

Yeas: Bartman, Edison, Frakie, Mehney, Walton and Deems - 6
Nays: Williamson - 1

96-47. A zoning variance hearing was held regarding the request of Mr. and Mrs. James Coerper of 750 Rosewood to allow the installation of a 3'-6" picket fence instead of the maximum allowable height of 3'-0" and to allow the fence to be 2'-0" from the street right-of-way instead of the required 15'-0."

James Coerper, 750 Rosewood, was present and spoke in favor of the variance request.

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

- David Sarnacki & Bridget Flynn, 720 Rosewood In Favor

96-47-A. Walton-Bartman. That the request of Mr. and Mrs. James Coerper of 750 Rosewood to allow the installation of a 3'-6" picket fence instead of the maximum allowable height of 3'-0" and to allow the fence to be 2'-0" from the street right-of-way instead of the required 15'-0," be approved.

Yeas: Bartman, Edison, Frakie, Mehney, Walton, Williamson and Deems - 7
Nays: -0-

96-48. Consideration of a request to approve an evaluation and merit pay system for employees of the City of East Grand Rapids.

City Manager Donovan reviewed the plan and explained the various systems which would be put in place.

96-48-A. Walton-Bartman. That the evaluation and merit pay system be approved as recommended by the City Manager.

Yeas: Bartman, Edison, Frakie, Mehney, Walton, Williamson and Deems - 7
Nays: -0-

96-49. Consideration of a request to approve the purchase of portable radios for the Public Safety Department.

96-49-A. Williamson-Bartman. That the purchase of fifteen portable radios from Communications Specialists, Inc. of Grand Rapids, in the amount of \$9,906.00, be approved.

Yeas: Bartman, Edison, Frakie, Mehney, Walton, Williamson and Deems - 7
Nays: -0-

96-50. The preliminary minutes of the Parks & Recreation Commission meetings held July 10, and August 14, 1995 were received.

96-51. The preliminary minutes of the Planning Commission meeting held July 11, 1995 were received.

Commissioner Williamson expressed his concern about the lack of a quorum at two of the recent Planning Commission meetings. Mayor Deems stated that he had talked to the Chairperson about this and the problem was being addressed.

96-52. The preliminary minutes of the Joint Facilities Committee meeting held July 27, 1995 were received.

96-53. The Public Safety Report for the month of July, 1995 was received.

96-54. Cherilyn DeVries, reporter for the Cadence, informed the City Commission that she was leaving her position at the Cadence and introduced the new reporter, Joanne Bailey, to everyone. Mayor Deems presented Cherilyn with a commemorative book on East Grand Rapids and wished her good luck in the future.

96-55. Commissioner Frakie commended Deputy Treasurer Marilou Chambers on all of her work during the past several years and wished her good luck in her new position with the State of Michigan.

Commissioner Walton commended Commissioner Williamson on the events put on at Grattan Raceway recently. He also congratulated Commissioner Frakie on his 24th wedding anniversary that day. Commissioner Walton also commended Chief Gallagher and staff on the resolution of a recent situation involving a potentially dangerous GRATA bus route. He also noted that Mayor Deems would be leaving his post as chair of the Metro Council and expressed his interest in filling that position when it is available.

Commissioner Edison thanked Marilou Chambers for her work during the transition between city managers and thanked Cherilyn DeVries for her excellent reporting of events in East Grand Rapids over the last year. Commissioner Edison also expressed his hope for a good outcome in the upcoming Michigan-Virginia football game.

Commissioner Bartman also thanked Marilou Chambers for her assistance in understanding municipal accounting. Commissioner Bartman thanked City Manager Brian Donovan for his handling of the fisherman on the pedestrian bridge over the lake channel. She also wished her son Joey Bartman a happy 7th birthday!

Commissioner Mehney wished Commissioner Walton good luck in his efforts to become chairperson of the Metro Council.

96-56. The regular meeting was adjourned subject to the call of the Mayor until September 5, 1995.

City Clerk

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COMMISSION
CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

Regular Meeting Held September 5, 1995

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Deems.

Present: Commissioners Bartman, Edison, Frakie, Mehney, Walton, Williamson and Mayor Deems

Absent: None

Also Present: City Manager Donovan; City Attorney Huff; City Services Director Baragar; Public Safety Director Gallagher; Recreation Director Rhodes; Engineering Services Supervisor Kadzban; Finance Director VanderWall; Clerk Brower

96-57. The minutes of the regular meeting held August 21, 1995 were received as submitted.

96-58. Bartman-Walton. That disbursements to the County and Schools in the amount of \$2,324,812.70, payroll disbursements in the amount of \$116,176.93, and total remaining disbursements in the amount of \$367,526.00 as approved by the Finance Committee, be allowed and the Clerk be authorized to draw an order on the Treasurer for the respective amounts.

Yeas: Bartman, Edison, Frakie, Mehney, Walton, Williamson and Deems - 7

Nays: -0-

96-59. Finance Director VanderWall presented the financial report for the quarter ended June 30, 1995 and answered questions from the Commission.

Commissioner Frakie complimented Finance Director Laura VanderWall on her careful attention to the City's investments and the resulting high rate of return.

96-60. Consideration of a request to adopt a policy concerning the unimproved section of Reeds Lake Boulevard between Darby and the eastern city limits.

Public comment was received. The following people were present and expressed their views concerning this matter:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| - Al Swanson, 2945 Bonnell | Leave gates |
| - Edgar Orr, 2951 Bonnell | Leave gates |
| - Don Buske, 3055 Mary | Leave gates |
| - Erwin Clahassey, 3037 Mary owners | No improvements, more flexible access for property |
| - Robert Stokes, 2905 Bonnell | Leave gates, improve drainage |
| - Chris Panopoulos, 3033 Mary | Leave gates, improve drainage |
| - Bill Malpass, 2929 Bonnell | Leave gates, improve drainage |
| - Margo App, 2747 Darby | Leave gates, vacate property |
| - Jim Vermeulen, 341 Somerset | Take down gates to allow access to property owners |
| - Nick Nicola, 2721 Darby | Leave gates |
| - Tim Feagan, 3137 Bonnell | Leave gates |

The following communications were received at City Hall regarding this matter:

- | | |
|---|--|
| - Mohammad Riahi, 2861 Bonnell | Vacate property, leave gates |
| - Kurt Lacks, 3105 Bonnell
other streets | Take down gates but patrol and maintain like all |
| - Alfred Swanson, 2945 Bonnell | Leave gates |

Chief Gallagher explained that this portion of road is somewhat unique because of its location, but that it does not warrant having locked gates restricting access when no other areas are gated off.

Commissioner Mehney asked about making this area a City park that would allow restricted access. Mayor Deems stated this had been researched, but did not offer a solution. Commissioner Mehney felt that vacating was the long-term solution.

Commissioner Frakie felt that maintenance costs were nominal and could be borne by the City. He stated drainage and lighting in specific areas should be addressed. He also wanted to give Mr. Vermeulen access to his property by issuing a gate key.

Commissioner Walton stated that this issue needed to be resolved. He felt that gates were not used in other neighborhoods of East Grand Rapids to reduce crime and vandalism and should not be used on this road.

Mayor Deems stated that this road runs through people's yards and serves no purpose for the general welfare of the city residents. This issue has been addressed several times over the years and vacating is the long-term solution. If vacating is not approved by the Commission, Mayor Deems felt a minimal level of maintenance should be done.

