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CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

**Regular Meeting Held October 5, 2015**

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 Dills, Duncan, Graham, Johnson, Miller, Skaggs and Mayor Seibold

Absent: None

Also Present: City Attorney Huff; City Manager Donovan; Assistant City Manager LaFave; Public Safety Director Herald; City Clerk Brower

2015-106. No public comment was received.

2015-107. Commissioner Duncan reported many positive comments about the new boardwalk on Reeds Lake Boulevard. She thanked the city staff members who have overseen this project from the beginning and the donors who have made it possible.

Commissioner Miller noted that materials have been delivered and construction will begin soon on the San Jose water main replacement.

Commissioner Johnson thanked the Public Works crews for the many hours of work tracing and repairing the major water main break on Wealthy last week.

Assistant City Manager LaFave gave an update on the incident and the repair work over the last several days. He reported the water main and surrounding infrastructure have been repaired and the road surface will be replaced on Tuesday. He thanked the public works crews, the contractor who assisted and the employees from the City of Grand Rapids who brought in equipment to help.

2015-108. Tim Kelly, Planning Director for Downtown Grand Rapids Inc. presented information on the GR Forward program and answered questions from the City Commission.

2015-109. Duncan-Johnson. To approve the consent agenda as follows:

2015-109-A. To approve the minutes of the regular meeting held September 21, 2015.

2015-109-B. Report of Finance Committee on disbursement of funds: payroll disbursements of \$201,006.78; county and school disbursements of \$117,728.64, and total remaining disbursements of \$252,657.15.

2015-109-C. A contract with Millennia Technologies for a new phone system for city buildings at a cost not-to-exceed \$37,935.00.

2015-109-D. Two 2016 Ford Interceptor police patrol vehicles from Gorno Ford of Woodhaven, Michigan and accessory equipment from Mark's Body Shop, Drew Wireless and Design Edge of Grand Rapids and Kustom Signals of Lenexa, Kansas for a total package price for each vehicle of \$48,000.00.

2015-109-E. Ratification of contracts for the replacement of water mains and street resurfacing on San Jose and Audobon with Nagel Construction in the amount of \$355,885.00 and with Superior Asphalt of \$81,147.03 as authorized by the City Commission at the September 21, 2015 City Commission meeting.

2015-109-F. A contract extension with American Grinding for additional removal of trip hazards from City sidewalks in the amount of \$40,000.00.

Yeas: Dills, Duncan, Graham, Johnson, Miller, Skaggs and Seibold – 7  
Nays: -0-

Chris Afendoulis, 73<sup>rd</sup> District Representative, gave an update on road funding issues, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade reading, school sinking funds and water infrastructure issues being discussed in Lansing during the current session.

The meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until October 19, 2015.

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Karen K. Brower, City Clerk

UNOFFICIAL  
Reference Only

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COMMISSION  
CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

**Regular Meeting Held October 19, 2015**

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 Dills, Duncan, Graham, Johnson, Miller, Skaggs and Mayor Seibold

Absent: None

Also Present: City Attorney Huff; City Manager Donovan; Assistant City Manager LaFave; Public Safety Director Herald; Finance Director Mushong; Zoning Administrator Faasse; City Clerk Brower

2015-110. Louis DeShane, Plainfield Township, spoke against The Rapid's plan to change retirement plans for their union to a defined contribution plan and urged Mayor Seibold to vote against this in her position on The Rapid Board of Directors.

Trula Schad, Grand Rapids, stated that she deserves the full pension she was promised by The Rapid when she started many years ago.

Peter Ricketson, submitted a letter from Presidential candidate Bernie Sanders supporting the Amalgamated Transit Union in their fight against contract changes. Mr. Ricketson stated the cost to keep the defined benefit plan was only 2% of the Rapid's budget and was worth keeping.

2015-111. Commissioner Dills congratulated Parks & Recreation Director Fred Bunn on his recent win at the World Duathlon event in Adelaide, Australia over the weekend.

Mayor Seibold gave the details of Fred Bunn's duathlon win: a 10K run, 40K bike, 5K run in 2:00:30 earned him the 1<sup>st</sup> Place in the Men's 50-54 age group, and 37<sup>th</sup> place of 561 total participants.

Mayor Seibold announced the Public Safety Department would be hosting an open house on Saturday, October 24 to celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the combined police and fire departments. She also thanked the members of the transit union for voicing their opinions about this complex issue before The Rapid Board.

2015-112. A zoning variance hearing was held regarding the request of Judy Maggini of 1916 Lake Drive to allow the construction of a new single-family home with a front yard setback of 94.3' instead of the required average setback of 135.3'.

