

- 2017-137. A zoning variance hearing was held regarding the request of Stephen Kusmierczak, owner of 230 El Centro, to allow the construction of a new home with a front yard setback of 16.2' instead of the required 30.0.'

Zoning Administrator Faasse noted the new home would have a greater front yard setback than the former home on this lot. Mr. Faasse also stated this lot was not subject to through lot restrictions because it was a corner lot and not an interior lot.

Bruce Heys was present to represent the property owners and answer questions if needed.

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

- Chad Edwards, 128 El Centro Supported as long as the tree line was not disturbed.

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

- 2016-137-A. Zagel-Hamrick. That the request of Stephen Kusmierczak, owner of 230 El Centro, to allow the construction of a new home with a front yard setback of 16.2' instead of the required 30.0' be approved.

Commissioner Zagel supported the request because of the unusual situation with this lot and because the applicants were being very conscious of the existing trees and the greenspace.

Mayor Seibold also supported this request as the new home was more complaint than the former home.

Yeas: Dills, Duncan, Hamrick, Miller, Schad, Zagel and Seibold – 7

Nays: -0-

- 2017-138. Resolution beginning the special assessment procedures relating to the Durant Street Improvements Special Assessment District.

Assistant City Manager LaFave reported the six of the nine properties on the street voted in favor of beginning the special assessment process using preliminary estimates. He asked the commission to adopt a resolution authorizing staff to proceed with more detailed engineering work and cost estimates that will be used in the next steps of the process, which will include additional public hearings.

Mr. LaFave addressed questions raised in a letter from one of the property owners by noting that the city ordinance provides that the owner of a corner lot will pay only 50% of the assessment because that property has already paid an assessment for the improvement to the other frontage of their lot and the remaining 50% of that assessment will be divided among the other owners. He also noted that the length of the new road would be determined during the upcoming research and public input.

Mayor Seibold opened the meeting for public comment. The following people expressed their opinions:

- Jim Proctor, 2142 Durant

Not in favor of paving the street because he would lose some of his front yard if the road were straightened out. He also objected to the last three lots paying less if the road ends at their driveway instead of the full frontage of their lots. Asked that if improvements are done they be kept to a minimum of paving only.

- Carmel Loftis, 2151 Durant

Concerned about making the older couple pay the full share of the assessments while lots at the end paid less if the road is not paved all the way to the end. Favored dividing the assessments up fairly with a concession to one property due to the age of the residents.

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

- Carl & Jane Anderson, 2145 Durant Objected to the 50% reduction for the corner property and felt the road width, sidewalks and curbs planned for this road were excessive and unwarranted.

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

2016-138-A. Duncan-Hamrick. That a resolution outlining the proposed paving and improvement of Durant Street and requesting the City Manager to prepare the necessary information be adopted as set forth in Exhibit "A" attached hereto.

Yeas: Dills, Duncan, Hamrick, Miller, Schad, Zagel and Seibold – 7
Nays: -0-

2017-139. Miller-Duncan. To approve the consent agenda as follows:

2017-139-A. The minutes of the regular meeting held September 18, 2017.

2017-139-B. Payroll disbursements of \$240,237.30; county and school disbursements of \$145,243.08, and total remaining disbursements of \$1,373,304.77.

2017-139-C. The extension of the contract with Corby Energy Services of Belleville, Michigan in the amount of \$115,000 plus a 10% contingency amount for the rehabilitation of sanitary and storm sewer mains using cured-in-place pipe.

Yeas: Dills, Duncan, Hamrick, Miller, Schad, Zagel and Seibold – 7
Nays: -0-

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until October 16, 2017.

Karen K. Brower, City Clerk

Attachments: A – Resolution regarding the Durant Street Improvements Special Assessment District

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 October 16, 2017

Mayor Seibold called the meeting to order at 6:01 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, Hamrick, Miller, Schad and Mayor Seibold

Absent: Commissioner Zigel

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

2017-140. Robert VanKirk, 1206 Lee SW, reported that the Rapid bus drivers had been without a contract for 2½ years and were experiencing significant monthly costs because of the lack of contract. He stated that EGR elected officials were not elected to break up unions and asked that the Rapid continue negotiations with the union.