Commissioner Williamson also felt this matter needed to be settled. He was very opposed to restricting access to a public road at any time. Vacating the property while retaining an easement for walking/biking is the solution he favored.

96-60-A. Williamson-Edison. Motion to begin proceedings to vacate the portion of Reeds Lake Boulevard between Darby and the eastern city limits.

Commissioner Edison agreed that the gates should come down; however he was concerned about the road running through people's yards and the drainage problems that exist.

Commissioner Bartman spoke in favor of vacating the property because it would give control of the area to the property owners and allow them more options than having the road owned by the City. The City will continue to maintain the walking/biking path.

Commissioner Frakie stated that no action should be taken on this road because there had been no complaints about the gates being opened or closed during certain hours. Commissioner Frakie also wanted to give notice to the public who use this road before any decision is made.

Commissioner Mehney thought the road should be vacated to solve this problem once and for all. Future commissions could make a decision several years from now that would not be approved of by the property owners.

Patty Stokes, 2905 Bonnell, stated that the actual road does not lie within the platted right-of-way and that this issue should be addressed. She also stated that drainage improvements are needed to keep property and the road from eroding.

Chris Panopoulos, 3033 Mary, noted that the storm water drainage which empties near his property comes from all surrounding streets in the area and should be taken care of by the City.

Edgar Orr, 2951 Bonnell, stated that a property owners association would not work and that the neighbors shouldn't be forced to form an association to care for a road that has always been taken care of by the City.

Dave Verdier, 3043 Mary, favored the vacating of the road.

Margo App, 2747 Darby, stated she had previously lived on a private drive that was taken care of by the residents and that it worked quite well. The property was well cared for and enjoyed by all. She favored the vacating.

Robert Stokes, 2905 Bonnell, stated that the drainage has gotten much worse over the last few years. He felt the improvements could be made for much less than the \$145,000 estimated by the City.

Erwin Clahassey, 3037 Mary, was against the road being closed to the public. He felt the entire population should vote on the vacating in an election.

Jim Vermeulen, 341 Somerset, stated that this has always been a public road that should continue to be maintained by the City. He favored taking down the gates to allow access and patrolling the area carefully at first to determine if there were increased vandalism problems before other options were considered.

Nick Nicola, 2721 Darby, asked that this issue be sent to committee for their study and a deadline given for their recommendation.

Don Buske, 3055 Mary, stated that there are other roads in the state that are closed to the public at various times and that this road should continue to be closed at night and during the winter.

Commissioners Mehney, Bartman and Edison, felt that this matter needed more study and should not be voted on at this meeting.

96-60-B. Edison-Bartman. Motion to table the matter of Reeds Lake Boulevard between Darby and the eastern city limits until more information can be obtained.

Yeas: Bartman, Edison, Frakie, Mehney, Walton, Williamson and Deems - 7

Nays: -0-

Mayor Deems asked that staff look at options and gather more information on drainage improvements and other costs and bring this matter back to a future commission meeting.

Commissioner Frakie asked that each specific drainage problem be estimated for repair.

Commissioner Williamson asked that everyone who attended the last meeting where this issue was addressed be notified of the next meeting where this would be discussed again.

96-60-C. Edison-Mehney. Motion to give gate keys to any property owner along this length of road who requests one to allow for 24-hour access.

Yeas: Edison, Frakie, - 2

Nays: Bartman, Mehney, Walton, Williamson, Deems - 5

96-61. Consideration of a request to authorize the Recreation Director to apply for a "Get Michigan Youth Moving" grant.

96-61-A. Williamson-Edison. That the Recreation Director be authorized to work with the Community Action Council in applying for a \$5,000 grant from the State of Michigan for a "Get Michigan Youth Moving" grant for additional programs.

Yeas: Bartman, Edison, Frakie, Mehney, Williamson and Deems - 6
Nays: -0-

96-62. Consideration of a request to approve a contract with Cascade Township for mechanical, electrical and plumbing inspections.

96-62-A. Williamson-Bartman. That the contract between the City of East Grand Rapids and Cascade Township for mechanical, plumbing and electrical inspections and plan reviews, be approved as set forth in Exhibit "A" attached hereto.

Yeas: Bartman, Edison, Frakie, Mehney, Walton, Williamson and Deems - 7
Nays: -0-

96-63. Consideration of a request to approve an agreement for tree maintenance services.

96-63-A. Bartman-Edison. That the bid of Poortenga Tree Service of \$60.00 per hour for trimming, \$11.50 per inch diameter for tree removal, \$3.00 per inch diameter for grinding and no charge for consultation, be accepted.

Yeas: Bartman, Edison, Frakie, Mehney, Walton, Williamson and Deems - 7
Nays: -0-

96-64. Consideration of a request to authorize the purchase of water meters for the replacement program.

96-64-A. Williamson-Edison. That the request to purchase \$115,000.00 in water meters from Sensus Technologies of Union Town, Pennsylvania, be approved.

Yeas: Bartman, Edison, Frakie, Mehney, Walton, Williamson and Deems - 7
Nays: -0-

95-65. Consideration of a request to adopt a resolution approving an amendment to the Articles of Incorporation of the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council.

95-65-A. Edison-Williamson. That a resolution approving the amendment to the Articles of Incorporation of the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council confirming the membership of the City of Greenville, be adopted as set forth in Exhibit "B" attached hereto.

Yeas: Bartman, Edison, Frakie, Mehney, Walton, Williamson and Deems - 7
Nays: -0-

96-66. The City Services Report for the month of July, 1995 was received.

96-67. No other public comment was made.

96-68. Commissioner Bartman noted that the Reeds Lake Triathlon will taken place on Saturday, September 9th and urged everyone to get out and enjoy the event. She also reported that City Manager Brian Donovan will be competing in the Celebrity Division of the Snowplow Roadeo on September 13.

Commissioner Edison congratulated Fred Bunn on his promotion to Assistant Recreation Director. He also noted that Melissa Hinken and Susan Perry applied for the position of assistant and recognized their significant accomplishments and contributions to the Recreation Department.

96-69. The regular meeting was adjourned subject to the call of the Mayor until September 18, 1995.

City Clerk

Attachments:

- A - Inspection Services Contract with Cascade Township
- B - Resolution Approving Amendment to Grand Valley Metro Council Articles of Incorporation

UNOFFICIAL Only
Reference

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COMMISSION
CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

Regular Meeting Held September 18, 1995

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Deems.

Present: Commissioners Bartman, Edison, Frakie, Mehney, Walton, Williamson and Mayor Deems

Absent: None

Also Present: City Attorney Huff; City Services Director Baragar; Public Safety Director Gallagher; Streets & Utilities Sup't Keating; Engineering Services Supervisor Kadzban; Finance Director VanderWall; Clerk Brower

96-70. The minutes of the regular meeting held September 5, 1995 were received as submitted.

96-71. Walton-Bartman. That disbursements to the County and Schools in the amount of \$924,055.49, payroll disbursements in the amount of \$129,638.57, and total remaining disbursements in the amount of \$120,874.71 as approved by the Finance Committee, be allowed and the Clerk be authorized to draw an order on the Treasurer for the respective amounts.

Yeas: Bartman, Edison, Frakie, Mehney, Walton, Williamson and Deems - 7

Nays: -0-

96-72. Consideration of a request to adopt a policy concerning gravel roads within the City of East Grand Rapids.

