

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COMMISSION
CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

Regular Meeting Held September 6, 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; Parks & Recreation Director Melville; Finance Director Seath.

2022-134. The agenda was approved as submitted.

2022-135. Public comment: None.

2022-136. Mayor and Commission comment:

Commissioner Schulz noted that Park and Recreation Director Melville did an excellent job at the Manhattan Trail input session.

Commissioner Pachla wished everyone good luck that was competing in the triathlon this Saturday.

Commissioner Wessely has spoken to citizens regarding taxes and the Headlee Rollback and is wondering how we can share information regarding this to help citizens understand it better.

Mayor Favale noted that Park and Recreation Director Melville did a wonderful and informative job at the Manhattan Trail input session, gave an overview of the Mayor's Grand River Cleanup, the Reeds Lake Cleanup and thanked Deputy City Manager LaFave for his help with the events.

City Manager Charles noted that the Manhattan Trail won't be back in front of the commission until October and noted that he would be open for conversations regarding getting information out on taxes.

2022-137. Consider approval of a resolution to amend the retirement plan.

Finance Director Seath highlighted the request.

Commissioner Schulz asked for clarification that the plan was not changing.

2022-137-A Pachla-Schulz Motion to adopt the resolution to amend the retirement plan as presented

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

Nays: -0-

2022-138. Consider approval to award the contract for agent of benefit insurance management

Finance Director Seath highlighted the request.

2022-138-A. Arendshorst-Schwartz. That the contract be awarded to Michigan Planners, Inc. as presented.

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

Nays: -0-

2022-139 Consider traffic calming radar speed feedback signs on Boston Street between Breton Road and West City Limit.

Deputy City Manager LaFave highlighted the request and noted that the bike mobility markings are in place. He mentioned other areas where this has been done previously.

Commissioner Wessely asked about speed humps vs. feedback signs. LaFave noted the differences between local and major streets.

2022-139-A Hamrick-Pachla. That the traffic calming radar feedback signs be placed as presented.

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

Nays: -0-

2022-140 Consider authorizing staff to initiate a competitive bidding process for the community dog park.

Parks and Recreation Director Melville highlighted the request, park layout and the public input session on Monday, September 12th.

Commissioner Arendshorst questioned if there would be a fresh water dog bowl. Melville said that there would be and a hose and nozzle also.

Commissioner Pachla asked if irrigation would be installed and if the cement would be poured with the playgrounds. Melville said that there would be irrigation and the cement would not be poured in conjunction with the playgrounds.

Mayor Favale asked if irrigation would be enough to keep the grass nice, if grounds maintenance would maintain the park, if the bathrooms would be upgraded and thanked Deputy City Manager LaFave for finding the space for the dog park. Melville said that they would reseed the grass in the spring and fall and the bathrooms would be a separate bid package.

Commissioner Pachla appreciated it coming in under budget.

2022-140-A Schulz-Wessely. That the competitive bid process be approved as presented.

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

Nays: -0-

2022-141 Consider adoption of a resolution for a charitable gaming license.

City Manager Charles highlighted the request.

Commissioner Pachla questioned if other PTO's may also need this.

Commissioner Wessely asked if this had been done before.

2022-141-A Pachla-Arendshorst. That the resolution be adopted as presented.

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

Nays: -0-

2022-142. Schwartz-Pachla. To approve the consent agenda as follows:

2022-142-A. Minutes of the regular meeting held August 15, 2022.

2022-142-B. Receipt of communications.

2022-142-C. Disbursement of funds: payroll disbursements of \$250,092.93; county and school disbursements of \$16,891,377.64, and total remaining disbursements of \$1,565,845.69.

2022-142-D. Consider purchase of winter maintenance road salt.

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

Nays: -0-

2022-143 Use of American Rescue Plan & Fund Balance discussion.

City Manager Charles outlined the details of the funding. He noted that the city would be receiving funds for underfunded pensions also.

Mayor Favale asked about the lead service line replacement and asked Chief Herald what was top on his list. Chief Herald responded that fire fighting skills training, license plate reader and recruitment.

Commissioner Arendshorst thought that rerouting Lakeside Street was a great idea, and it was the only project that could be done with this funding.

Commissioner Schwartz said that it would open up a lot of possibilities by closing the street and if it would increase safety.

Attorney Huff stated that the Master Plan may have to be updated if rezoning is needed and we will have to check to see if there are restrictions due to previous grants.

Commissioner Schulz thought we should keep the size of the lake in mind and questioned if we wanted to make it more accessible which would invite more people to come use the lake and parking.

City Manager Charles said that staff would go back and gather more information on the park.

Commissioner Hamrick stated that the solar rooftop jumps out at her. Mayor Favale agreed.

Commissioner Pachla asked if we had infrastructure for the electric vehicles and asked about updating the community pool.

Mayor Favale asked about the John Collins Park restrooms.

Commissioner Schulz favors the solar panels and public safety investment.

The meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until September 19, 2022.

Lori A Parmenter, City Clerk

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