

Commissioner Dills noted this addition would have little impact on the home next door because of the separation provided by the driveway.

Commissioner Miller agreed the lot felt larger due to the driveway and he did not have a problem with this request.

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

2015-03. Mayor Seibold opened the discussion regarding the proposal for a 2-mill dedicated Street & Sidewalk Millage to be used for maintenance and construction of roads and sidewalks in East Grand Rapids.

City Manager Donovan explained the recent action by the Michigan Legislature to place a sales tax increase on the May 2015 ballot to raise funds for road repair and maintenance. He noted the legislation divided the additional revenue between several other entities, including local municipalities, as well as requiring the payment of state transportation debt during the first two years. Mr. Donovan stated that early analysis shows East Grand Rapids would likely receive approximately \$600,000 per year beginning in the third year of the additional sales tax and smaller amounts during the first two years.

Mr. Donovan further explained the conditions of East Grand Rapids roads would continue to decline if the state proposal fails and no other additional funding is received. The Task Force that reviewed the situation concluded an additional two mills would improve road conditions locally. Since the additional sales tax would provide approximately one mill, the City Attorney's office is crafting ballot language that would allow voters to approve one mill if the state proposal passes, and two mills if the state proposal does not pass.

Mayor Seibold asked the City Commission to discuss whether we should move forward with a question on the May 2015 ballot, and if so, which ballot language of the two options would be better for this purpose. Mr. Donovan stated the deadline for deciding on the language was in early February.

Mayor Seibold opened the meeting for public comment:

- John Schaal, 505 Gladstone

Favored waiting for the outcome of the state election before asking EGR voters to pay additional taxes. Suggested restructuring our budget to allow more road repairs.

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

- Cherie Klaassen, 805 Rosewood

Suggested more effort to have people use sidewalks instead of walking and biking in the street to promote better safety.

- Chad Edwards, 128 El Centro

Supported the proposed millage.

- Nicholas Krupansky, 2450 Maplewood

Favored waiting for the outcome of the sales tax proposal.

-Hugh Hufnagel, 2546 Oakwood

Questioned the impact of the statewide proposal on the EGR millage language.

- Jeff Dean, 668 Manhattan

Asked for background on the need, current funding and how new funds would be spent.

City Manager Donovan reported the City already transfers \$1 million each year from the general fund to the road funds since the money currently received from the state is not adequate to rebuild or resurface roads. While the City plans to continue transferring \$1 million each year, there will have to be additional revenue or significant budget cuts of existing programs or personnel to allow more money to be spent on roads. Mr. Donovan noted the ballot language proposes a 10-year term on the dedicated millage.

Mayor Seibold agreed the state proposal complicates the issue, but felt the City needed to move forward. She stated it will cost more in the long run if we wait to get started on this project.

Commissioner Skaggs stated this crisis had been caused by declining revenue and climbing costs, and since the state legislation did not provide guaranteed funding for roads, he favored moving forward with a local solution. He agreed tying the local ballot language to the outcome of the state proposal made the most sense.

Commissioner Graham questioned how much the city would receive in the first two years if the state sales tax increase is approved. City Manager Donovan reported the current analysis requires payment of \$500 million the first year and \$400 million the second year, so the other entities sharing the remaining revenue will receive less money in the first and second years, and an estimated \$600,000 in the third year and beyond. Commissioner Graham agreed that it appeared the city would have to wait at least into the third year before the full impact would be realized. Mr. Graham spoke in favor of moving forward with a two mill increase in the local proposal and using state funding, if and when it is received, as additional revenue to do even more road and sidewalk work.

Commissioner Miller addressed the question of restructuring the budget by stating the City Commission reviews the budget very carefully each year. He stated that conservative budgeting had allowed the city to avoid having to ask for additional funding up until this point. He encouraged residents to review the budgetary information on the city's website showing how tax dollars were spent and offered to answer any questions people may have on the budget.

Commissioner Miller also spoke in favor of tying the local proposal to the outcome of the state proposal and not pursuing a two-mill increase if the state proposal is approved.

Commissioner Johnson agreed. She felt the most prudent course of action was to proceed with a local proposal that was tied to the outcome of the state sales tax question.

Commissioner Dills also spoke in favor of moving forward in May with ballot wording in one local question rather than two.

Mayor Seibold stated that while higher taxes were never desirable, this was an important issue with implications for the future of our city. She agreed that one local question in May was her preference.

Commissioner Skaggs noted that May elections work well for voters to educate themselves on local issues without the confusion of state and local candidates and long ballots. He also favored the May election because the additional taxes could be collected in July and projects started right away to avoid the steep drop in road conditions projected to happen within the next few years without more funding.

Commissioner Miller agreed that timing was crucial because major repairs become necessary if conditions deteriorate too far, meaning it will cost more money in the long run if efforts are not made to stabilize conditions soon.

City Manager Donovan summarized that everyone agreed that May 2015 was the preferred time to seek a millage and that commissioners favored one local ballot question as opposed to splitting it into two questions.

Mayor Seibold announced that staff would continue working on the analysis of the state proposal and the ballot language and would discuss this again at the January 19th meeting.

2015-04. Johnson-Skaggs. Motion to approve the consent agenda as follows:

- 2015-04-A. To approve the minutes of the regular meeting held December 15, 2014.
- 2015-04-B. To approve payroll disbursements of \$208,241.09; county and school disbursements of \$228,090.53, and total remaining disbursements of \$558,939.71.
- 2015-04-C. Authorization for staff to seek bids for the Rees Lake Blvd Culvert project.
- 2015-04-D. The purchase of tires for the front end loader in the amount of \$9,194.32 from Meekhof Tire.

2015-05. Yeas: Dills, Duncan, Graham, Johnson, Miller, Skaggs and Seibold – 7
Nays: -0-

2015-06. No other public comment was received.

The meeting adjourned at 6:49 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until January 19, 2015.

Karen K. Brower, City Clerk

UNOFFICIAL
Reference Only

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COMMISSION
CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

Regular Meeting Held January 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, Graham, Johnson, Miller, Skaggs and Mayor Seibold

Absent: Commissioner Duncan

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

2015-07. No commissioner reports were received.

2015-08. A zoning variance hearing was held regarding the request of Cree Unit Properties, owner of 2604 Albert to allow the construction of a one-stall garage creating an overall lot coverage of buildings and pavement of 46.3% instead of the maximum allowable 40%.

Zoning Administrator Faasse explained the City Commission had granted variances for a new garage with a reduced side yard setback and reduced separation from the home on December 1, 2015. At that time the applicant felt they would not need a variance for lot coverage, but have since applied for a lot coverage variance to avoid replacing concrete with pervious pavers.

Commissioner Dills questioned whether the applicants could meet the lot coverage requirement if they replaced portions of the driveway with pavers. Mr. Faasse felt they would have to replace most of the driveway to gain enough of a reduction to meet the ordinance requirement.

Commissioner Miller questioned the lot coverage for the R-3 zoning district. Mr. Faasse stated a conforming 50' lot in the R-3 district was permitted up to 45% for buildings and pavement. Mr. Miller explained that while this lot was in the R-2 district, it was more like an R-3 lot and would be conforming in the R-3 district with the use of permeable pavers.

Taylor Stonehouse with Cree Unit Properties reported the original plan called for replacing concrete with pervious pavers if necessary; however, since the concrete is in good condition they have decided to seek a variance to allow the concrete to remain. He stated most homes in the surrounding area have 1- or 2-stall detached garages and likely exceed the 40% lot coverage maximum because of the size of the lots.

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

- Robert Sheper, 2550 Albert In Favor.

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

2015-08-A. Dills-Miller. That the request of Cree Unit Properties, owner of 2604 Albert to allow the construction of a one-stall garage creating an overall lot coverage of buildings and pavement of 46.3% instead of the maximum allowable 40% be approved.