Pete Rickertson, 2615 McKee, stated the drivers want to keep the option of daily overtime or a regular schedule and have agreed to management's pension offer. He felt the Rapid board should do what the EGR voters wanted when they approved the last millage.

Douglas Straight, 35 28th St, has seen the problems and supports the drivers.

Courtney Harps, 1947 Galewood, stated she relies on the bus service and wants the drivers to have a fair contract.

2017-141. Commissioner Schad announced the Middle School had recently raised \$29,000 for their school by hosting a cardboard boat regatta on Reeds Lake and congratulated all those involved in this great event.

2017-142. Miller-Schad. Motion to add to the agenda the renewal of a franchise agreement for cable television with AT&T Michigan. A roll call vote was taken.

Yeas: Dills, Duncan, Hamrick, Miller, Schad and Seibold – 6

Nays: -0-

2017-143. Request to approve the division of land at 439 Manhattan.

Zoning Administrator Faasse explained that both parcels resulting from the lot split would meet the zoning standards and conform with others in the neighborhood.

Jim James of Caldwell Banker was present to represent the owners and offered to answer any questions.

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

- Jennifer Clary, 337 Manhattan	No objection.
- Ann Saltsman, 2905 Reeds Lake Blvd	No objection.
- Hillary & Ben Lane, 345 Manhattan	No objection.
- Tim Macdonald, 2935 Reeds Lake Blvd	No objection.
- August Treu, 2958 Reeds Lake Blvd	No objection.
- Jackie Educato, 2930 Reeds Lake Blvd	No objection.
- Aday & Nick Venlet, 2954 Reeds Lake Blvd	No objection.
- Tyler Shemberger, 2955 Reeds Lake Blvd	No objection.
- John Educato, 2930 Reeds Lake Blvd	No objection.

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

2010-143-A. Duncan-Schad. That the request of Barbara Keller and John Miller, owners of 439 Manhattan, to divide the property into two conforming parcels with a vacant parcel to the north with a frontage of 112' and a depth of 200' and the parcel containing the existing home with 105' of frontage and a depth of 200' be approved, with the following conditions:

1. The split complies with the surveys and legal descriptions presented in the land division application; and
2. The relevant deed(s) or land contract(s) be recorded with the Kent County Registrar of Deeds within 90 days of approval.

Mayor Seibold questioned whether drainage would be an issue when a new home is built on the vacant lot. Mr. Faasse stated that a drainage plan would be required during the building permit process.

Yeas: Dills, Duncan, Hamrick, Miller, Schad and Seibold – 6
Nays: -0-

Mayor Seibold presented Zoning Administrator Faasse with a proclamation commemorating his retirement on October 17, 2017 and thanked him for all of the work involved on zoning issues over the last nine years. Public Works Director LaFave also presented a plaque thanking Mr. Faasse for his years of service to the department and the citizens of East Grand Rapids. City Commissioners wished him well in his retirement.

2017-144. Renewal of franchise agreement for cable television.

City Attorney Huff explained the new renewal agreement contained no substantive changes and would extend the provisions of the existing franchise for 10 years until 2028. He noted the city receives fees from AT&T for the use of the right-of-way.

2016-144-A. Miller-Hamrick. That a cable consent agreement renewal with AT&T Michigan be approved as set forth in Exhibit "A" attached hereto.

Yeas: Dills, Duncan, Hamrick, Miller, Schad and Seibold – 6
Nays: -0-

2017-145. Duncan-Dills. To approve the consent agenda as follows:

2017-145-A. The minutes of the regular meeting held October 2, 2017.

2017-145-B. Payroll disbursements of \$219,908.29; county and school disbursements of \$71,025.25, and total remaining disbursements of \$837,664.40.