Mayor Deems explained the current policy for maintaining gravel roads and the expense and time involved in this maintenance. The Infrastructure Committee has recommended that all roads be paved within the next five years.

Public comment was received. The following people were present and expressed their views concerning this matter:

- | | |
|---|--|
| - Jeanne Battjes, 2555 Frederick | Questions about curbs/sidewalks |
| - Ellen Flack, 1015 Orchard | Opposed to vacating, correct drainage problems |
| - Dick Lyman, 2607 Frederick | Opposed to paving |
| - Nick Stover, 2214 Argentina | Opposed to paving |
| - Diane Lange, 2150 Lansing | In favor of paving |
| - Bob Hubbard, 2602 Frederick | Opposed to paving |
| - Carl Anderson, 2145 Durant | Concerned about cost of paving |
| - Bill Busch, 2545 Frederick | Opposed to paving |
| - Bill Isenberg, 322 Lakewood | Opposed to vacating |
| - Bob Koch, 2560 Frederick | In favor of paving |
| - Kate Johnson, 2204 Argentina
group | Consider each road separately, not as a whole |
| - Gerard Farrell, 316 Pioneer Club | Opposed to paving |
| - Sara Gavin, 244 Hodenpyl | Opposed to paving, make one-way or cul-de-sac |
| - Dan Hunsberger, 223 Pioneer Club | Slow down traffic |

Commissioners Mehney, Bartman and Frakie also expressed support for the helmet ordinance.

Yeas: Bartman, Edison, Frakie, Mehney, Walton, Williamson and Deems - 7

Nays: -0-

96-74. Introduction of an ordinance amendment to add a new Chapter 89 of Title VII of the City Code assuming responsibility for administration and enforcement of the State Mechanical Code.

96-74-A. Williamson-Bartman. That an ordinance amendment to add a new Chapter 89 of Title VIII of the City Code assuming responsibility for administration and enforcement of the State Mechanical Code, be introduced as set forth in Exhibit "B" attached hereto.

Yeas: Bartman, Edison, Frakie, Mehney, Walton, Williamson and Deems - 7

Nays: -0-

96-75. Consideration of a request to approve the hiring of a labor negotiator and a labor attorney.

96-75-A. Williamson-Bartman. That Joseph Fremont of the Michigan Municipal League be hired as the lead labor negotiator and the law firm of Miller, Johnson, Snell & Cummiskey be hired as labor attorneys.

Yeas: Bartman, Edison, Frakie, Mehney, Walton, Williamson and Deems - 7

Nays: -0-

96-76. Consideration of a request to adopt a resolution authorizing the use of a computerized tax roll as the data base for the city's property taxes.

96-76-A. Frakie-Edison. That a resolution authorizing the use of a computerized tax roll be adopted as set forth in Exhibit "C" attached hereto.

Yeas: Bartman, Edison, Frakie, Mehney, Walton, Williamson and Deems - 7

Nays: -0-

96-77. The preliminary minutes of the Traffic Commission meeting held September 1, 1995 were received.

96-78. The preliminary minutes of the Planning Commission meetings held August 8, and August 29, 1995 were received.

96-79. The Public Safety Report for the month of August, 1995 was received.

96-80. Commissioner Williamson congratulated the City's Snowplow Roadeo Team of Mike Ferris and Marty Kroes for their third place finish in the professional division and Brian Donovan for his third place (out of 17) in the celebrity division.

Commissioner Edison informed the City Commission that the Joint Facilities Committee would be preparing recommendations for replacement of the high school track and drainage improvements at Remington Field. These will be presented to the City Commission as soon as available.

Commissioner Bartman congratulated the staff of the Recreation Department on the excellent organization of the recent Reeds Lake Triathlon and the walk around Reeds Lake. She also commended Chief Gallagher on a presentation made recently to students at Wealthy Elementary on fingerprinting.

Commissioner Mehney reported that the Joint Facilities Committee will look at fund raising and donations to offset the cost of the track and field improvements.

96-81. The regular meeting was adjourned subject to the call of the Mayor until October 2, 1995.

City Clerk

Attachments: A - Ordinance amendment requiring bicycle helmets
B - Ordinance amendment regarding mechanical code
C - Resolution authorizing computerized tax roll

UNOFFICIAL
Reference Only

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COMMISSION
CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

Regular Meeting Held October 2, 1995

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Deems.

Present: Commissioners Bartman, Edison, Frakie, Mehney, Walton, Williamson and Mayor Deems

Absent: None

Also Present: City Manager Donovan; City Attorney Huff; City Services Director Baragar; Public Safety Director Gallagher; Recreation Director Rhodes; Assessor Woolford; Building Inspector Conley; Finance Director VanderWall; Clerk Brower

96-82. The minutes of the regular meeting held September 18, 1995 were received as submitted.

96-83. Mayor Deems advised of the following communications received at City Hall:

- (A) Letter from the Kent County Board of Commissioners seeking interested persons to fill positions on community boards. Anyone interested should see Mayor Deems.
- (B) Letter from Christian Youth and Family Services thanking the Public Safety Department for their assistance with some of their clients recently.
- (C) Letter from high school soccer coach expressing his appreciation for the good condition of the soccer fields at the beginning of the season.

96-84. Bartman-Williamson. That disbursements to the County and Schools in the amount of \$26,492.71, payroll disbursements in the amount of \$108,053.08, and total remaining disbursements in the amount of \$190,540.42 as approved by the Finance Committee, be allowed and the Clerk be authorized to draw an order on the Treasurer for the respective amounts.

Yeas: Bartman, Edison, Frakie, Mehney, Walton, Williamson and Deems - 7

Nays: -0-

96-85. A zoning variance hearing was held regarding the request of Lake Drive Baptist Church at 2119 Lake Drive to 1) allow a parking lot to be created on a lot zoned B-1 (Section 5.59F); 2) to allow a parking lot 48'-0" wide instead of the required 50'-0"; and 3) and to refund the \$75 application fee.

Reverend Lane of Lake Drive Baptist Church was present and spoke in favor of the variance request.

The following persons were present and expressed their views concerning this variance request:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------|
| - Art Losse, 2101 Lake Drive | Opposed |
| - Suzanne Eberle, 2107 Lake Drive | Opposed |
| - Ernie Boorsma, 716 Croswell | In Favor |
| - Ann Losse, 2101 Lake Drive | Opposed |
| - Irma Ripperger, 2115 Lake Drive | Opposed |
| - Gary Eberle, 2107 Lake Drive | Opposed |
| - Connie Wood, 2131 Lake Drive | In Favor |

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

- Extrusions Division, Inc\EMA and Company & James D. Azzar (owner of 703 Crosswell, 654 Lovett and 661 Crosswell) Opposed
- Rick & Carol Godfrey, 728 San Jose Opposed
- Dan Lorenz, 2103 Lake Drive (phone call) Opposed
- Erin Mulhall, 2145 Lake Drive Opposed

Mayor Deems closed the public hearing.

96-86-A. Williamson-Edison. That the variance request of Lake Drive Baptist Church to allow a parking lot to be created on a lot zoned B-1 (Section 5.59F), and to allow a parking lot 48'-0" wide instead of the required 50'-0", be approved.