Commissioner Miller stated he would support the request if pavers were used to reduce the lot coverage to 44.6%. He noted many of the lots in the area were 50' nonconforming lots in the R-2 zone that would fit in the R-3 zone perfectly, meaning this project would not require a variance request if it was in the R-3 zone and used the pervious pavers for 170 square feet of the driveway and patio. He suggested amending the motion to require 170 square feet of pervious pavers.

Mayor Seibold reported she wanted to set up a subcommittee to look at several zoning ordinances, including lot coverage requirements. In the meantime, the commission could grant variances for these types of projects or could table them until possible revisions could be adopted. She felt this section of ordinance was one that needed to be reviewed for possible revisions to allow more flexibility.

Commissioner Dills noted that variances had already been granted to construct the garage and was not willing to approve a further variance based on the information given at the original hearing.

Commissioner Skaggs agreed that further review of the specifics of the lot coverage requirements was necessary. In the meantime, he favored following the rules currently in place because there were ways the applicant could meet the ordinance requirements.

Commissioner Graham stated he understood the challenges of working on these smaller lots and agreed pavers were expensive and that a garage was desirable. He stated he would support the request.

Commissioner Johnson was also concerned about these smaller lots, but agreed adding the pervious pavers would make this request more palatable to her.

2015-08-B. Johnson-Miller. That the motion be amended to require the use of 170 square feet of pervious pavers in the driveway and apron area to reduce the lot coverage to 44.6%.

Yeas: Dills, Graham, Johnson, Miller and Seibold – 5
Nays: Skaggs – 1

Vote on 2015-08-B, as amended:

Yeas: Johnson, Miller and Seibold – 3
Nays: Dills, Graham, Skaggs – 3

City Attorney Huff announced this variance request would need to be held until the next meeting when Commissioner Duncan was present to cast the tie breaking vote.

2015-09. A zoning hearing was held on the request of Eric Rongey, owner of 2113 Wealthy, to interpret the definitions of “lot coverage” and “permeable surface” in Sections 5.12 and 5.14 to allow a vegetative roof system to count as half the area when calculating “lot coverage, pavement and buildings.”

Zoning Administrator Faasse reviewed the revised plan for a new home on this lot. He stated that in addition to the permeable pavers, the applicant had reduced the size of the front porch, narrowed the driveway, and proposed a smaller patio and detached garage than originally planned. Because the lot coverage by buildings and pavement was still projected at 44.7%, the applicant is requesting the ordinance be interpreted to allow use of a vegetative roof on the garage to further reduce the lot coverage calculations so that a variance is no longer needed. As an alternative, the applicant requests that the City Commission consider granting a variance to allow lot coverage of 44.7% by buildings and pavement.

Mr. Faasse noted his concern about the ramifications on future development projects if vegetative roofs are allowed as a means to reduce lot coverage calculations.

Joel Peterson of J. Peterson Homes asked for permission to use a live roof as a pervious surface for the purpose of reducing lot coverage calculations. He felt the style of garage would fit into the neighborhood. He noted that the use of a detached garage in the back yard created the need for a longer driveway that added to the lot coverage percentage. He felt placing an attached garage with the garage door out in front of the home and a shorter driveway would not match the other homes in this neighborhood.

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

- Andrew Howard, 606 Greenwood

Liked the green roof as a modern solution to this type of issue, but was concerned about future maintenance of the green roof.

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

2015-10-A. Miller-Johnson. That the request of Eric Rongey, owner of 2113 Wealthy, to allow the construction of a new home and two-stall garage with a lot coverage by buildings and pavement of 44.7% instead of the allowable 40% be approved with the condition that pervious surfaces be used for the driveway, walk and patio areas, and that a green roof system approved by the City Engineer must be installed and maintained on the garage.

Commissioner Miller again noted the discrepancies and difficulties in the city's ordinances relating to small lots. He favored a formal review of the ordinance provisions.

Commissioner Johnson liked the addition of the green roof, and spoke in favor of granting the variances based on the applicant's other efforts to reduce lot coverage.

Commissioner Skaggs agreed this was a good solution and an improvement on the prior request. He thanked the property owner for their significant efforts to mitigate the lot coverage percentage.

Commissioner Dills stated he would be voting against the variance request because it still exceeds the ordinance provisions. He felt tearing down the home allowed the applicant a clean slate with every opportunity to conform to current regulations.

Yeas: Johnson, Miller, Skaggs and Seibold – 4
Nays: Dills, Graham – 2

2015-11. Mayor Seibold opened the discussion regarding the proposal for a 2-mill dedicated Street & Sidewalk Millage to be used for maintenance and construction of roads and sidewalks in East Grand Rapids.

Finance Director Mushong and Assistant City Manager LaFave gave an overview of city revenues and road expenditures and explained that without additional revenue, city streets are projected to have a rating of 2.3 out of 10 on the PASER rating scale by 2025. Ms. Mushong explained the Statewide sales tax increase proposal is estimated to provide only about .77 mill to East Grand Rapids, which will not be enough to keep the street and sidewalk conditions from declining. She further explained the city's ballot language would tie to the state proposal and allow the city to collect 2.0 mills if the state proposal does not pass, or reduce the amount to 1.23 mills if the state proposal is approved.

Mayor Seibold opened the meeting for public comment:

- Jeff Olsen, 1112 Eastwood

Questioned how conditions got so bad. City Manager Donovan explained gas tax revenues from the state have not increased in several years while the costs of labor and materials have increased to the point where the city is not able to reconstruct local roads at an adequate level to prevent deterioration.

- Charlie Denton, 1134 Conlon

No convinced of the need for a local millage. Felt city has not been a good steward of local taxes. Opposed to passing special millage to cover functions always provided by general city taxes.

- Michael Fee, 950 Cambridge

Felt 10 years was too long for residents to pay additional taxes. Preferred the city request a clearer millage proposal after waiting to see what happens with the sales tax revenue.

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

- Nathaniel Kaleefey, 324 Pioneer Club

Opposed to any new taxes; preferred reducing services.

- Timothy Allard, 2931 Oakwood Supportive if all operations have been reviewed for possible savings and reductions. Suggested attempting an even higher goal for road conditions than 6.0.
- Nancy Minard, 2453 Albert Very supportive of local millage.
- Reynolds Brander, 2648 Lake Drive Questioned whether state proposal would provide enough funding to improve local streets.
- Joshua Greenberg, 2770 Woodcliff Circle Felt road funding should be a state function. Not in favor of higher local taxes.
- Ryan Minkus, 2114 Welathy Supportive of intent to improve conditions; made suggestions for city information to residents.
- Chris Eckert, 2827 Reeds Lake Blvd Supportive based on the proposed language, time limit and commitment on how funds are to be spent.
- Marilyn & Bill Lundquist, 2222 Wilshire Supported local millage to supplement state funding.

2015-12. Request to adopt a resolution setting ballot language for a dedicated street and sidewalk millage proposal on May 5, 2015.

2015-12-A. Johnson-Dills. That a resolution setting ballot language for a dedicated street and sidewalk millage proposal on May 5, 2015 be adopted as set forth in Exhibit "A" attached hereto with ballot language as follows:

**CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS
DEDICATED MILLAGE
FOR MAINTENANCE AND CONSTRUCTION
OF STREETS AND SIDEWALKS**

The City of East Grand Rapids Charter authorizes the City to levy up to 20 mills for general municipal purposes. Due to required millage rollbacks the City currently levies 13.3119 mills. Shall a partial "Headlee Override" be adopted so the current limitation on the amount of City taxes that may be levied against all taxable property in the City of East Grand Rapids be increased by up to 2.0 mills (\$2.00 per \$1,000 of taxable value of all real and personal property in the City) for a period of not to exceed ten (10) years beginning July 1, 2015, to be used exclusively for the improvement, repair, maintenance and construction of public roads, streets, sidewalks, storm drains and right-of-ways within the City of East Grand Rapids; provided however, that if the State of Michigan tax proposal (Proposal #1 on this ballot) passes, the City will be authorized to levy only 1.23 mill (\$1.23 per \$1,000 of taxable value of all real and personal property in the City) for said purpose and duration?