2017-145-C. Contracts with Kent County Road Commission in the amount of \$26,555.74 for mastic repairs, A-1 Asphalt for skip patching and patch repairs in the amount of \$44,000 plus 10% contingency and A-1 Asphalt for concrete construction on Wealthy Street in the amount of \$13,980 with 10% contingency carried over from the FY2016-17 to FY2017-18.

2017-145-D. A contract with Twin Lakes Nursery for the annual tree planting program at the quantity pricing shown in their bid dated September 28, 2017.

2017-145-E. A contract with Moore & Bruggink for assistance developing an Asset Management Plan for the water utility system in an amount not to exceed \$19,500.00.

2017-145-F. A contract with Robertson Research Institute in the amount of \$8,500.00 for a research and performance enhancement program for Public Safety Department personnel.

Public Safety Director Herald explained the program would evaluate each participating officer and develop an individual wellness program for each person. He stated the program was being funded through a donation from a local resident. Mayor Seibold encouraged all members of the department to take advantage of this program.

2017-145-G. The purchase of a Bobcat Toolcat 5600 Utility Work Machine in the amount of \$59,322.38 from Carleton Equipment of Byron Center utilizing the State of Michigan MIDEal contract.

2017-145-H. The purchase of a replacement lift station pump from Kerr Pump and Supply in the amount of \$5,286.30.

2017-145-I. The preliminary minutes of the Parks & Recreation Commission meeting held August 14, 2017.

2017-145-J. The preliminary minutes of the Planning Commission meeting held September 12, 2017.

Yeas: Dills, Duncan, Hamrick, Miller, Schad and Seibold – 6

Nays: -0-

2017-146. Dills-Duncan. Motion to enter into an executive session to conduct a periodic personnel evaluation of the City Manager in accordance with Section 8(a) of the Open Meetings Act. A roll call vote was taken.

Yeas: Dills, Duncan, Hamrick, Miller, Schad and Seibold – 6

Nays: -0-

The meeting adjourned at 6:36 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until November 6, 2017.

Karen K. Brower, City Clerk

Attachments: A – Cable franchise agreement with AT&T

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 6, 2017

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, Hamrick, Miller, Schad, Zagel and Mayor Seibold

Absent: None

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

2017-147. Mayor Seibold addressed several recent emails regarding pedestrian safety around the schools. She noted the three-vehicle accident that occurred on October 19 near the Middle School did not involve any pedestrians, but that the city is reviewing all of the crosswalks to make sure that all appropriate lighting and signage are in place in light of the concerns sent in by residents. She thanked everyone for their suggestions for improvement and noted the Public Works and Public Safety Departments would be looking over the suggestions in light of national standards. The city's short-term goals include making sure overhead lights are working and increasing patrols during school commuting hours. Long-term projects will include replacing old lights, collecting data and making a video for students on how to walk/bike to school safely.

Mayor Seibold also reviewed the situation of leaflets on signs and vehicles over the weekend promoting white supremacy ideology and websites. She noted the Public Safety Department removed the signs from public property and is investigating the incident. She stated our community will not tolerate racism and division and urged everyone to quietly refute these incidents and stand together against racism.

Commissioner Dills thanked Mayor Seibold for her comments. He also reminded everyone that tomorrow was election day and urged everyone to vote.

Commissioner Miller called for our citizens to reject the messages of bigotry and hatred and stand together against this unwelcome campaign.

Commissioner Hamrick stated she was shocked and disgusted by the weekend leaflets and urged everyone to get through these difficult times together.

Commissioner Duncan asked residents to counter these sentiments by embracing each other and continue talking about the issue.

Commissioner Zagel stated our community can defy those who wish to drive wedges between people by continuing the dialogue and standing together.

Commissioner Schad agreed with everyone's comments and thanked the Public Safety Department for their response to this issue so far. She thanked the community for jumping into action to remove the fliers.

2017-148. Peter Dimitriou, 2621 Inverness (GR), spoke about the extreme weather over the last year and the fact that man is responsible for these climate changes. He called for more awareness so that things don't get worse.

Bryan Walters, 1039 Pinecrest, reminded everyone to vote tomorrow. He also thanked the commissioners for their comments and stated it was critical to repudiate the messages contained in the fliers.