Yeas: Bartman, Edison, Frakie, Mehney, Williamson and Deems - 6
Nays: -0-
Abstain: Walton - 1

96-86. A zoning variance hearing was held regarding the request of Thomas Rothwell of 600 Locust Avenue for the property at 455 Manhattan Road to allow a front yard setback of 63'-0" instead of the required 80'-0".

Mr. Tom Rothwell, 600 Locust Avenue, was present and spoke in favor of the variance request.

The following persons were present and expressed their views concerning this variance request:

- Norman Keller, 439 Manhattan Road Opposed
- Sandra Quick, 619 Manhattan Opposed
- David Pray, 2935 Reeds Lake Blvd Opposed
- Marlene Overmyer, 2950 Reeds Lake Blvd Opposed
- Susan Keulen, 405 Manhattan Opposed
- Barry Kane, 350 Manhattan Opposed
- Sue VanDuinen, 2954 Reeds Lake Blvd Opposed
- Barb Keller, 439 Manhattan Opposed

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

- Claude Wade, 2925 Reeds Lake Blvd. Opposed
- Dave Pray, 2935 Reeds Lake Blvd Opposed
- Norman & Barbara Keller, 439 Manhattan Opposed

Petition signed by:

- David & Mary Pray, 2935 Reeds Lake Blvd. Opposed
- Claude & Helen Wade, 2925 Reeds Lake Blvd. Opposed
- Henry & Patricia Gignac, 2936 Reeds Lake Blvd. Opposed
- Robert & Ann Saltsman, 2905 Reeds Lake Blvd Opposed
- Marlene Overmyer, 2950 Reeds Lake Blvd. Opposed
- Andrew Rundquist, 2944 Reeds Lake Blvd. Opposed
- Patrick & Sue VanDuinen, 2954 Reeds Lake Blvd. Opposed
- Bruce & Laurel Young, 2851 Reeds Lake Blvd. Opposed
- Sandra Gallagher, 2958 Reeds Lake Blvd. Opposed

- Gordon Ralston, 2863 Reeds Lake Blvd. Opposed
- Michael Meneau, 2900 Reeds Lake Blvd. Opposed
- Weldon & Karen Schwartz, 2924 Reeds Lake Blvd. Opposed
- John & Jackie Educato, 2930 Reeds Lake Blvd. Opposed
- Norman & Barbara Keller, 439 Manhattan Road Opposed
- John & Sandra Quick, 619 Manhattan Road Opposed
- Helen Bradford, 417 Manhattan Road Opposed
- Eileen Brown, 361 Manhattan Road Opposed
- Perii Hutchings, 361 Manhattan Road Opposed
- Mark & Susan Keulen, 405 Manhattan Road Opposed
- Joellen Clary, 337 Manhattan Road Opposed
- David & Catherine Rabideau, 265 Manhattan Road Opposed
- Marguerite Vrugink, 345 Manhattan Road Opposed
- James & Mary Nachtegall, 350 Manhattan Road Opposed
- Jim & Melissa Burns, 262 Manhattan Road Opposed
- Lynn Gregory, 250 Manhattan Road Opposed
- Edward Buck, 308 Manhattan Road Opposed
- Amy Mathews, 245 Manhattan Road Opposed

Mayor Deems closed the public hearing.

96-86-A. Walton-Edison. That the variance request of Thomas Rothwell of 600 Locust Avenue for the property at 455 Manhattan Road to allow a front yard setback of 63'-0" instead of the required 80'-0", be denied.

Yeas: Bartman, Edison, Mehney, Walton, Williamson and Deems - 6
 Nays: -0-
 Abstain: Frakie - 1

96-87. Consideration of a request to approve the sale of the vacant lot at 455 Manhattan Road.

96-87-A. Edison-Williamson. Motion to direct staff to proceed with the sale process for the vacant lot at 455 Manhattan Road using the existing bids.

Yeas: Edison, Frakie, Mehney, Walton, Williamson and Deems - 6
 Nays: Bartman - 1

96-88. Consideration of a request to appoint a new representative to the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council.

Geoffrey Hughes, 260 Hodenpyl, spoke favorably of the Metro Council and urged that the representative appointed to replace Mayor Deems be the next mayor of the city.

96-88-A. Edison-Williamson. That Commissioner Michael Walton be appointed as the representative of East Grand Rapids to the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council Board beginning November 1, 1995.

Yeas: Edison, Frakie, Mehney, Williamson and Deems - 5
 Nays: Bartman - 1
 Abstain: Walton - 1

96-89. Final Reading of an ordinance amendment to add a new Chapter 105 to Title X pertaining to bicycle helmets.

Public comment was received. The following people were present and expressed their views concerning this matter:

- Tom Tuggle, 670 Lovett Supported ordinance, but opposed to the provision requiring helmets be worn by those over 18.

The following communications were received at City Hall regarding this matter:

- John & Penny Pestle, 515 Plymouth Road In Favor
- Steven Cole, 1112 Lake Grove Opposed
- Donna Greenlee, 1175 Patterson (non-resident) Opposed

96-89-A. Edison-Bartman. That an ordinance amendment to add a new Chapter 105 to Title X requiring bicycle helmets to be worn by persons under the age of eighteen (18), labeled Option #1, be adopted as set forth in Exhibit "A" attached hereto.

Yeas: Bartman, Edison, Mehney, Walton, Williamson - 5
Nays: Frakie, Deems - 2

96-90. Final Reading of an ordinance amendment to add a new Chapter 89 of Title VII of the City Code assuming responsibility for administration and enforcement of the State Mechanical Code.

96-90-A. Williamson-Edison. That an ordinance amendment to add a new Chapter 89 to Title VIII of the City Code assuming responsibility for administration and enforcement of the State Mechanical Code, be adopted as set forth in Exhibit "B" attached hereto.

Yeas: Bartman, Edison, Frakie, Mehney, Walton, Williamson and Deems - 7
Nays: -0-

96-91. Consideration of a request to approve the purchase and installation of permanent tree lights for Gaslight Village and a related fund transfer.

96-91-A. Bartman-Edison. That the request to purchase and install permanent tree lights in Gaslight Village from Crites, Tidey and Associates, Inc., in the amount of \$11,000, and the related fund transfer of \$11,000 from the General Fund ending balance to the Tree Removal and Maintenance Account, be approved.

Yeas: Bartman, Edison, Frakie, Mehney, Williamson and Deems - 6
Nays: Walton - 1

96-92. Consideration of a request to award a bid for the bus service for the 1995/96 Ski Club.

96-92-A. Williamson-Edison. That request to award the bid for bus service for the 1995/96 Ski Club to Great Lakes Motor Coach, Inc, in the amount of \$250.00 per unit and a show up charge of \$75 per bus, be approved.

Yeas: Bartman, Edison, Frakie, Mehney, Walton, Williamson and Deems - 7
Nays: -0-

96-93. The City Services Department Report for the month of August, 1995 was received.

96-94. No Public Comment was made.

96-95. Commissioner Bartman commended Mechanic Rick Barr of the City Services Department for his assistance to a motorist with car trouble recently. The motorist expressed appreciation by sending flowers to the department.

Mayor Deems asked the Finance Committee to consider a special use for the money received from the potential sale of city property, such as recreation projects or other special projects.

96-96. The regular meeting was adjourned subject to the call of the Mayor until October 16, 1995.

City Clerk

UNOFFICIAL
Reference Only

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COMMISSION
CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

Regular Meeting Held October 16, 1995

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Deems.