If approved and levied in its entirety, the 2.0 mill increase would raise the sum of approximately \$1,170,000.00 in 2015.

Commissioner Johnson spoke in favor of the ballot language, stating that costs have gone up while revenues have remained flat or decreased and are no longer enough to maintain and improve side streets.

Commissioner Dills questioned whether the Task Force had discussed a shorter millage term than 10-years. He stated he was comfortable with the 1.23-mill levy amount, but was not opposed to discussing a shorter term. City Manager Donovan explained it would take at least five years for the city to begin improving overall conditions and stated five years may not be long enough to begin showing results.

Mayor Seibold reported that if the state proposal passes, the city would not receive the full projected yearly amount until the third year of the sales tax increase. She felt this was further reason to go with a 10-year millage term in order to allow the city time to utilize the local and state funding to make progress on local streets and sidewalk efforts. She also noted the city commission would be reviewing the road funding revenues

and expenses annually during the budget cycle and could adjust the improvement plans and millage rate if state funding or the situation locally changes.

Commissioner Skaggs stated local governments across Michigan have been waiting for several years for the state to address the road funding crisis. He felt the city needed to act to begin improving conditions now as it was unlikely the State Legislature would be doing any more to address this issue for several years. Commissioner Skaggs reported he knew of several recent millage requests with 7, 8 and 10 year terms.

Commissioner Graham stated this issue was incredibly important to our city and favored a local solution rather than depending on the state. He felt the streets and sidewalks greatly impacted the quality of life of our citizens and reflected on the city as a whole.

Commissioner Skaggs thanked the Task Force members for their research and recommendation. He felt a local millage would improve streets, sidewalks, trails and stormwater systems and agreed it was the appropriate time to let the voters decide this issue. He reiterated that 78% of local roads would be in poor condition by 2018 if maintenance and reconstruction efforts are not increased. He noted the city's general operating millage had actually decreased in the last 20 years and revenue sharing from the state was no longer guaranteed. He supported the proposed rate of 1.23 mills tied to the passing of the Statewide proposal.

Mayor Seibold stated that local streets have deteriorated with the shrinking revenues over the last several years. She felt putting off this local millage would not be a good use of city resources as it would cost more to fix streets and sidewalks if the city waits to get started on an improvement program.

Yeas: Dills, Graham, Johnson, Miller, Skaggs and Seibold – 6
Nays: -0-

2015-13. Miller-Skaggs. Motion to approve the consent agenda as follows:

- 2015-13-A. To approve the minutes of the regular meeting held January 5, 2015.
- 2015-13-B. To approve payroll disbursements of \$254,348.87; county and school disbursements of \$815,241.60, and total remaining disbursements of \$76,843.84.
- 2015-13-C. Authorization for staff to seek bids for a new telephone system for city operations.
- 2015-13-D. A contract with Arrowaste for waste hauling services for all city properties.
- 2015-13-E. Amendments to the contracts with Metro PCS and T-Mobile for cell tower antennas at the city's water tower site as set forth in Exhibits "B" and "C" attached hereto.
- 2015-13-F. A report on water and sewer rate changes by the City of Grand Rapids.

Yeas: Dills, Graham, Johnson, Miller, Skaggs and Seibold – 6
Nays: -0-

2015-14. No other public comment was received.

The meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until February 2, 2015.

Karen K. Brower, City Clerk

Attachments: A – Resolution approving ballot language for an election on May 5, 2015

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 February 2, 2015

Commission President Graham 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 and Skaggs

Absent: Mayor Seibold

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

2015-15. Commissioner Dills noted the recent news stories about the statewide sales tax proposal for the May ballot and felt the City Commission took the right approach by offering residents the choice to approve a local street millage without completely relying on the State proposal.

Commissioner Miller thanked the Public Works crews for their work to clear streets and sidewalks following the weekend snowstorm, and thanked Assistant City Manager LaFave for keeping everyone updated on the progress of cleanup efforts.

Commissioner Johnson thanked Mr. LaFave for the graphic depicting how residents can clear driveways to minimize the snow piles left by the plows. Commissioner Johnson also thanked City Engineer Slonecki for his work with the Michigan Department of Transportation on the Reeds Lake Trail bridge project funding.

President Graham noted the new fencing along the Reeds Lake Trail near Hodenpyl Rock had been installed and looks very nice.

2015-16. Continuation of zoning variance request of Cree Unit Properties, owner of 2604 Albert to allow the construction of a one-stall garage creating an overall lot coverage of buildings and pavement of 46.3% instead of the maximum allowable 40%.

City Attorney Huff explained that Commissioner Duncan needed to cast her vote on this issue to break the tie from the last meeting.

Commissioner Duncan stated she had reviewed the application materials and listened to the recording of the previous meeting. She then cast her vote against of approving the variance request.

Final vote on 2015-08-A, as amended:

2015-08-A. Dills-Miller. That the request of Cree Unit Properties, owner of 2604 Albert to allow the construction of a one-stall garage creating an overall lot coverage of buildings and pavement of 46.3% instead of the maximum allowable 40% be approved with the condition that 170 square feet of pervious pavers be used in the driveway and apron area to reduce the lot coverage to 44.6%.

Yeas: Johnson, Miller and Seibold – 3

Nays: Dills, Duncan, Graham, Skaggs – 4

2015-17. Request to adopt a resolution accepting a Michigan Department of Transportation grant for the Reeds Lake Trail Boardwalk project.

Assistant City Manager LaFave reported staff had worked with the Department of Transportation staff over the last several months to provide more information on the project and had secured additional funding for the Reeds Lake Trail Boulevard Bridge project.

2015-17-A. Dills-Johnson. That a resolution accepting Michigan Department of Transportation funds and committing to matching funds and future maintenance of trail be adopted as set forth in Exhibit "A" attached hereto.

City Manager Donovan thanked the East Grand Rapids Community Foundation for their continued efforts to raise the matching funds needed for this project.

Yeas: Dills, Duncan, Graham, Johnson, Miller and Skaggs – 6
Nays: -0-

2015-18. Discussion of Spring Break meeting.

2015-18-A. Miller-Johnson. That the meeting scheduled for April 6, 2015 be moved to Monday, March 30, 2015 at 6:00 pm.

Yeas: Dills, Duncan, Graham, Johnson, Miller and Skaggs – 6
Nays: -0-

2015-19. Duncan-Johnson. Motion to approve the consent agenda as follows:

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

2015-19-B. To approve payroll disbursements of \$204,187.90; county and school disbursements of \$83,377.50, and total remaining disbursements of \$480,576.21.

2015-19-C. Quarterly financial report for the period ending December 31, 2014.

2015-19-D. The purchase of two v-plows from B&B Truck Equipment in the amount of \$10,500.00.

2015-19-E. Six-month appointments to advisory boards as follows: John Arendshorst of 2056 Wilshire to the Planning Commission, Betsy Brown of 1410 Sherwood to the Library Commission, and Jeff Stoltz of 1118 Orchard to the Construction Board of Appeals.

Yeas: Dills, Duncan, Graham, Johnson, Miller and Skaggs – 6
Nays: -0-

2015-20. Taylor Stonehouse of Cree Unit Properties asked if there was a lot coverage percentage that the city commission would be willing to accept for a variance request if his company could revise their plans further. City Manager Donovan stated that a subcommittee was being formed to research this issue and that until that was finished, it was not possible to offer direction on a specific percentage.

The meeting adjourned at 6:13 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until February 16, 2015.

Karen K. Brower, City Clerk

Attachments: A – Resolution accepting MDOT funding for the Reeds Lake Trail Boulevard Bridge project.

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 February 16, 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 Duncan, Graham, Johnson, Miller, Skaggs and Mayor Seibold

Absent: Commissioner Dills

Also Present: City Manager Donovan; City Attorney Huff; Assistant City Manager LaFave; Finance Director Mushong; Parks & Recreation Director Bunn; City Clerk Brower

2015-21. Commissioner Miller announced he would be seeking re-election in November.