Rob Sears, Sears Architects, explained the proposed orientation of the house and garage and noted that only 28% of the lot is buildable once the average front yard setback is determined. He asked for approval of locating the mass of the house behind the setback line with only the three-stall garage located in front of the setback.

Mayor Seibold opened a public hearing. The following people were present to express their opinions:

- Betsy & Scott Raymond, 1930 Lake Drive      Felt a new home could be built within the requirements and asked City Commission to uphold the rules.

The following communications were received at City Hall concerning this variance request:

- Chris & Emily Backus, 645 Cardinal                      In Favor  
- Richard & Judith Bereza, 700 Cardinal                      In Favor  
- Kerry & Dirk VerMeulen, 681 Laurel Circle                      In Favor



- Mary Claire Trombly, 651 Cardinal	In Favor
- Steve & Melissa Conlon, 709 Cardinal	In Favor
- Brian & Rebecca Staggs, 1905 Lake Drive	In Favor
- Nyal Deems, 701 Wilcox Circle	In Favor
- Scott & Betsy Raymond, 1930 Lake Drive	Opposed
- Martin & Erin Grin, 1941 Lake Drive	In Favor
- Benjamin & Sarah Masterson, 708 Laurel Circle	In Favor
- Tim & Elizabeth Jacobson, 651 Laurel Circle	In Favor
- Judy Maggini, 711 Laurel Circle	In Favor

No other public comment was received. Mayor Seibold closed the public hearing.

2015-112-A. Graham-Johnson. That the request of Judy Maggini of 1916 Lake Drive to allow the construction of a new single-family home with a front yard setback of 94.3' instead of the required average setback of 135.3' be approved.

Zoning Administrator Faasse gave a history of this property in relation to the development of Laurel Circle.

Commission Graham supported the request because the back of the garage would be screened with trees facing the neighbors which would block the noise and movement.

Commissioner Johnson noted the wide variation in front yard setbacks along Lake Drive made it difficult to determine what would look best. She supported the variance as it would give the home a better back yard.

Commissioner Dills noted that while the neighboring property skewed the average setback calculation, this was still a big ask in relation to the requirements. He felt pushing home back 10' on the lot would still allow a nice back yard and keep the front more in line with others.

Commissioner Miller agreed this was a difficult lot for home placement, but had a problem with having the garage placed so far in front of the neighbors. He stated he could support a variance if the garage were moved back 10' from this current request.

Commissioner Skaggs stated that a 41' variance from ordinance requirements was a big ask for a home being built with a clean slate, but agreed it would be nice to have the bigger back yard.

Mayor Seibold agreed this was an interesting situation given the dimensions of the lot and the setbacks of the home on either side, but felt it was important to maintain the harmony with the other properties.

2015-112-B. Skaggs-Miller. That the request of Judy Maggini of 1916 Lake Drive to allow the construction of a new single-family home with a front yard setback of 94.3' instead of the required average setback of 135.3' be tabled to allow the applicant to consider changes to the request. A roll call vote was taken.

Yeas: Dills, Duncan, Graham, Johnson, Miller, Skaggs and Seibold – 7

Nays: -0-

2015-113. A zoning variance hearing was held regarding the request of Chip Kleinheksel of 2429 Hall Street to allow the construction of a new garage with an east side yard setback of 4.4' instead of the minimum 6.2' and combined side yards of 15.5' instead of the minimum 15.9'.

Zoning Administrator Faasse explained this property was non-conforming because the depth of the lot meant a smaller lot area. He stated that the drainage concern expressed by the neighbors would be addressed during the building permit process.

Chip Kleinheksel, stated the current garage was too narrow to allow even one vehicle to fit in properly, and the new garage and entry way would allow two vehicles and sufficient walking space.

Mayor Seibold opened a public hearing. The following communications were received at City Hall concerning this variance request:

- |                                |           |
|--------------------------------|-----------|
| - Mike & Amy Bishop, 2436 Hall | In Favor. |
| - Rebecca Sitterly, 2437 Hall  | In Favor. |
| - Todd Bell, 2428 Hall         | In Favor. |

No other public comment was received. Mayor Seibold closed the public hearing.

2015-113-A. Duncan-Skaggs. That the request of Chip Kleinheksel of 2429 Hall Street to allow the construction of a new garage with an east side yard setback of 4.4' instead of the minimum 6.2' and combined side yards of 15.5' instead of the minimum 15.9' be approved.

Commissioner Duncan agreed this was a very reasonable request and expressed her support.

Commissioner Miller and Mayor Seibold agreed this was a reasonable request.