Present: Commissioners Bartman, Edison, Frakie, Mehney, Walton, Williamson and Mayor Deems

Absent: None

Also Present: City Manager Donovan; City Attorney Huff; City Services Director Baragar; Assessor Woolford; Building Inspector Conley; Finance Director VanderWall; Clerk Brower

96-97. The minutes of the regular meeting held October 2, 1995 were received as submitted.

96-98. Williamson-Bartman. That payroll disbursements in the amount of \$127,685.61 and total remaining disbursements in the amount of \$756,205.47 as approved by the Finance Committee, be allowed and the Clerk be authorized to draw an order on the Treasurer for the respective amounts.

Yeas: Bartman, Edison, Frakie, Mehney, Walton, Williamson and Deems - 7

Nays: -0-

96-99. Doug Plamondon and Randy Novotny of Hoffman, Steensma & Plamondon presented the audited financial statements for Fiscal Year 1994-95 and answered questions from the Commission.

96-100. A zoning variance hearing was held regarding the request of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Cody of 2138 Anderson Drive to allow an addition to a detached garage within 1'-0" of the side lot line instead of the 3'-0" required.

Edward Cody, 2138 Anderson Drive, was present and spoke in favor of the variance request.

Mayor Deems closed the public hearing.

96-100-A. Walton-Bartman. That the variance request of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Cody of 2138 Anderson Drive to allow an addition to a detached garage within 1'-0" of the side lot line instead of the 3'-0" required, be approved.

Yeas: Bartman, Edison, Frakie, Mehney, Walton, Williamson and Deems - 7

Nays: -0-

96-101. A zoning variance hearing was held regarding the request of Mr. and Mrs. Scott Bye of 2326 Oakwood Avenue to allow a combined side yard of 16'-0" instead of the required 18'-0".

Scott Bye, 2326 Oakwood Avenue, was present and spoke in favor of the variance request.

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

- Mac Perry, 1215 Eastlawn

In Favor

- Jan & Dave Cornelius, 2256 Elmwood

In Favor

Mayor Deems closed the public hearing.

96-101-A. Walton-Frakie. That the variance request of Mr. and Mrs. of Scott Bye of 2326 Oakwood Avenue to allow an addition to a detached garage within 1'-0" of the side lot line instead of the 3'-0" required, be approved.

Yeas: Bartman, Edison, Frakie, Mehney, Walton, Williamson and Deems - 7

Nays: -0-

96-102. A zoning variance hearing was held regarding the request of Mr. and Mrs. John Redding of 2705 Reeds Lake Blvd to allow a rear yard setback of 16'-0" instead of the required 25'-0".

Deborah Redding, 2705 Reeds Lake Blvd, was present and spoke in favor of the variance request.

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

- Charles & Ruth Miller, 2713 Reeds Lake Blvd In Favor

Mayor Deems closed the public hearing.

96-102-A. Mehney-Bartman. That the variance request of Mr. and Mrs. John Redding of 2705 Reeds Lake Blvd to allow a rear yard setback of 16'-0" instead of the required 25'-0", be approved.

Yeas: Bartman, Edison, Frakie, Mehney, Walton, Williamson and Deems - 7

Nays: -0-

Commissioner Frakie asked staff to investigate the possibility of abandoning Meadowvale Drive and giving the land to the neighbors while retaining an easement for any utilities running through that area.

96-103. A zoning variance hearing was held regarding the request of the East Grand Rapids Team Boosters to allow the display of 5'-0" x 30'-0" banner on the fence at the corner of Lake Drive and Lakeside Drive for a specific period of time.

Jack Shimko of the EGR Team Boosters, was present and spoke in favor of the variance request.

Jack Munger, 2360 Lake Drive, was present and expressed his opposition to the sign being placed on the fence.

Mayor Deems closed the public hearing.

96-103-A. Mehney-Edison. That the variance request of the East Grand Rapids Team Boosters to allow the display of 5'-0" x 30'-0" banner on the fence at the corner of Lake Drive and Lakeside Drive between the dates of November 26 and December 17, 1995 for their Christmas tree sale, be approved. The banner must be placed so as not to obstruct visibility at the corner as determined by the City Services Director and the Public Safety Director.

Yeas: Bartman, Edison, Frakie, Mehney, Williamson and Deems - 6

Nays: Walton - 1

96-104. A Public Hearing was held regarding the proposed ordinance amendment modifying Section 5.81 and adding a new section 5.85 regarding home occupations.

No public comment was made. Mayor Deems closed the public hearing.

96-104-A. Williamson-Bartman. That the ordinance amendment modifying Section 5.81 and adding a new section 5.85 regarding the types of business permitted in a residential zone, be adopted as recommended by the Planning Commission with the exception of deleting the last phrase of Section 5.85, Paragraph C referring to 250 square feet, as set forth in Exhibit "A" attached hereto.

Commissioner Walton asked City Attorney Huff to consider defining the term "immediate family," to investigate the method of figuring 25% of usage, and to look into a licensing/permitting and/or inspection process for businesses operated in homes.

Yeas: Bartman, Edison, Frakie, Mehney, Walton, Williamson and Deems - 7

Nays: -0-

96-105. A Public Hearing was held regarding the proposed ordinance amendment to Section 5.24 regarding special uses.

No public comment was made. Mayor Deems closed the public hearing.

96-105-A. Williamson-Bartman. That the ordinance amendment to Section 5.24 regarding special uses be introduced as set forth in Exhibit "B" attached hereto.

Yeas: Bartman, Edison, Frakie, Mehney, Williamson and Deems - 6

Nays: Walton - 1

96-106. Consideration of a request to approve the sale of the vacant lot at 455 Manhattan Road.

96-106-A. Williamson-Edison. That the property at 455 Manhattan Road be sold to AFG Partners for the sum of \$27,000.

Joel Peterson of AFG Partners was present and confirmed his understanding that he was not seeking a variance to build on this lot and would purchase the land with no contingencies regarding buildable area.

Yeas: Bartman, Edison, Frakie, Mehney, Walton, Williamson and Deems - 7

Nays: -0-

96-107. Consideration of a request to approve the installation of a standard cobra streetlight on Lake Pointe Drive.

Bill Hubble, 2032 Lake Pointe Drive, was present and expressed his opposition to a streetlight in the proposed location.

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

- Charles Caldwell, 2037 Lake Pointe

Opposed to location

- William Hubble, 2032 Lake Pointe

Opposed to location

96-107-A. Frakie-Bartman. That the request to install a standard cobra streetlight on Lake Pointe Drive for the sum of \$100.00, be denied.

Yeas: Bartman, Edison, Frakie, Mehney, Walton, Williamson and Deems - 7

Nays: -0-

96-108. Consideration of a request to approve the renewal of liability and property insurance.

96-108-A. Bartman-Edison. That the request to renew liability and property insurance with Michigan Municipal Liability and Property Pool (MMLPP) in the amount of \$167,285.00, be approved.

Commissioner Frakie asked that staff investigate the premium and coverage labeled "General Fund" and "Inland Marine."

Yeas: Bartman, Edison, Mehney, Walton, Deems - 5

Nays: Frakie, Williamson - 2

96-109. Consideration of a request to approve a budget amendment for tree removal services performed during Fiscal Year 1994-95.

96-109-A. Williamson-Edison. That the request to approve a budget amendment in the amount of \$6,270.00 from the non-designated General Fund Balance to the General Fund Account Tree Removal, be approved.