Amorak Huey, 429 Briarwood, felt the police officers he spoke with Sunday morning were dismissive of his concerns about the fliers and more concerned about the legality of taking fliers off private property. He feels less protected than he did two years ago based on the Public Safety Department's response.

Ellen Custer, 1110 Breton, asked for a better way to get information out to residents in situations like these.

Angie Walters, 1039 Pinecrest, stated it was her yard sign that was moved last year and that she appreciated the conversation with officers after that incident. She wanted police officers to know that the Black Lives Matter movement was not anti-law enforcement.

Samantha Cornell, 311 Rosewood, also expressed concern that people thought the movement was anti-police. She noted that West Michigan was not immune to the efforts of white supremacy groups and felt the police response could have been better. She also asked for a statement of responses from the city so that residents know what to do when things like this happen.

- 2017-149. Peter Haefner of Vredeveld Haefner reviewed the audited financial statements for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2017 and answered questions from the City Commission. He commended the Finance Department staff for all of the spot checking they do on various transactions and the implementation of new internal controls. He also noted that the city has recently added the pension liability and the OPEB liability to its financial statements to show the progress of funding these liabilities.

City Manager Donovan noted he would be scheduling a work session over the winter months to go over the pension and OPEB liabilities in more detail with the city commission.

- 2017-150. Miller-Hamrick. To approve the consent agenda as follows:

2017-150-A. The minutes of the regular meeting held October 16, 2017.

2017-150-B. Payroll disbursements of \$218,151.35; county and school disbursements of \$47,750.75, and total remaining disbursements of \$484,908.66.

2017-150-C. Resolution electing to comply with the provisions of Public Act 152 of 2011 by exercising the city's right to exempt itself from the requirements of the act for the period from January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018 as set forth in Exhibit "A" attached hereto.

2017-150-D. Contracts for employee benefit plan components as follows: Symetra as the Stop Loss Carrier, Physicians Care as the PPO provider, and Madison National Life for Life, Accidental Death and Dismemberment and Long-Term Disability coverage.

2017-150-E. A contract with VanWyk Risk Solutions and Travelers Insurance for property and liability insurance in the amount of \$188,394.00.

2017-150-F. The purchase of two message board signs from Give 'Em A Brake Safety of Grandville in an amount not to exceed \$10,800 for each sign.

2017-150-G. The purchase of a replacement lift station pump from Kerr Pump and Supply in the amount of \$5,286.30.

Yeas: Dills, Duncan, Hamrick, Miller, Schad, Zagel and Seibold – 7

Nays: -0-

The meeting adjourned at 6:48 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until November 20, 2017.

Karen K. Brower, City Clerk

Attachments: A – Resolution opting out of PA 152 for 2018.

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

2017-170-A. To approve the minutes of the regular meeting held December 4, 2017.

2017-170-B. To approve payroll disbursements of \$213,282.12; county and school disbursements of \$59,818.87, and total remaining disbursements of \$238,514.08.

2017-170-C. Appointments and committee assignments as recommended by Mayor Seibold.

2017-170-D. The appointment of Diana Schad of 448 Cambridge to the Board of Review for a term ending June 30, 2019 and the appointment of Jeff Dills to the Planning Commission for a term ending June 30, 2020.

2017-170-E. A one-time bonus of two vacation days for the City Manager in recognition of his recent performance evaluation.

2017-170-F. A three-year extension of the dispatch agreement with Kent County ending December 31, 2020 as set forth in Exhibit "A" attached hereto.

2017-170-G. The preliminary minutes of the Parks & Recreation Commission meeting held November 13, 2017.

2017-170-H. The preliminary minutes of the Planning Commission meeting held October 10, 2017.

Yeas: Duncan, Favale, Hamrick, Miller, Walters, Zagel and Seibold – 7

Nays: -0-

The meeting adjourned at 6:47 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until January 2, 2018.

Karen K. Brower, City Clerk

Attachments: A – Dispatch contract extension with Kent County.

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