, Arendshorst and Schultz supported the concept and looked forward to discussing further after being reviewed by staff and subcommittees.

Commissioner Pachla thanked the Sustainability Initiative for the events they've hosted to date and for looking at long-term goals for the community. He noted the commission had included prioritizing sustainable practices in the strategic plan developed early this year.

Yeas: Arendshorst, Hamrick, Pachla, Schwartz, Wessely and Favale – 6
Nays: -0-

2022-96. Radar Speed Feedback Sign pilot project for Plymouth Road.

Deputy City Manager LaFave outlined the proposal to place a sign showing vehicle speeds on Plymouth Road to assist with traffic control during the remainder of the hospital's current construction project. After construction is completed, new traffic studies will be conducted to determine if additional traffic calming or control measures are needed.

2022-096-A. Wessely-Schwartz. That a pilot project with a radar speed feedback sign on Plymouth Road between Robinson Road and wealthy Street through completion of the Blodgett Hospital construction project be approved as outlined in the agenda materials.

Yeas: Arendshorst, Hamrick, Pachla, Schwartz, Wessely and Favale – 6
Nays: -0-

2022-97. Appointment of a new City Clerk.

City Manager Charles introduced Lori Parmenter who would be assuming the duties of the city clerk upon the retirement of City Clerk Brower in July. Commissioners welcomed Ms. Parmenter and looked forward to working with her in the future.

2022-097-A. Arendshorst-Pachla. That Lori Parmenter be appointed as City Clerk effective July 8, 2022.

Yeas: Arendshorst, Hamrick, Pachla, Schwartz, Wessely and Favale – 6
Nays: -0-

2022-98. Pachla-Schwartz. To approve the consent agenda as follows:

- 2022-098-A. Minutes of the regular City Commission meeting held May 16, 2022.
- 2022-098-B. Receipt of 58 letters and emails on various topics.
- 2022-098-C. Payroll disbursements of \$492,823.39; county and school disbursements of \$-0-, and total remaining disbursements of \$570,207.82.
- 2022-098-D. The purchase of t-shirts for Parks & Recreation programs and events from Grand rapids Graphix in the amount of \$69,439.83.
- 2022-098-E. A contract with Fer-Pal Construction USA LLC of Taylor, Michigan in the amount of \$470,600.00 plus material purchases up to the budget of \$653,000 for water main cured-in-place pipe rehabilitation projects.
- 2022-098-F. A contract with B&V Mechanical of Grand Rapids not to exceed \$32,800.00 plus 10% contingencies for heating, ventilation and air condition projects for the Community Center, Public Safety building and Wealthy Pool.
- 2022-098-G. The quarterly report from the Blodgett Hospital construction project.
- 2022-098-H. Minutes of the Library Commission meeting held April 25, 2022.

Yeas: Arendshorst, Hamrick, Pachla, Schwartz, Wessely and Favale – 6
Nays: -0-

2022-99. Wessely-Pachla. Motion to enter into an executive session following the subsequent special meeting to discuss an attorney's opinion in accordance with Section 8(h) of the Open Meetings Act. A roll call vote was taken.

Yeas: Arendshorst, Hamrick, Pachla, Schwartz, Wessely and Favale – 6
Nays: -0-

The meeting adjourned at 6:57 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until June 20, 2022.

Karen K. Brower, City Clerk

Attachments: A – Ordinance Amendment to Section 3.130 regarding the Parks & Recreation Commission

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