Yeas: Bartman, Edison, Frakie, Mehney, Walton, Williamson and Deems - 7

Nays: -0-

96-110. The preliminary minutes of the Parks & Recreation Commission meeting held September 11, 1995, were received.

96-111. The preliminary minutes of the Library Commission meeting held September 25, 1995, were received.

96-112. The preliminary minutes of the Joint Facilities Committee meeting held September 7, 1995, were received.

96-113. The preliminary minutes of the Traffic Commission meeting held October 6, 1995, were received.

96-113-A. Edison-Williamson. That the motion of the Traffic Commission be amended to place removable tape as a dividing line on Bonnell instead of permanent paint on a temporary basis until traffic studies can be completed to determine if the line has the desired effect of slowing down traffic.

Yeas: Bartman, Edison, Frakie, Mehney, Walton, Williamson and Deems - 7

Nays: -0-

Commissioner Mehney asked that the results of this experiment be reported back to the City Commission for their review.

96-114. The Public Safety Report for the month of September, 1995 was received.

96-115. The City Services Department Report for the month of September, 1995 was received.

96-116. No other Public Comment was made.

96-117. Commissioner Williamson wished Northwestern University good luck in their upcoming games.

96-118. Frakie-Bartman. To add to the agenda consideration of a request to approve the transfer of funds from contingency to the library account for the purchase of materials.

A roll call vote was taken.

Yeas: Bartman, Edison, Frakie, Mehney, Walton, Williamson - 6

Nays: Deems - 1

96-118-A. Frakie-Bartman. Motion to transfer the amount of \$3,304.64 from the contingency account to the library account for the purchase of periodicals.

Commissioner Williamson asked about the possibility of loaning money to the Kent District Library until their millage becomes effective and they could pay it back.

Commissioner Frakie stated that these materials are used extensively by the residents of East Grand Rapids and should be continued. It is unfortunate that the situation between Kent County and the District Library has brought about the shortage of funds.

Mayor Deems stated that this problem should have been anticipated by the County and the District Library before the new library was created. The more the local municipalities pay for bills that the County will not, the more the County will expect from them. The County should be responsible for these bills until the library millage takes affect.

Commissioner Walton stated that he resented being put in the position of having to deny materials to the community because Kent County would not pay for them.

Commissioner Bartman felt that the County should be paying these bills, but that this money was put into contingency for this exact reason and the EGR Library should not be punished for something beyond their control.

Commissioner Williamson stated he felt he was being forced to "be the bad guy" who was against the library when this was not true. He felt the library should be supported by the County until such time that the millage took effect and that forcing the local municipalities to pay for these things at the last minute was not fair.

A roll call vote was taken.

Yeas: Bartman, Edison, Frakie, Mehney - 4

Nays: Walton, Williamson and Deems - 3

96-119. Commissioner Edison reported that the Recreation Commission had unanimously approved a recommendation supporting the EGR schools upcoming bond issue and urged the City Commissioners to consider doing the same. Commissioner Edison stated that information was available from the Recreation Department about the impact of the bond issue on the City's recreation programs and events.

Commissioner Bartman thanked the Recreation Department staff for their contributions to the recent "Kid's Night of the Stars" where a good time was had by all who attended.

Commissioner Mehney reported that the EGR Team Boosters were also supporting the bond issue even though they are not a part of the actual school system administration.

96-120. The regular meeting was adjourned subject to the call of the Mayor until November 6, 1995.

City Clerk

UNOFFICIAL
Reference Only

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COMMISSION
CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

Regular Meeting Held November 6, 1995

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Deems.

Present: Commissioners Bartman, Edison, Frakie, Mehney, Walton, Williamson and Mayor Deems

Absent: None

Also Present: City Manager Donovan; City Attorney Huff; City Services Director Baragar; Public Safety Director Gallagher; Streets & Utilities Sup't Keating; Engineering Supervisor Kadzban; Building Inspector Conley; Finance Director VanderWall; Clerk Brower

96-121. The minutes of the regular meeting held October 16, 1995 were received as submitted.

96-122. Mayor Deems advised of the following communications received at City Hall:

A) PSO Chuck Lark has been awarded the Mothers Against Drunk Drivers award by the Mothers Against Drunk Driving organization. This is the fifth year that Officer Lark has received this award.

96-123. Walton-Bartman. That disbursements to the County and Schools in the amount of \$49,266.47, payroll disbursements in the amount of \$116,852.12 and total remaining disbursements in the amount of \$194,840.06 as approved by the Finance Committee, be allowed and the Clerk be authorized to draw an order on the Treasurer for the respective amounts.

Yeas: Bartman, Edison, Frakie, Mehney, Walton, Williamson and Deems - 7

Nays: -0-

96-124. A zoning variance hearing was held regarding the request of Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Frank of 2929 Beechwood Drive to allow an air conditioning unit to be placed 5'-0" from the side yard line instead of the required 7'-0".

Jeff Frank, 2929 Beechwood Drive, was present and spoke in favor of the variance request.

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

- Elisabeth Beels, 2958 Beechwood	In Favor
- Craig & Linda Pell, 2863 Beechwood	In Favor
- Steve & Melissa Cooper, 2900 Hall Street	In Favor

Mayor Deems closed the public hearing.

96-124-A. Walton-Frakie. That the variance request of Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Frank of 2929 Beechwood Drive to allow an air conditioning unit to be placed 5'-0" from the side yard line instead of the required 7'-0", be approved.

Yeas: Bartman, Edison, Frakie, Mehney, Walton, Williamson and Deems - 7

Nays: -0-

96-125. A zoning variance hearing was held regarding the request of Mr. William Tyson of 2121 Burchard Street to allow an addition to the rear of the home to be 6'6" from the detached garage instead of the required 10'-0".

Bill Tyson, 2121 Burchard Street, was present and spoke in favor of the variance request.

Mayor Deems closed the public hearing.

96-125-A. Williamson-Edison. That the variance request of Mr. William Tyson of 2121 Burchard Street to allow an addition to the rear of the home to be 6'6" from the detached garage instead of the required 10'-0", be approved with a firewall to be installed in the garage.

Yeas: Bartman, Edison, Frakie, Mehney, Walton, Williamson and Deems - 7

Nays: -0-

96-126. Consideration of a request to approve the sale of the vacant lot at 3591 Reeds Lake Boulevard (Outlot C) in Grand Rapids Township.

96-126-A. Williamson-Bartman. That the property at 3591 Reeds Lake Boulevard in Grand Rapids Township be sold to the Woodcliff Park Association and Jack and Janet Bowie for \$3,100.00, and the proceeds designated to the Water/Sewer Fund.

Yeas: Bartman, Edison, Frakie, Mehney, Walton, Williamson and Deems - 7

Nays: -0-

96-127. Review of traffic report for Englewood Drive and approval of recommendation.

96-127-A. Edison-Bartman. That the request to approve the design purchase and installation of a new traffic signal at the intersection of Breton and Boston at a cost not-to-exceed \$30,000, and the related budget amendment of \$30,000 from the non-designated fund balance to the non-General Fund account traffic services capital, be approved.

Commissioner Walton reported that he received a phone call Mr. Ed Haurek of 2354 Englewood who supported the left-turn arrow at Boston and Breton. Commissioner Walton also asked that staff take counts after the signal is installed and return to the City Commission if further measures such as a "No Left Turn" sign on Breton at Englewood is warranted.