Commissioner Johnson reported hearing many compliments from neighbors who attended the Daddy-Daughter Dance on February 7th and commended the Parks & Recreation Department for this great evening.

Mayor Seibold noted that the Polar Plunge was cancelled on February 14th due to the bitterly cold weather and thanked the officials for making that call to protect those involved in the event. Mayor Seibold announced that she would be seeking a second term as Mayor in the November election.

2015-22. Final Reading of an ordinance amendment to amend Sections 5.12, 5.28, 5.62 and 5.63 of Chapter 50 of Title V of the City Code regarding double frontage lots.

City Manager Donovan reported the ordinance amendment had been introduced in August 2014 and then sent to the Planning Commission for review and recommendation.

Planning Commission Chairperson John Barbour reviewed the research and discussion at the Planning Commission meetings and explained the efforts to prevent the situation that occurred in the Lakeside and Orchard neighborhood from being repeated. He stated the Planning Commission had considered restrictions on landscaping, fencing, pools, porches and the mass of the building across two lots before deciding to restrict building to only one of the two lots in a through lot situation. Mr. Barbour summarized the Planning Commission's belief the new ordinance would not be viewed as a taking and did not violate equal protection rules based on the *Bevin v. Brandon Township* case. He noted the new ordinance would not create nonconformity for any existing homes or properties, but would prevent this situation from happening in the future unless specifically allowed by the City Commission with a variance.

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

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| - Jim Benedict, 842 Orchard | Supported the new ordinance. Stated his property value has gone down and the integrity of the area has changed. |
| - Ann Berman, 909 Lakeside | Urged approval. Felt her property had been devalued because of driveway restrictions due to the new home. |
| - Bruce Smith, 915 Orchard | Integrity of the neighborhood and community have changed. Supported new ordinance. |

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

- 2015-22-A. Miller-Skaggs. That an ordinance amendment to amend Sections 5.12, 5.28, 5.62 and 5.63 of Chapter 50 of Title V of the City Code regarding double frontage lots be adopted as set forth in Exhibit "A" attached hereto.

Commissioner Miller expressed concern about the legal ramifications of this ordinance, but felt it was better to attempt to prevent this situation from happening again in the future.

Commissioner Skaggs supported the ordinance as he felt it struck a good balance between property rights and the interests of the neighborhood. He noted the property owners in this area had purchased their homes with the understanding of how the plat was laid out and that this should be respected.

Mayor Seibold explained the new ordinance would restrict new home construction to one of the two building envelopes on the two sites, even if the sites are in combined ownership. She noted that front, rear and side yard setbacks would still remain in effect for the site chosen for a new home.

Commissioner Johnson questioned whether property owners would be required to combine the lots if they owned both. City Attorney Huff stated this situation was different than prior efforts to combine properties with continuous street frontage to create conforming lots within the zoning district. He noted that owning two lots back to back would not make the two lots more conforming for zoning purposes, so combining them would not be required. Under the proposed ordinance, property owners would have the option of leaving them as separate lots or could combine them and use only one of the sites to build on. No structures or amenities would be allowed on the second half of the site.

Commissioner Duncan thanked the Planning Commission for their work. She felt the proposed ordinance was a reasonable way to restrict development on through lots.

Mayor Seibold stated that when the City Commission considers a request to divide properties, they look at the impact on surrounding neighbors. She felt the same consideration should be given when there is a situation where properties are being combined. Mayor Seibold appreciated the fact the ordinance prevented situations from happening in the future while not making any properties nonconforming now. She felt this proposal was a way to protect the integrity of the neighborhoods and the value of properties.

Commissioner Johnson stated she was comfortable adopting the ordinance as long as people were allowed to keep the two lots separate if they chose to do so.

Commissioner Graham stated he could support the ordinance proposal given the drawings in the packet showing that only one half of the property could be used for a new home.

Yeas: Duncan, Graham, Johnson, Miller, Skaggs and Seibold – 6
Nays: -0-

- 2015-23. Request to adopt a resolution approving an application for Community Development Block Grant funds.

Assistant City Manager LaFave reported the City was applying for federal block grant funds to construct a handicap-accessible sidewalk from the Reeds Lake Trail to the Remington Field restrooms.

Mayor Seibold opened a public hearing. No public comment was received. Mayor Seibold closed the public hearing.

- 2015-23-A. Graham-Johnson. That a resolution approving the application for Community Development Block Grant funds to construct an ADA-compliant sidewalk, crosswalk and curb ramps from the Remington restroom building to the Reeds Lake Trail bridge be adopted as set forth in Exhibit "B" attached hereto.

Yeas: Duncan, Graham, Johnson, Miller, Skaggs and Seibold – 6
Nays: -0-

2015-24. Miller-Johnson. Motion to approve the consent agenda as follows:

- 2015-24-A. To approve the minutes of the regular meeting held February 2, 2015.
- 2015-24-B. To approve payroll disbursements of \$202,240.44; county and school disbursements of \$-0-, and total remaining disbursements of \$66,541.82.
- 2015-24-C. The placement of a new city entrance sign from Alberda Signs in the amount of \$1,200 to be placed on Hall Street near Gladstone.
- 2015-24-D. Preliminary minutes of the Library Commission meeting held September 22, 2014.
- 2015-24-E. Preliminary minutes of the Parks & Recreation Commission meeting held January 12, 2015.
- 2015-24-F. Preliminary minutes of the Library Commission meeting held January 26, 2015.

Yeas: Duncan, Graham, Johnson, Miller, Skaggs and Seibold – 6
Nays: -0-

2015-25. No other public comment was received.

The meeting adjourned at 6:51 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until March 2, 2015.

Karen K. Brower, City Clerk

Attachments: A – Ordinance amendment to Chapter 50 regarding residential through lots
A – Resolution approving an application for Community Development Block Grant funds.

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 March 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 Manager Donovan; City Attorney Huff; Assistant City Manager LaFave; Finance Director Mushong; Parks & Recreation Director Bunn; Public Safety Director Herald; City Engineer Slonecki; Recording Secretary Ritzke

2015-26. Commissioner Duncan thanked the Public Works Department for keeping the streets and sidewalks clear during the past several weeks.

Commissioner Dills thanked the Grand Valley Metro Council for organizing the Urban Metro Mayors and Managers dinner on February 26, and complimented Mayor Seibold on her role as Mistress of Ceremonies for the evening.

2015-27. Introduction of an ordinance amendment to Chapter 10 of Title I of the City Code pertaining to nondiscrimination.

City Attorney Huff explained the ordinance amendment would add the categories of sexual orientation or gender identity to the list of prohibited discrimination.

The following people were present to express their opinions on this issue:

- Mira Krishman, 2626 Brooklyn (GR) Supported new ordinance as a competitive advantage for West Michigan.
- Susan Butler, 1440 Rosalind Proud to live in a community that offers this protection to those not previously included in the ordinance.

2015-27-A. Miller-Johnson. That an ordinance amendment to Chapter 10 of Title I of the City Code pertaining to nondiscrimination be introduced as set forth in Exhibit "A" attached hereto.

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

2015-28. Request to award a contract for the Reeds Lake Blvd culvert project.

City Engineer Slonecki explained the project to replace the culvert, roadway and the pedestrian bridge over the channel between Reeds Lake and Fisk Lake. He noted that Reeds Lake Blvd would be completely closed on either side of this project from June 6 to September 11.

2015-28-A. Graham-Miller. That a contract be awarded to J.E. Kloote Contracting of Ferrysburg for the replacement of the culvert on Reeds Lake Blvd in the amount of \$667,661.00 with contingencies of \$66,766.00 for a total contract of \$734,427.00, and approval of a budget amendment of \$94,227.00 from the Major Streets Fund ending balance.