Yeas: Dills, Duncan, Graham, Johnson, Miller, Skaggs and Seibold – 7  
Nays: -0-

2015-114. Miller-Johnson. To approve the consent agenda as follows:

2015-114-A. To approve the minutes of the regular meeting held October 5, 2015.

2015-114-B. Report of Finance Committee on disbursement of funds: payroll disbursements of \$211,962.33; county and school disbursements of \$54,652.00, and total remaining disbursements of \$392,156.74.

2015-114-C. A request from The Right Place for funding of \$12,500 to be paid in the amount of \$2,500 per year for five years beginning in the FY 2016-17 budget to assist in economic development activities..

2015-114-D. An updated “Kent Area Narcotics Enforcement Team (KANET) Operating Agreement” adding the Wyoming Department of Public Safety as set forth in Exhibit “A” attached hereto.

2015-114-E. A contract for property and liability insurance with Berends Hendricks Stuit Insurance Agency representing Travelers Insurance in the amount of \$191,327.00.

2015-114-F. The preliminary minutes of the Parks & Recreation Commission meeting held August 10, 2015.

2015-114-G. The preliminary minutes of the Parks & Recreation Commission meeting held September 14, 2015.

Yeas: Dills, Duncan, Graham, Johnson, Miller, Skaggs and Seibold – 7  
Nays: -0-

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until November 2, 2015.

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Karen K. Brower, City Clerk

Attachments: A – Kent Area Narcotics Enforcement Team (KANET) Operating Agreement

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

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COMMISSION  
CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

**Regular Meeting Held November 2, 2015**

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 Dills, Duncan, Graham, Johnson, Miller, Skaggs and Mayor Seibold

Absent: None

Also Present: City Attorney Huff; City Manager Donovan; Assistant City Manager LaFave; Public Safety Director Herald; Finance Director Mushong; Parks & Recreation Director Bunn; Zoning Administrator Faasse; City Clerk Brower

2015-115. No public comment was received.

2015-116. Commissioner Johnson reminded everyone to vote in tomorrow's important city election.

Commissioner Graham congratulated Blodgett Hospital on being named one of the 50 Greenest Hospitals in America by Beckett's Hospital Review. He also announced that the website homesnacks.com had named East Grand Rapids as the Happiest City in Michigan.

Mayor Seibold also encouraged residents to voice their opinions in tomorrow's city election.

Commissioner Skaggs reminded kids and adults to be safe by wearing their bike helmets. Mayor Seibold added that wearing lights and reflective clothing would also help visibility in the dark.

2015-117. Zoning variance request by Judy Maggini of 1916 Lake Drive to allow the construction of a new single-family home with a front yard setback of 104.3' instead of the required average setback of 135.3'.

Zoning Administrator Faasse explained the setback request had been revised from 94.3' to 104.3' and the house had been reversed so that the garage was now on the west side of the property.

Robert Sears of Sears Architects reported the home would be moved 10' farther from the street and that the mass of house would still be located behind the setback line with only the garage needing the variance.

Mayor Seibold opened a public hearing. The following people were present to express their opinions:

- John McCullough, 1874 Lake Drive                      Spoke about the history of the entire development and the promises made during that process. Would prefer that no home be built, but especially opposed to having the garage next to their home and so close to the property line.

The following communications were received at City Hall concerning this variance request:

- Jacqueline & Donald McCulloch, 1874 Lake      Opposed.

No other public comment was received. Mayor Seibold closed the public hearing.

2015-117-A. Dills-Duncan. That the revised request of Judy Maggini of 1916 Lake Drive to allow the construction of a new single-family home with a front yard setback of 104.3' instead of the required average setback of 135.3' be approved.

Commissioner Dills asked that the original condominium documents be reviewed to make sure that this new home did not violate any of those agreements. Mr. Dills stated he would support the setback variance since the applicant had made the effort to comply with the commission's discussions at its last meeting.

Mayor Seibold thanked the architect and new property owners for revising the request to reduce the front setback variance needed.

Yeas: Dills, Duncan, Graham, Johnson, Miller, Skaggs and Seibold – 7  
Nays: -0-

2015-118. Doug Vredevelde of Vredevelde Haefner reviewed the audited financial statements for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2015 and answered questions from the City Commission. Mr. Vredevelde and Finance Director Mushong explained the unfunded pension liability now shown in the financial statements and how this issue was affecting other municipalities.

2015-119. Acquisition of property from the East Grand Rapids Public Schools for reconstruction of Lake Drive at the Breton-Lakeside intersection.

Assistant City Manager LaFave explained the plans to reconstruct the Lake Drive-Breton/Lakeside intersection in 2016 and the need for additional right-of-way to allow standard 11'-wide lanes. He noted the city would also be responsible for moving the school sign and planting new trees if needed. Utility companies are being contacted about moving utility poles.