Yeas: Bartman, Edison, Frakie, Mehney, Walton, Williamson and Deems - 7

Nays: -0-

96-128. Consideration of a request to approve appointments to the Planning Commission.

96-128-A. Edison-Walton. That Patricia Power and Steve Kremers be appointed to the Planning Commission as recommended by Mayor Deems.

Yeas: Bartman, Edison, Frakie, Mehney, Walton, Williamson and Deems - 7

Nays: -0-

96-129. Final reading of an ordinance amendment to Section 5.24 of Chapter 50 of the City Code pertaining to special uses.

96-129-A. Williamson-Bartman. That the ordinance amendment to Section 5.24 regarding special uses be adopted as set forth in Exhibit "A" attached hereto.

Yeas: Bartman, Edison, Frakie, Mehney, Walton, Williamson and Deems - 7

Nays: -0-

96-130. Consideration of a request to approve an employee merit pay schedule for FY 1995-96.

96-130-A. Edison-Bartman. That the employee merit pay schedule for FY 1995-96 be set at three percent (3%) for an "exceeding standards" review and five percent (5%) for an "outstanding" review.

Yeas: Bartman, Edison, Frakie, Mehney, Walton, Williamson and Deems - 7

Nays: -0-

96-131. Consideration of a request to adopt an indemnification policy to be included in the Employee Personnel Manual.

96-131-A. Williamson-Bartman. That an indemnification policy for elected and appointed officials and employees, be adopted as follows:

"The City of East Grand Rapids agrees to defend and indemnify its elected and appointed officials and employees from any claims, liabilities, costs or judgments which these officials or employees are legally obligated to pay as a result of actions taken, or not taken, by them while in the course of their authority. However, this policy shall not apply to any claims, liabilities, costs or judgments arising out of unauthorized acts, criminal misconduct or willful misconduct with knowledge of wrongdoing, intentional tortious acts, or actions taken while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or controlled substances."

Yeas: Bartman, Edison, Frakie, Mehney, Walton, Williamson and Deems - 7

Nays: -0-

96-132. Consideration of a request to approve a bid for tree planting services for the upcoming program.

96-132-A. Edison-Frakie. That request to accept the bid from Tepper Nursery of Grand Rapids in the amount of \$11,980.00 for the tree planting program, be approved.

Yeas: Bartman, Edison, Frakie, Mehney, Walton, Williamson and Deems - 7

Nays: -0-

96-133. Consideration of a request to approve a bid for the purchase of PASS alarms for the Public Safety Department.

96-133-A. Williamson-Bartman. That request to purchase 32 PASS alarms for the Public Safety Department from West Shore Services of Allendale, Michigan, at a cost of \$108.00 per unit for a total of \$3,456.00, be approved.

Yeas: Bartman, Edison, Frakie, Mehney, Walton, Williamson and Deems - 7

Nays: -0-

96-134. Consideration of a request to approve a budget amendment for the Building Authority Fund.

96-134-A. Bartman-Frakie. That a budget amendment in the amount of \$30,000 in the Building Authority Fund for the principal portion of the annual bond installment, be approved.

Yeas: Bartman, Edison, Frakie, Mehney, Walton, Williamson and Deems - 7

Nays: -0-

96-135. The preliminary minutes of the Parks & Recreation Commission meeting held October 9, 1995, were received.

Commissioner Walton asked City Manager Donovan to investigate the middle school A/B sports program to determine if the different designations of skill are still necessary or if there is a better way to administer these sports programs.

96-136. Bruce Young, 2851 Reeds Lake Blvd., stated that he and other neighbors object to the pending litigation in which the City of East Grand Rapids is seeking to remove the park restrictions from the title of Lot 7 Griffiths Park Addition. He has filed a motion to block this portion of the lawsuit because he feels the City should leave this land in its natural state as a park.

Pat Mears, 2801 Reeds Lake Blvd., also stated that he feels this land should remain as a park and not be sold for development.

Joellen Clary, 337 Manhattan, stated that she felt the original intent of the donors was to have this land used as a park and that these wishes should be honored. She felt that more park space is wanted by the residents of the City.

Gerard Farrell, 316 Pioneer Club Road, asked that the property remain in its natural state because this was what the donors wanted. The property has remained as a park for all these years and should remain so.

Ed Haurek, 2354 Englewood, stated that he had come in to City Hall and requested a copy of the information on Englewood Drive traffic but was told he could not have a copy. He questioned the Commission on why this was. Mr. Haurek also asked that he be notified when the follow-up information on the effectiveness of the left-turn signal is available because he would like a copy of this information as well. Mayor Deems stated that all information is available to the public and was sorry that there was a miscommunication with staff in not allowing Mr. Haurek a copy.

Virginia Johnson, 2150 Englewood, asked that the City Commission consider placing more streetlights in East Grand Rapids as the streets here are very dark on rainy nights. Mayor Deems replied that the City takes requests from residents on individual streets and then studies that area for placing additional lighting.

96-137. Commissioner Walton commended Gail DeYoung and Gail Haebich of the EGR Library for their many years of dedication to the library system. They have done an incredible job and will be difficult to replace. He also stated that Mary Reed Kelly had been a great resource to the Planning Commission and was sorry she was leaving that commission. He also stated his regret that the EGR School system has decided not to have a representative on the Planning Commission as there are always issues that need input from both the city and the schools.

Commissioner Edison thanked the city staff for their professionalism and neutrality in the election administration. He congratulated Commissioners Mehney and Williamson on their imminent re-elections, and wished good luck to Malcolm Fenton and Tim Orlebeke on their quest for the 2nd Ward seat. He also thanked Commissioner Bartman and Geoff Hughes for their professional, upbeat campaign and wished them luck in the election. He stated that he felt the City Commission should sponsor a forum in future elections to allow a chance for candidates to express their positions to the citizens. He also asked that the new Mayor fill the vacancies left on commissions after the election, and look at merging the Joint Facilities and Joint Operations committees into one group. He also thanked the citizens of East Grand Rapids for their hospitality during the campaign.

Commissioner Bartman stated that she has put material concerning the Blodgett/Butterworth merger on reserve at the library if residents are interested in perusing it. She also thanked the citizens of East Grand Rapids for their friendliness and hospitality, and the staff for their professionalism.

96-138. To enter into executive session to discuss pending labor negotiations in accordance with Section 8(c) of the Open Meetings Act, and to add to the executive session a discussion of the pending litigation regarding Lot 7 of Griffiths Park Addition in accordance with Section 8(e) of the Open Meetings Act.

A roll call vote was taken.

Yeas: Bartman, Edison, Frakie, Mehney, Deems - 5

Nays: Walton, Williamson - 2

96-139. The regular meeting was adjourned subject to the call of the Mayor until November 20, 1995.

City Clerk

Attachments: A - Ordinance amendment regarding special uses

[All exhibits referred to above are available for review at the office of the City Clerk.]

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COMMISSION
CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

Regular Meeting Held November 20, 1995

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Deems.

Present: Commissioners Bartman, Edison, Frakie, Mehney, Walton, Williamson and Mayor Deems

Absent: None

Also Present: City Manager Donovan; City Attorney Huff; City Services Director Baragar; Public Safety Director Gallagher; Streets & Utilities Sup't Keating; Engineering Supervisor Kadzban; Building Inspector Conley; Finance Director VanderWall; Clerk Brower

96-140. The minutes of the regular meeting held November 6, 1995 were received as submitted.