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

2015-29. Johnson-Duncan. Motion to approve the consent agenda as follows:

2015-29-A. To approve the minutes of the regular meeting held February 16, 2015.

2015-29-B. To approve payroll disbursements of \$205,352.49; county and school disbursements of \$274,532.76, and total remaining disbursements of \$364,812.40.

2015-29-C. A two-year extension of the contract with Vredeveld Haefner LLC to conduct the annual audit in the amount of \$14,300.00 for each year.

2015-29-D. A three-year lawn maintenance contract with Thornapple Inc. for years 2015 through 2018 in the total amount of \$164,673.00.

2015-29-E. Authorization to proceed with final design and construction bids for the 2015 sanitary sewer lining program.

2015-29-F. The emergency replacement of the boiler at the Public Safety Building in the amount of \$11,684.00 from Hurst Mechanical.

2015-29-G. The list of meeting dates for the City Commission and advisory boards for FY 2015-16.

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

Nays: -0-

2015-30. Emily Milanowski and Sam Ward from the High School's "We The People" team invited everyone to attend their fundraising event on March 28. City Commissioners wished the team the best of luck in their event and upcoming competitions.

The meeting adjourned at 6:14 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until March 16, 2015.

Diane Ritzke, Recording Secretary

Karen K. Brower, City Clerk

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COMMISSION
CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

Regular Meeting Held March 16, 2015

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, Graham, Johnson, Miller, Skaggs and Mayor Seibold

Absent: None

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

2015-31. Shawn Gotch, 2053 Wilshire, distributed copies of a recent court decision and suggested the City of East Grand Rapids consider language to add religious exemptions for closely held businesses to a future agenda.

2015-32. Commissioner Miller thanked everyone for attending the meeting to make their opinions known.

Commissioner Skaggs announced City Assessor Vicki Mesik would be retiring in July and thanked her for her years of service to the City and her commitment to fair taxation policies.

Commissioner Graham also thanked City Assessor Mesik for her service and stated she will be missed.

2015-33. A zoning variance hearing was held regarding the request of George Lundskow of 1145 Eastwood to allow the construction of an addition to the rear of the home with a separation distance from the detached garage of 6.7' instead of the required 10.0', and creating lot coverage by pavement and buildings of 51% instead of the allowable 40%.

Zoning Administrator Faasse explained the request for an addition to the rear of the home that would replace an existing patio. He further explained this property was a conforming lot until the zoning ordinance change of November 2013. Mr. Faasse reported the Zoning Ordinance Subcommittee that had been reviewing the lot coverage provisions would be recommending an ordinance amendment to measure lot coverage by lot size rather than zoning district. Under the proposed change, lot coverage by buildings and pavement of 55% would be allowed for the property at 1145 Eastwood because of its size.

George Lundskow, 1145 Eastwood, explain the request for the addition that would provide a mother-in-law suite at their home.

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

2015-33-A. Dills-Miller. That the request of George Lundskow of 1145 Eastwood to allow the construction of an addition to the rear of the home with a separation distance from the detached garage of 6.7' instead of the required 10.0', and creating lot coverage by pavement and buildings of 51% instead of the allowable 40% be approved.

Commissioner Dills supported approving the variance request due to pending changes in the regulations and the fact that the addition was replacing existing pavement and not greenspace.

Commissioner Miller noted this variance would not be needed if this property were in the R-3 zone and was actually conforming prior to the new ordinance.

Commissioner Skaggs expressed reluctance to grant variances for current ordinance provisions, regardless of any changes that might be made in the future as not all proposals may be ultimately adopted. He favored waiting to see the outcome of the discussions and then considering this request.

Commissioner Graham stated his support for the variance since the project would not need a variance under the proposed ordinance changes.

Commissioner Duncan also supported the request due to the fact the property had been conforming before the recent changes and the fact the addition was replacing a patio and did not increase the overall lot coverage.

Commissioner Johnson and Mayor Seibold support the request because there was no reduction in the greenspace on this property.

Yeas: Dills, Duncan, Graham, Johnson, Miller and Seibold – 6
Nays: Skaggs – 1

2015-34. Final Reading of an ordinance amendment to Chapter 10 of Title I of the City Code pertaining to nondiscrimination.

The following people were present to express their opinions on this issue:

- Brian Schwartz, 2515 Indian Trail Chose to move back to EGR because of the diversity and tolerance.
- Cindy Bartman, 811 Flat (GR) Urged adoption of the ordinance to make EGR even more open and inclusive than it is now.
- Drew Stoppels, 2019 Breton Stated EGR was known for being open and progressive and this ordinance would make it more so.
- Fred Burkhardt, 1435 Woodlawn Stated young people were very sensitive to tolerance and were leaving the state unnecessarily. Felt this ordinance was a way to retain residents.
- Collette Seguin Beighley, 987 3 Mile (GR) Director of LGBT Resource Center at GVSU. Stated new rules were consistent with the Constitution and were good for humanity.
- Brian Merucci, 2101 Gorham Appreciated the atmosphere in the area and in the schools which welcomed his family. Has been discriminated against and welcomed the new ordinance.
- Mary Whiting, 1350 Eastlawn Appreciated the welcoming acceptance in her neighborhood and felt this ordinance would attract others looking for places to live.
- Kathleen Bruinsma, 1748 Alexander Supported the ordinance as a way to eliminate injustice and keep EGR a world class community.
- Diane Griffin, 1909 Argentina Proud to live in the City that welcomed her family. Felt the new rules would promote the values of East Grand Rapids.
- Miriam Aukerman, 425 Briarwood ACLU Attorney. Stated local ordinances protect where state law fails, religious beliefs do not give people the right to discriminate, and local government has the right to adopt these types of laws.
- Sam Jones-Darling, 716 Alpine (GR) Feels very welcome in East GR and would love to live here one day. Thanked the City for adopting the ordinance.
- Tommy Allen, _____ Stated it was important to make everyone feel welcome.

- 2015-34-A. Miller-Johnson. That an ordinance amendment to Chapter 10 of Title I of the City Code pertaining to nondiscrimination be adopted as set forth in Exhibit "A" attached hereto.

Commissioner Miller stated this was the right thing to do and would close a gap that has now been identified.

Commissioner Johnson felt privileged to be able to vote on this issue and agreed that local units should act to protect where state laws failed to do so.

Commissioner Graham appreciated the many letters received on this issue. He felt this new ordinance would add to the appeal of East Grand Rapids.

Commissioner Duncan thanked those who shared their stories and strongly supported the provisions of the ordinance amendment.

Commissioner Dills supported the change as an appropriate social justice measure. He suggested staff look at clarifying the language regarding religious objections for consideration at a later date.

Commissioner Skaggs felt this ordinance would tell the region and the state that EGR is welcoming and tolerant.

Mayor Seibold thanked everyone for their positive comments. She hoped this type of local ordinance would give state legislators the courage to act on a statewide level.

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

- 2015-35. Request to adopt a resolution approving an application for Community Development Block Grant funds.

Assistant City Manager LaFave reported the grant application approved last month had to be resubmitted due to confusion over the permitted uses of the funds. The City was now making an application to use CDBG funds for replacement of existing sidewalk ramps.

Mayor Seibold opened a public hearing. No public comment was received. Mayor Seibold closed the public hearing.

- 2015-35-A. Skaggs-Miller. That a resolution approving the application for Community Development Block Grant funds to construct an ADA-compliant sidewalk, crosswalk and curb ramps from the Remington restroom building to the Reeds Lake Trail bridge be adopted as set forth in Exhibit "B" attached hereto.

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

- 2015-36. Johnson-Graham. Motion to approve the consent agenda as follows:

2015-36-A. To approve the minutes of the regular meeting held March 2, 2015.

2015-36-B. To approve payroll disbursements of \$204,614.39; county and school disbursements of \$270,603.37, and total remaining disbursements of \$700,822.62.

2015-36-C. The purchase of six self-contained breathing apparatus from West Shore Fire Inc of Allendale in the amount of \$36,316.00.

