

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COMMISSION
CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

Regular Meeting Held July 1, 2019

Mayor Seibold called 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 Duncan, Favale, Hamrick, Walters, Zagel and Mayor Seibold

Absent: Commissioner Miller

Also Present: City Attorney Huff; Interim City Manager LaFave; Parks & Recreation Director Bunn; City Clerk Brower

2019-101. No public comment was received.

2019-102. Commissioners Favale, Hamrick and Walters noted the Trail Blazer event on July 4, put on by the EGR Community Foundation, needed volunteers to staff intersections.

Mayor Seibold reminded everyone that per state and local law, fireworks are allowed on private property between the hours of 11 am and 11:45 pm from June 29 to July 5.

Interim City Manager LaFave gave an update on construction projects and the pavement maintenance treatments being used to improve the surfaces of various roads in EGR.

Mayor Seibold thanked Parks & Recreation Supervisor Betsy Granstra and her entire team for putting on such a fantastic Reeds Lake Run event on June 22. She reported there were thousands of people taking part in the 5K run, the Doggie Dash, the handcycling race and the kids races.

2019-103. Election of President for FY 2019-20.

2019-0103-A. Zagel-Hamrick. That Commissioner Claudine Duncan be elected President of the East Grand Rapids City Commission to assume leadership duties in the absence of the Mayor for FY 2019-20.

Yeas: Duncan, Favale, Hamrick, Walters, Zagel and Seibold – 6
Nays: -0-

2019-104. Advisory Board appointments for FY 2019-20.

2019-0104-A. Walters-Zagel. To approve appointments to advisory boards as follows:

Planning Commission	Tom Getz, 655 Plymouth Mary Mapes, 2405 Elmwood Amy Coretti, 1436 Laurel Whitney Renner, 635 Cambridge	Three-year terms ending 6/30/22
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Parks & Recreation Comm.	Nicholas Abraham, 1108 Lakeside Brad Andrzejewski, 3105 Bonnell Carol Campbell, 2109 Elmwood Elizabeth Mitchell, 1146 San Jose Aaron Smith, 1645 Laurel Richard Sprague, Jr., 2332 Burchard Adam Rogalski, 933Lakeside	One-year terms ending 6/30/20
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Library Commission	Micki Benz, 817 Gladstone Betsy Brown, 1410 Sherwood Erik Daly, 1240 Breton Mary Dersch, 956 Lakeside Carol Donovan, 2944 Hall Judy Freeman, 425 Cambridge Charles Myers, 1050 Monterey Christopher Smith, 461 Lakeside	One-year terms ending 6/30/20
Board of Review	Ann Nowak, 1033 San Lucia Diana Schad, 448 Cambridge	Two-year terms ending 6/30/21

Commissioner Duncan thanked Mayor Seibold for meeting with her and Commissioner Hamrick last week to discuss the commission appointment process. She stated she will support the residents nominated today. Commissioner Duncan asked that more information added to the website to show the dates appointed and the term ending dates, to regularly solicit applications through the e-newsletter and social media and that all appointments be placed on the regular agenda and not on the consent agenda. She stated that she would not support future appointments without being more involved in the process.

Commissioner Hamrick stated she would reluctantly support these nominations because no public notice was given of the upcoming appointment process and that top priority should be given to publicizing the application process and getting more women to apply.

Commissioner Walters also stated his intention to support Mayor Seibold's nominations and addressed several emails that were received about the nominees. He stated that all residents can apply if they wish to serve and should be considered for appointment if they are qualified. He agreed the appointment process could be improved in the future.

Commissioner Zagel thanked everyone for working together and for communicating about the issues surrounding the appointment process.

Commissioner Favale stated she would approve the appointments, but felt the process needed improvement and noted that residents have asked for more input.

Commissioner Duncan addressed Mayor Seibold's statement at the last meeting about commissioner involvement in the email campaign against two nominees and stated that she wanted the public know that commissioners did not operate that way. Commissioner Favale agreed and stated that residents have a right to reach out if they are concerned.

Mayor Seibold noted that there was definitely an effort to get residents to send emails and asked that everyone work better together and not wait until a meeting to bring up concerns. She noted the current appointment system has been in place for close to 40 years and there has never been an issue. She reported there is no criteria set in the ordinances about specific requirements for appointees or any mention of public involvement. This year she was seeking to balance the Planning Commission ranks with two women from different geographic areas of the city.

Yeas: Duncan, Favale, Hamrick, Walters, Zagel and Seibold – 6
Nays: -0-

- 2019-105. Interim City Manager LaFave reported that the Infrastructure Committee had been reviewing the current fence ordinance and was looking at several possible revisions. He anticipated that ordinance amendments would be submitted to the commission for discussion in the near future.

2019-106. Duncan-Favale. To approve the consent agenda as follows:

2019-0106-A. Minutes of the regular meeting held June 17, 2019.

2019-0106-B. Payroll disbursements of \$224,205.11; county and school disbursements of \$-0-, and total remaining disbursements of \$506,367.83.

2019-0106-C. The purchase of consulting services and software licenses from i3 Business Solutions in the amount of \$10,503 to update the city servers.

Yeas: Duncan, Favale, Hamrick, Walters, Zagel and Seibold – 6

Nays: -0-

2019-107. Zagel-Favale. Motion to add to the agenda an executive session to discuss a collective bargaining agreement in accordance with Section 8(c) of the Open Meetings Act. A roll call vote was taken.

Yeas: Duncan, Favale, Hamrick, Walters, Zagel and Seibold – 6

Nays: -0-

2019-0107-A. Duncan-Zagel. Motion to enter into an executive session to discuss a collective bargaining agreement in accordance with Section 8(c) of the Open Meetings Act. A roll call vote was taken.

Yeas: Duncan, Favale, Hamrick, Walters, Zagel and Seibold – 6

Nays: -0-

The meeting adjourned at 6:33 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until July 15, 2019.

Karen K. Brower, City Clerk