96-141. Walton-Bartman. That disbursements to the County and Schools in the amount of \$29,230.39, payroll disbursements in the amount of \$287,707.61 and total remaining disbursements in the amount of \$568,626.85 as approved by the Finance Committee, be allowed and the Clerk be authorized to draw an order on the Treasurer for the respective amounts.

Yeas: Bartman, Edison, Frakie, Mehney, Walton, Williamson and Deems - 7

Nays: -0-

96-142. Charles Spencer was sworn in as Deputy Director of Public Safety for the City of East Grand Rapids. Mayor Deems and the City Commissioners welcomed Mr. Spencer and wished him good luck.

96-143. A zoning variance hearing was held regarding the request of Mr. and Mrs. Grant Cheney of 1056 Breton Road to allow the installation of a 3'-6" picket fence instead of the maximum allowed height of 3'-0", and to allow the fence to be placed approximately 4'-6" from the sidewalk instead of the required 15'-0".

Grant Cheney, 1056 Breton Road, was present and spoke in favor of the variance request.

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

- Ruth Emerick, 1051 Kenesaw

In Favor.

Mayor Deems closed the public hearing.

96-143-A. Walton-Mehney. That the variance request of Mr. and Mrs. Grant Cheney of 1056 Breton Road to allow the installation of a 3'-6" picket fence instead of the maximum allowed height of 3'-0", and to allow the fence to be placed approximately 4'-6" from the sidewalk instead of the required 15'-0", be approved.

Yeas: Mehney, Walton, Deems - 3

Nays: Bartman, Edison, Frakie, Williamson - 4

96-144. A zoning variance hearing was held regarding the request of Mr. Philip Goodspeed of 1404 Sherwood Avenue to allow the construction of a masonry chimney creating a side yard of approximately 6'-0" instead of the 7'-0" minimum required.

Mrs. Goodspeed, 1404 Sherwood Avenue, was present and spoke in favor of the variance request.

Mayor Deems closed the public hearing.

96-144-A. Bartman-Edison. That the variance request of Mr. Philip Goodspeed of 1404 Sherwood Avenue to allow the construction of a masonry chimney creating a side yard of approximately 6'-0" instead of the 7'-0" minimum required, be approved.

Yeas: Bartman, Edison, Frakie, Mehney, Walton, Williamson and Deems - 7

Nays: -0-

96-145. Discussion of unimproved section of Reeds Lake Boulevard between Darby Avenue and the eastern City limits.

96-145-A. Frakie-_____. Motion to table this discussion until the new City Commission is seated in December.

Motion failed due to lack of a second.

The following people were present and expressed their views concerning the vacating of Reeds Lake Boulevard and the subsequent closing of the road to vehicular traffic:

- Bob Kress, 435 Plymouth		Opposed
- Steve Minard, 2453 Albert		Opposed
- Sue Vermeulen, co-owner of 3011 Reeds Lakd Blvd	Opposed	
- David Stocking, 3040 Bonnell		In Favor
- Beatrice Kress, 435 Plymouth		Opposed
- Peter Wege, 2754 Pioneer Club		Opposed
- Chris Panopoulos, 3033 Mary		In Favor
- Jim Vermeulen, co-owner of 3011 Reeds Lakd Blvd	Opposed	
- Dave Verdier, 3043 Mary		In Favor
- Betsy Vandermeer, co-owner of 3011 Reeds Lakd Blvd	Opposed	
- Nick Nicola, 2721 Darby		In Favor
- Don Buske, 3055 Mary		In Favor
- Dave Vermeulen, co-owner of 3011 Reeds Lakd Blvd	Opposed	
- Joanne Nicola, 2721 Darby		In Favor
- Joel Peterson, 349 Briarwood		Opposed
- Patty Stokes, 2905 Bonnell		In Favor
- Doug Vandermeer, co-owner of 3011 Reeds Lakd Blvd	Opposed	
- Robert Stokes, 2905 Bonnell		In Favor
- Tom Gleason, 656 Manhattan		In Favor
- Sandy Shank, 141 Rexford		Questions

The following communications were received at City Hall regarding this matter:

Alfred Swanson, 2945 Bonnell		In Favor
Thom Peterson, W.Mich. Environmental Action Council	Options	
Edward Wells, 741 San Jose		Opposed

96-145-B. Williamson-Bartman. That the resolution directing the City Attorney to vacate a portion of Reeds Lake Boulevard while retaining an easement for a public pedestrian/bike path, be adopted as follows:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS the City Commission of the City of East Grand Rapids at its regular meeting on September 6, 1994 adopted a resolution deeming it advisable to vacate all of that portion of Reeds Lake Boulevard (whether platted or established by user) lying between Darby Avenue on the west and the city boundary on the east located in Woodcliff Park Subdivision, reserving a right-of-way for public utility purposes and pedestrian access and also providing easement rights to neighboring property owners; and

WHEREAS the City Commission has now determined that it is appropriate to proceed with said vacation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Commission of the City of East Grand Rapids that the city attorney is hereby directed to prepare and file a lawsuit in the Kent County circuit Court pursuant to the provisions of the Michigan Subdivision Control Act, MCL 560.221 et seq., for the purpose of vacating said right-of-way in accordance with the terms of this resolution and the previous resolution of September 6, 1994.

Commissioner Walton stated that he felt the City should continue to operate and maintain this roadway as it has in the past and should not vacate the road.

Commissioner Frakie stated that he understood both sides of this issue and the concerns of everyone concerning safety, vandalism, and maintenance, but that he felt the issue had not been sufficiently studied and the options explored. He felt more time was needed to study the costs of improving the road and the possibility of making the road a linear park.

Mayor Deems stated that he thought it made sense to vacate this road for several reasons. The road bed will soon need to be replaced and this would involve major expense. There is also the possibility of lot splits and having homes built along the lower road which would require paving of the road to allow access.

Commissioner Edison asked what the difference in the city's maintenance would be between the current program and after the road was vacated. City Manager Donovan stated that the pedestrian/bike easement would be maintained at a 10 foot width instead of the current varying widths, but that the maintenance would be basically the same.

Commissioner Walton questioned the location of the easement. City Attorney Huff stated that the platted location of the road would be vacated and that the current location of the road would become the easement.

Commissioner Bartman stated that she was in agreement with the vacation of this roadway now that the neighbors had had the opportunity to review the options and were in support of the vacation.

Vote on 96-145-B.

Yeas: Bartman, Mehney, Williamson, Deems - 4

Nays: Edison, Frakie, Walton - 3

96-146. Consideration of a request to authorize the sale of the city-owned property located on Reeds Lake Boulevard known as at Lot Seven (7) - Griffiths Lake Addition.

96-182. Consideration of a request to approve recommendation for employee benefit package.

96-182-A. Williamson-Walton. That the request to approve a health and flexible benefit plan with ASR Corporation as the third party administrator be approved, and to authorize Mayor Edison to sign all necessary documents.

Yeas: Bartman, Frakie, Mehney Orlebeke, Walton, Williamson, Edison - 7

Nays: -0-

96-183. The regular meeting was adjourned subject to the call of the Mayor until January 2, 1996.

City Clerk

UNOFFICIAL
Reference Only