2015-36-D. A policy for assessment of costs for new sidewalks of the city paying 80% of the cost for a new section of sidewalk and the residents paying the remaining 20% if the street and sidewalk millage is approved in May 2015.

2015-36-E. A new fee structure for liquor license applications of \$100 for a liquor license transfer and \$300 for an unissued liquor license.

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

Commissioner Duncan departed.

2015-37. City Manager Donovan and the Department Directors presented highlights of the 2015-16 Goals & Objectives booklet and answered questions from the City Commission.

2015-38. Dills-Miller. 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, Graham, Johnson, Miller, Skaggs and Seibold – 6
Nays: -0-

The meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until March 30, 2015.

Karen K. Brower, City Clerk

Attachments: A – Ordinance amendment to Chapter 10 pertaining to nondiscrimination
B – Resolution approving an application for Community Development Block Grant funds.

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 March 30, 2015

Commission President Graham 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 and Skaggs

Absent: Mayor Seibold

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

2015-39. No public comment was received.

2015-40. Commissioner Johnson thanked all who volunteered and attended the EGR Community Foundation's pancake breakfast on March 28th.

Commissioner Skaggs reported the city would be holding two more informational sessions on April 16 and April 21 on the upcoming Street and Sidewalk Millage and urged residents to attend the meetings with their questions about the issue.

Commissioner Graham complimented the volunteers for the pancake breakfast Saturday morning for the extremely well organized event and delicious food.

2015-41. Public Safety Director Herald summarized the 2014 annual report for the Public Safety Department and highlighted several areas that can be improved upon with the help of citizens taking steps to protect their property. He reported that the city's decision to combine the police and fire departments into a Public Safety Department in 1986 is now saving the City approximately \$1 million each year and has reduced staffing from 41 police/fire employees to 28 officers while actually increasing the number of personnel available to assist residents. Mr. Herald reported he would begin submitting a quarterly report for the Public Safety Department at the next City Commission meeting.

2015-42. Resolution authorizing the refunding of the Gaslight Village Streetscape Bonds.

Finance Director Mushong explained the proposal to refinance the bonds issued in 2005 for the Wealthy Streetscape project to benefit from lower interest rates. She reported the City would save approximately \$74,000 over the remaining life of the bonds from the refinancing.

2015-42-A. Miller-Johnson. That a resolution authorizing the issuance of Michigan Transportation Fund refunding bonds, Series 2015 for the purpose of refunding the outstanding principal amount of the 2005 Michigan Transportation Fund Bonds be adopted as set forth in Exhibit "A" attached hereto.

Yeas: Dills, Duncan, Graham, Johnson, Miller and Skaggs – 6

Nays: -0-

2015-43. Duncan-Miller. Motion to approve the consent agenda as follows:

2015-43-A. To approve the minutes of the regular meeting held March 16, 2015.

2015-43-B. To approve payroll disbursements of \$197,911.04; county and school disbursements of \$-0-, and total remaining disbursements of \$368,122.72.

- 2015-43-C. Revised yard waste collection regulations allowing bundled ornamental grass and prohibiting wheelbarrows and lawn carts as containers for curb collection as set forth in Exhibit "B" attached hereto.
- 2015-43-D. A revision to the lease agreement with Michigan Office Solutions at a new cost of \$2,047.63 per month, which includes the replacement of three copiers and a printer as well as maintenance and supplies for other machines.

Yeas: Dills, Duncan, Graham, Johnson, Miller and Skaggs – 6
Nays: -0-

The meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until April 20, 2015.

Karen K. Brower, City Clerk

Attachments: A – Resolution approving the refunding of Michigan Transportation bonds
B – Revised yard waste collection regulations

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 April 20, 2015

Commission President Graham 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; Assistant City Manager LaFave; Finance Director Mushong; Public Safety Director Herald; Zoning Administrator Faasse; City Clerk Brower; Captain Williams; Captain Buikema; Staff Sergeant Metternich, Sergeant Kolster; PSO Gruzin, PSO Conklin; PSO Hollis; PSO Asher

2015-44. No public comment was received.

2015-45. Commissioner Dills thanked resident Warren Hecker for taking the time to write a complimentary letter about a project completed by the Public Works Department staff.

2015-46. Public Safety Director Herald and Commission President Graham presented awards for several people involved in saving a resident's life during a medical emergency at Breton Downs Elementary in February. The "Chief's Citation" award was given to Breton Downs teacher Jackie Burdick for using an AED machine and performing CPR until first responders arrived. "Life Saving Awards" were presented to Sgt. Scott Kolster and PSO Pete Gruzin for their work when they arrived on the scene, and "Certificates of Recognition" were given to Staff Sgt. Jeff Metternich, PSO Eric Conklin and PSO Jon Karnes for responding from the station after hearing about the situation and assisting the personnel already on the scene.

2015-47. Public Safety Director Herald summarized the 2015 1st quarter report and explained several planned enhancements to future reports.

Mayor Seibold arrived.

2015-48. Consider request to approve the division of land at 859 Orchard and 841 Ross Court.

Zoning Administrator Faasse explained the request to transfer land from 859 Orchard to 841 Ross Court would not result in any nonconformity for either parcel.

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

- Robert Rutgers (on behalf of applicant) Explained the additional land would be used to expand the side yard of 841 Ross Court.

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

2015-48-A. Miller-Duncan. That the request of David & Julie King, owners of 859 Orchard to transfer 3,279 square feet to the property at 841 Ross Court owned by Michael & Mindy Klein, be approved with the following conditions:

1. The split complies with the surveys 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.

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

Nays: -0-

2015-49. Johnson-Duncan. Motion to approve the consent agenda as follows:

- 2015-49-A. To approve the minutes of the rescheduled regular meeting held March 30, 2015.
- 2015-49-B. To approve payroll disbursements of \$388,695.20; county and school disbursements of \$432.29, and total remaining disbursements of \$270,133.19.
- 2015-49-C. The recommendation of the Public Safety Department to select the Ford Interceptor Utility SUV as the replacement for the current patrol vehicles.
- 2015-49-D. A traffic study of the Lake Drive, Lakeside Drive and Breton Road intersection from URS Corporation in the amount of \$7,500.00.
- 2015-49-E. The purchase of a truck with a bucket lift for the Public Works Department from Tri-County International Trucks in the amount of \$72,335 and Truck and Trailer Specialties in the amount of \$67,068.75 through the MIDeal program.
- 2015-49-F. The replacement of lobby and stairway carpeting at the Community Center from Tandus/Centiva-Lansing Tile & Mosaic in the amount of \$19,000, and a related budget amendment of \$2,855 for this purchase.
- 2015-49-G. Materials purchase from Graybar in the amount of \$11,346 and installation services from Windemuller Electric in the amount of \$1,800 for the conversion of streetlights on Croswell, at Remington Park and at Manhattan Park from traditional to LED fixtures.

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

2015-50. Finance Director Mushong and City Assessor Mesik provided an overview of the upcoming budget process, including financial trends, an update on current assessments and revenues, and the impact of the upcoming millage request on the May ballot.

The City Commission revised the budget worksession schedule to hold the Capital Improvement Session on May 18 and to use the May 26 date for the departmental budget worksession.

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until May 4, 2015.

Karen K. Brower, City Clerk

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COMMISSION
CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

Regular Meeting Held May 4, 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, Graham, Miller, Skaggs and Mayor Seibold

Absent: Commissioners Duncan and Johnson

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

2015-51. No public comment was received.

2015-52. Commissioners Dills, Miller and Skaggs reminded everyone to vote on Tuesday, May 5.

Mayor Seibold also reminded East Grand Rapids residents to vote and summarized the two proposals on the ballot.

2015-53. Introduction of an ordinance amendment to amend Section 9.102 of Chapter 95 of Title IX of the City Code adopting the International Fire Code.

