

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COMMISSION  
CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

**Regular Meeting Held August 1, 2022**

Mayor Favale 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 Arendshorst, Hamrick, Pachla, Schwartz, Schulz, Wessely and Mayor Favale

Absent: None.

Also Present: City Manager Charles; Deputy City Manager LaFave; City Attorney Huff; City Clerk Parmenter; Zoning Administrator Gianotti; Parks & Recreation Director Melville; Finance Director Seath.

2022-128. The agenda was approved as submitted.

2022-129. Public comment: None.

2022-130. Mayor and Commission comment:

Commissioner Schwartz, Commissioner Arendshorst, Commissioner Hamrick and Commissioner Schulz encouraged citizens to get out and vote Tuesday.

Commissioner Pachala mentioned the absentee ballot process and the great job that is done by staff to keep everything secure.

Mayor Favale thanked staff for the work they do for the elections.

City Manager Charles mentioned the election tomorrow, the Hall Street project, reminded everyone that about the playground survey that ends August 3<sup>rd</sup> and spoke about the criminal activity in the area reminding everyone to lock their doors.

2022-131. Site Plan approval request of Valentino Designs for 1761 & 1779 Breton Road.

Paul LaBlanc reviewed the project. The project is being done under the Michigan Site Condo Act. He stated that they would be single family homes. There were three site plans submitted during the review process to accommodate revisions and requirements.

Commissioner Schulz questioned if there would be an HOA associated with this project. The response was that there would be.

Zoning Administrator Gianotti stated that it would be a normal subdivision. He reviewed the process the project has been through. All the lots would conform to the zoning ordinance. It is a modest number of lots, but it is also the greatest number of lots feasible for the site.

Commissioner Pachla asked about pedestrian safety and where Elinor is relative to a crosswalk. Also wanted to know if Lot 7 was conforming with the required setbacks.

Commissioners questioned the increased traffic in the area.

Deputy City Manager LaFave noted that the area is currently in a que for improvements and it would be coordinated with Grand Rapids.

2022-131-A Arendshorst-Schulz. Motion to approve the site plan as presented

Michael Valentino, Valentino Designs, Inc., spoke to changes that had made to the plans throughout the process. He has spoke to individuals regarding their concerns. He noted that 1029 Pinecrest will be one of the models going in the development and that it was a parade home. He encouraged everyone to take a look at it.

William Andrus, 1779 Asbury Rd, asked if East Grand Rapids will have any say as to the aesthetics of the property. He would like a committee consisting of citizens and an architect to review aesthetics.

Randy Flood, 1764 Whitfield, is concerned with the traffic congestion that already exists.

Kevin Brandt, 2960 Oakwood, is in support of the development although he did have concerns about traffic.

David Neuhaus, 1771 Whitfield Rd, noted that the plans looked great and he is sure the homes will be beautiful. He is concerned about the traffic with five lanes going down to two lanes.

Jennifer Steiner, 1749 Breton Rd, spoke about the crosswalk at Englewood and putting more pressure on it.

Kris Andrus, 1779 Asbury Rd, asked about placing a traffic light in the area of concern.

Mike Prange, 1757 Breton, noted he is one of the closest neighbors to the development. He was very stressed after hearing about it but he feels much better after speaking to his Commissioner, Zoning Administrator Gionatti and Michael Valentino. He is concerned about security lights in backyards that shine in windows.

William Andrus, 1779 Andrus, noted that seven acres of trees were taken down. He would like a schedule of events and timelines for the project.

Commissioner Pachla asked about lighting.

Zoning Administrator Gionatti noted that lighting is limited, mercury vapor lights were prohibited, and lights must point downward.

Commissioner Schulz asked if there had been discussions about a traffic light in the area.

Deputy City Manager LaFave noted that the area has to meet certain criteria to have a light installed. This area has not met this yet.

Mayor Favale asked about talks with Grand Rapids regarding traffic.

Commissioner Hamrick questioned the lighting ordinance.

Commissioner Wessely questioned the traffic impact of this project. It was noted that it was a minimal impact.

Commissioner Arendshorst noted that it was a good way to turn a nonconforming structure into multiple conforming lots.

Commission Hamrick asked if there was a crossing guard at the Englewood cross walk during the school year. It was noted that there was.

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

2022-132. Consider installation of speed cushions for traffic calming on Woodlawn Avenue.

Deputy City Manager LaFave gave a recap of the request.

Commissioner Arendshorst asked at what speeds you can go over the cushions.

Mayor Favale asked about the timeline once the request was approved and what if the process does not work.

City Manager LaFave noted that it would take a couple weeks to implement once the request is approved.

2022-132-A. Pachla-Wessely. That the installation of speed cushions for traffic calming on Woodlawn Avenue be approved as presented.

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

Nays: -0-

2022-133. Public Safety quarterly report for period ending June 30, 2022.

Public Safety Director Herald highlighted his report going over the statistics.

Commissioner Schulz encouraged students not to park in business district.

Commissioner Arendshorst likes the increased foot patrols.

Mayor Favale noted the increased patrols in the evenings and early mornings.

2022-134. Preliminary quarterly financials.

City Manager Charles spoke regarding the financials. He noted that the city is ending stronger than projected. He noted, that along with Finance Director Seath, they would be taking a deeper dive into the budget to find where the savings came from.

2022-135. Public Safety server room relocation.

Finance Director Seath recapped the request and the reason for the relocation being a water leak issue.

2022-135-A. Arendshorst-Pachla. To approve the relocation of the Public Safety server room as presented.

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

Nays: -0-

2022-136. Wessely-Hamrick. To approve the consent agenda as follows:

2022-136-A. Minutes of the regular meeting held July 18, 2022.

2022-136-B. Receipt of communications.

2022-136-C. Disbursement of funds: payroll disbursements of \$262,595.83; county and school disbursements of \$2,496,354.18, and total remaining disbursements of \$237,564.75.

2022-136-D. Preliminary minutes of the Zoning Board of Appeals meeting held on May 25, 2022.

The meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until August 15, 2022.

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Lori A Parmenter, City Clerk

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