2015-119-A. Duncan-Johnson. That the acquisition of 15' of right-of-way from the East Grand Rapids Public Schools in the amount of \$1.00 and the execution of a temporary grading easement adjacent to the Lake Drive entrance of the East Grand Rapids Middle School be approved as set forth in Exhibits "A" and "B" as set forth in Exhibit "A" attached hereto.

Yeas: Dills, Duncan, Graham, Johnson, Miller, Skaggs and Seibold – 7  
Nays: -0-

2015-120. Peter Varga, Chief Executive Officer of The Rapid gave an update on operations and future plans, including new routes in Cascade Township and to the Allendale campus of Grand Valley State University, new technology being implemented, and conversion of some equipment to compressed natural gas.

2015-121. Graham-Johnson. To approve the consent agenda as follows:

2015-121-A. To approve the minutes of the regular meeting held October 19, 2015.

2015-121-B. Report of Finance Committee on disbursement of funds: payroll disbursements of \$208,031.28; county and school disbursements of \$82,418.87, and total remaining disbursements of \$1,112,530.74.

2015-121-C. Extension of the contract with Corby Energy Services of Bellevill, MI in the amount of \$260,731 for sewer main lining of Audobon, Elmwood, Wilshire, Conlon, Lake Drive and Frederick.

2015-121-D. A contract with Plummer's Environmental Services for televising, limited cleaning and pipeline assessment and certification of sanitary and storm system infrastructure with partial funding from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.

2015-121-E. The purchase of hardware, software and consulting services of i3 Business Solutions to upgrade the City's server infrastructure and implement a storage area network at a cost not-to-exceed \$31,999.00.

2015-121-F. Appraisal services from Heinowski Appraisal and Consulting for a tax tribunal appeal in the amount of \$6,900.00.

2015-121-G. Contracts for employee benefit plan components as follows:



















Commissioner Hamrick supported the brick crosswalks because they may increase safety in an area heavily used by students and other pedestrians.

Mayor Seibold stated that while she agreed the brick crosswalks would look better and may possibly increase safety, she felt the added cost and maintenance were not worth reducing the funding for other projects.

Yeas: Duncan, Hamrick, Miller, Skaggs and Zigel – 5  
Nays: Dills and Seibold – 2

2015-140. Discussion of Breton/Lake Drive intersection traffic signal options.

Assistant City Manager LaFave outlined three options for traffic signal poles at this intersection: steel/wood poles with wires; basic black metal tubes with a mast arm, or decorate black metal tubing with mast arm. The basic black metal poles/arms are included in the engineering estimate at the present time, so using the first option would save money and upgrading to the decorative poles would increase the cost of the project. The metal pole/arm are more expensive but have a much longer service life.

2015-140-A. Duncan-Skaggs. To direct staff to proceed with the decorative metal signal poles/arms for the Lake/Lakeside/Breton intersection for the 2016 construction season at an additional cost of approximately \$50,000.

Commissioner Duncan felt the decorative poles would complete the nicer look for this intersection, especially since these same poles are used less than a quarter mile away at the Wealthy intersection.

Mayor Seibold felt the decorative poles were not necessary and no one would notice them. Commissioner Skaggs supported the upgrade to decorative poles to complete the look and feel of this gateway intersection leading to the community center, schools and Gaslight Village. He noted the city had invested in the ornamental street lighting through this area and this would complete the look.

Commissioner Dills spoke against the decorative posts for cost reasons.

Commissioner Hamrick supported consistency with the surrounding decorative traffic signals and lighting.

Yeas: Duncan, Hamrick, Miller, Skaggs – 4  
Nays: Dills, Zigel and Seibold – 3

Commissioner Dills again suggested bidding these amenities as upgrades so that the commission could make changes at a later date if necessary.

2015-141. Zigel-Miller. To approve the consent agenda as follows:

2015-141-A. To approve the minutes of the regular meeting held December 7, 2015.

2015-141-B. Report of Finance Committee on disbursement of funds: payroll disbursements of \$213,114.69; county and school disbursements of \$62,223.08, and total remaining disbursements of \$323,028.16.

2015-141-C. The reappointment of Mayor Anna Seibold to the Interurban Transit Partnership Board for a two-year term ending December 31, 2017.

2015-141-D. The Public Safety Department's quarterly report for the period ending September 30, 2015.

Yeas: Dills, Duncan, Hamrick, Miller, Skaggs, Zigel and Seibold – 7  
Nays: -0-

The meeting adjourned at 7:18 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until January 4, 2016.