2015-53-A. Miller-Graham. That an ordinance amendment to Section 9.102 of Chapter 95 of Title IX of the City Code adopting the International Fire Code be introduced as set forth in Exhibit "A" attached hereto.

Yeas: Dills, Graham, Miller, Skaggs and Seibold – 5

Nays: -0-

2015-54. Graham-Skaggs. Motion to approve the consent agenda as follows:

2015-54-A. To approve the minutes of the regular meeting held April 20, 2015.

2015-54-B. To approve payroll disbursements of \$206,780.12; county and school disbursements of \$-0-, and total remaining disbursements of \$187,021.91.

2015-54-C. A hearing date of June 1, 2015 for public hearings on the proposed FY 2015-16 budget and the placement of delinquent accounts on the summer property tax bill.

2015-54-D. The quarterly financial reports for the period ending March 31, 2015.

2015-54-E. A resolution designating Assistant City Manager Doug LaFave as the City's Street Administrator as required by Act 51, PA 1951 be adopted as set forth in Exhibit "B" attached hereto.

2015-54-F. Approval of a request to authorize Orbidbid.com to sell old equipment as requested by the Public Works Department.

2015-54-G. A contract with Corby Energy Services, Inc. of Bellville for sanitary sewer relining projects in the amount of \$65,000 with a corresponding budget amendment of \$19,362 for FY 2015-15, and a cost of \$84,362 for FY 2015-16.

2015-54-H. A contract with McKinley Masonry & Concrete LLC of Grant for work relating to a parking area and drive approach at the City's water tower in the amount of \$7,086.00.

2015-54-I. Approval of a three-year proposal from Law Weathers to provide legal services to the City of East Grand Rapids as outlined in the City Manager's memorandum dated April 24, 2015.

2015-54-J. A contract with Spectrum Health of Grand Rapids for biennial physical exams and fitness testing for members of the Public Safety Department in the amount of \$16,772.00.

Yeas: Dills, Graham, Miller, Skaggs and Seibold – 5

Nays: -0-

The meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until May 18, 2015.

Karen K. Brower, City Clerk

Attachments: A – Ordinance amendment to Section 9.102 adopting the International Fire Code
B – Resolution naming a Street Administrator

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 May 18, 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: Assistant City Attorney Fowler; City Manager Donovan; Assistant City Manager LaFave; Public Safety Director Herald; Finance Director Mushong; Parks & Recreation Director Bunn; Zoning Administrator Faasse; City Clerk Brower; Communications Specialist Snow-Buckner

2015-55. No public comment was received.

2015-56. Commissioner Skaggs thanked the voters of East Grand Rapids for approving the Street and Sidewalk Millage request on Tuesday, May 5. He also thanked the staff and volunteers for all their efforts to provide information for people.

Commissioner Graham reported that the "WalkGR" app would be adding East Grand Rapids routes this summer and suggested publicizing this information when it is available.

Mayor Seibold thanked everyone involved in the millage request over the last several months. She commended the voters who took the time to research the issues and learn about the proposal, and thanked the staff and "Fix Our EGR Streets" campaign volunteers for their efforts to educate voters.

2015-57. Final Reading of an ordinance amendment to amend Section 9.102 of Chapter 95 of Title IX of the City Code adopting the International Fire Code.

2015-57-A. Graham-Miller. That an ordinance amendment to Section 9.102 of Chapter 95 of Title IX of the City Code adopting the International Fire Code be adopted as set forth in Exhibit "A" attached hereto.

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

Nays: -0-

2015-58. Introduction of an ordinance amendment to amend Sections 5.28, 5.70 and 5.114 of Chapter 50 of Title V of the City Code pertaining to lot coverage, accessory buildings and setback requirements.

Zoning Administrator Faasse explained the proposed ordinance amendment would adjust the amount of coverage by impervious surfaces such as driveways, walkways and patios. He reported a subcommittee had reviewed the ordinance and had recommended modifications to allow many lots to have higher percentages of impervious surfaces than currently allowed. He noted many smaller lots necessitated detached garages set in the rear of the property and that this often causes more pavement coverage due to the lengthy driveway to reach the garage behind the house. The subcommittee recommends the lot coverage limitations be based strictly on the size of the lot instead of by the zoning district. The proposed ordinance does not change the percentages allowed for buildings alone, but allows additional coverage for driveways, walkways and patios based on the size of the lot. The amendment will also remove the distinctions between conforming and non-conforming lots for lot coverage purposes only. He reviewed other provisions of the amendment, including the lot area break point changing from 2 acres to 1 acre, multi-family coverage limits and garage regulations, and limits for accessory buildings. Mr. Faasse reviewed a map showing the size of lots throughout East Grand Rapids and answered questions on how this ordinance would affect various size lots.

of the resurfacing projects to take advantage of their volume pricing. He noted that PASER ratings would be updated each year and the data used to plan the improvements scheduled each year.

Several commissioners expressed approval of the plan and excitement to begin improving the conditions of streets and sidewalks in East Grand Rapids.

2015-60-A. Skaggs-Johnson. That the Street and Sidewalk Millage Implementation Plan be approved as outlined in the Assistant City Manager's memo dated May 11, 2015, including approval of a contract with M&M Pavement Marking for pavement markings at a cost not-to-exceed \$34,000.

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

2015-61. Dills-Duncan. Motion to approve the consent agenda as follows:

2015-61-A. To approve the minutes of the regular meeting held May 4, 2015.

2015-61-B. To approve payroll disbursements of \$223,927.50; county and school disbursements of \$186.95, and total remaining disbursements of \$391,464.29.

2015-61-C. To approve a request from the Public Works Department to hire two/three full-time seasonal employees to assist with road and sidewalk maintenance.

2015-61-D. A contract with Ellis McLain Construction LLC in the amount of \$27,525.92 for the construction sidewalk ramps using Community Development Block Grant Funds, and to authorize a change order to the same contract to maintain projects costs under \$22,000.

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until June 1, 2015.

Karen K. Brower, City Clerk

Attachments: A – Ordinance amendment to Section 9.102 adopting the International Fire Code
B – Ordinance amendment to Sections 5.28, 5.70 and 5.114 regarding zoning requirements
C – METRO Act Right of Way Permit Extension with McLeod USA
D – Right of Way Consent Agreement with McLeod USA

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 June 1, 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; Finance Director Mushong; Zoning Administrator Faasse; City Clerk Brower; Communications Specialist Snow-Buckner; City Assessor VanderLugt

2015-62. Mayor Seibold announced the lot coverage ordinance amendment had been removed from the agenda to allow staff the time to research several questions.

2015-63. No public comment was received.

2015-64. Commissioner Dills reminded everyone the Huntington Reeds Lake Run was on Saturday, June 6. He asked everyone to respect the road closures and announced the Parks & Recreation Department was still looking for volunteers for the event.

Commissioner Miller announced the Reeds Lake Trail Blazer was also seeking volunteers for the July 4 event and that yard signs were available if anyone wanted one.

Commissioner Skaggs reported there had been several home and vehicle larcenies in his area recently and reminded everyone to lock their cars and homes. He thanked the Public Safety Department for taking all the reports and following up on the thefts.

Mayor Seibold reminded everyone that Reeds Lake Boulevard and the Reeds Lake Trail would be closed between Lakeside Drive and the Hodenpyl Rock area for the summer beginning on June 8.

2015-65. A zoning variance hearing was held regarding the request of Jane Zawacki, owner of 554 Lovett, to allow the construction of a two-family dwelling in a single-family zone, and to allow side yard setbacks of 10.0' instead of the required 20.'

Zoning Administrator Faasse explained the request to build a new home in a single-family residential zone that would be used as a two-family home at some point in the future. He showed a map detailing the different uses and densities suggested for this street by the 2006 Subarea Plan of the Comprehensive Master Plan. City Manager Donovan explained that while the Subarea Plan suggested future uses, the City's practice was generally to wait for a specific project or circumstance to begin the process of rezoning neighborhoods.

Jane Zawacki, owner of 554 Lovett, stated the proposed new home would look like a single-family home with only one entry and one two-stall garage and would be smaller than many single-family homes in the area. She felt this home would be a good buffer between the commercial properties south and east of this home. Ms. Zawacki's architect also spoke about the requested change to a multi-family home.

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

- Rob Dice, 565 Lovett

Did not object to a new home, but felt the proposed house did not fit the character of the neighborhood.

- Tim Strickler, 550 Lovett
Opposed to reduced setback request. He noted the recent construction of upscale single-family homes and felt a duplex would not fit. Parking is already at a premium and would be made worse with more families. Also concerned about the overall height and the proposed flat roof that would dramatically decrease the sunlight to his property.
- Andrew Howard, 606 Greenwood
Did not feel this project constituted a “practical difficulty” as stated on the city’s website as a requirement for granting a variance.
- Bob Kirchgessner, 1900 El Dorado
Stated the Master Plan was being dismissed to quickly in regards to this proposal. He felt this was a viable use for this property and would be a good buffer. Urged the City to take advantage of non-homestead property taxes.

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

- Tim & Judy Strickler, 550 Lovett (2 letters) Opposed.

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

2015-65-A. Dills-Skaggs. That the request of Jane Zawacki, prospective owner of 554 Lovett, for a use variance to allow the construction of a two-family dwelling in a single-family zone be approved as requested.

City Manager Donovan stated his opinion that this type of request should be made through a rezoning process instead of a use variance.

Commissioner Dills agreed that this type of request should be part of a larger discussion about the area in general and this street in particular and not just one house. He did not support granting the use variance request.

Commissioner Duncan also agreed that a more detailed discussion about redevelopment, such as the meetings held regarding the recent Bagley and Croswell projects, would be better than granting an individual request.

Commissioner Skaggs questioned why this street was not rezoned during the Master Plan process. City Manager Donovan explained the focus of the Subarea Plan process in 2006 was the Jade Pig project and surrounding areas had been designated for future discussion. He noted that changes in the housing market often resulted in new projects different than originally envisioned, so the city usually waited to see what type of trends and development was needed.

Commissioner Johnson stated she liked the house design and could support the multi-family use, but preferred to spend more time considering the future of the entire street instead of only one property.

Commissioner Miller encouraged developers to fit projects into the character and components of homes in the neighborhood as he did not feel this house would fit in with the others on the street. He also felt this was more of a three-story home and could be out of place. He also stated the City Commission did not grant variances to increase the value of homes so that more tax revenue could be generated.

Commissioner Skaggs felt the Master Plan suggestions and the need for diverse housing were met in this proposal. He felt the city should take the lead on allowing these types of innovative ideas. He noted the neighborhood has changed over the last several years with new construction, but did not feel a one-time use variance was the best way to allow growth and new projects.

Yeas: -0-

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

2015-66. A public hearing was held pertaining to the General Fund budget and the property tax levy for Fiscal Year 2015-16. No public comment was received. Mayor Seibold closed the public hearing.

2015-67. A public hearing was held on the special assessment roll of delinquent accounts for placement on the July 1, 2014 tax roll. No public comment was received. Mayor Seibold closed the public hearing

2015-67-A. Graham-Johnson. That the special assessment roll of delinquent accounts totaling \$54,056.79 be certified and placed on the July 1, 2015 tax roll.

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

Nays: -0-

2015-68. Confirmation of City Assessor appointment.

Finance Director Mushong introduced Vicki VanderLugt as the candidate to replace retiring City Assessor Vicki Mesik.

2015-68-A. Skaggs-Graham. That Vicki VanderLugt be confirmed as the City Assessor effective July 16, 2015.

Commissioners Graham and Skaggs thanked Vicki Mesik for her 18 years of service to the City and wished her well in her retirement.

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

Nays: -0-

2015-69. Johnson-Miller. Motion to approve the consent agenda as follows:

2015-69-A. To approve the minutes of the regular meeting held May 18, 2015.

2015-69-B. To approve payroll disbursements of \$206,550.46; county and school disbursements of \$-0-, and total remaining disbursements of \$580,515.48.

2015-69-C. The preliminary minutes of the Joint Facilities Committee meeting held May 18, 2015.

2015-69-D. The Joint Facilities budget for FY 2015-16 as recommended by the Joint Facilities Committee.

2015-69-E. A Letter of Understanding with the City of Wyoming pertaining to benefits for former Public Safety Captain Charles Lark as set forth in Exhibit "B" attached hereto.

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

Nays: -0-

The meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until June 15, 2015.

Karen K. Brower, City Clerk

Attachments: A – Ordinance amendment to Sections 5.28, 5.70 and 5.114 regarding zoning requirements
B – Letter of Understanding with City of Wyoming

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

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COMMISSION
CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

Special Meeting Held June 1, 2015

Mayor Seibold called the meeting to order at 6:52 p.m. in the City Commission Chamber at the Community Center.

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; Finance Director Mushong; City Clerk Brower; Communications Specialist Snow-Buckner; City Assessor VanderLugt

2015-70. Consider request to adopt a resolution adopting the FY 2015-16 budget and setting a millage rate for FY 2015-16.

2015-70-A. Miller-Duncan. That a resolution adopting the FY 2015-16 budget as amended during the budget work sessions and setting the millage rate for FY 2015-16 be adopted as set forth in Exhibit "A" attached hereto.

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

Nays: -0-

Mayor Seibold thanked everyone involved in preparing and reviewing the budgets and financial documentation for the City.

2015-71. Consider request to adopt a resolution establishing water/sewer rates for FY 2015-16.

2015-71-A. Johnson-Duncan. That a resolution setting water/sewer rates for the upcoming fiscal year be adopted as set forth in Exhibit "B" attached hereto.

Commissioner Johnson stated she was glad to see consistent water and sewer rates.

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

Nays: -0-

The special meeting was adjourned at 6:56 p.m.

Karen K. Brower, City Clerk

Attachments: A – Resolution adopting FY 2015-16 budget.
B – Resolution establishing water/sewer rates for FY 2015-16.

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 June 15, 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, Graham, Johnson, Miller, Skaggs and Mayor Seibold

Absent: Commissioner Duncan

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

2015-72. Pamela MacDougal, 500 Cambridge, spoke against the Planning Commission's recommended revisions to the lot coverage ordinance. She reviewed her own sketches and calculations relating to three properties in East Grand Rapids and urged the City Commission to spend more time researching this issue before implementing any changes.

2015-73. Commissioner Johnson thanked Assistant Parks & Recreation Director Susan Perry and her staff for their work on the Reeds Lake Run on June 6th. She also thanked the Public Works Department for all the projects that have been started following the dedicated millage approval in May.

Commissioner Skaggs also spoke about the preventative maintenance programs for the streets and the experiments with sidewalk repair methods that are being conducted by the Public Works Department.

Mayor Seibold congratulated Parks & Recreation Director Fred Bunn for his recent win in his age group at the National Duathlon Championships in Minneapolis.

City Manager Donovan announced that East Grand Rapids had been named to the Top 10 List of Michigan Suburbs by the Niche Rankings website.

2015-74. Graham-Miller. Motion to approve the consent agenda as follows:

2015-74-A. To approve the minutes of the regular and special meetings held June 1, 2015.

2015-74-B. Report of Finance Committee on disbursement of funds: payroll disbursements of \$204,632.43; county and school disbursements of \$-0-, and total remaining disbursements of \$132,546.51.

2015-74-C. A compensation study of non-union positions by the Michigan Municipal League at a cost of \$17,800 plus travel expenses.

2015-74-D. A resolution authorizing the City Clerk and Mayor to execute contracts with the Michigan Department of Transportation for the Reeds Lake Trail Boardwalk Project as set forth in Exhibit "A" attached hereto.

2015-74-E. The adoption of "Freedom of Information Act Procedures & Guidelines," Public Summary of FOIA Procedures & Guidelines," and the "FOIA Request Itemized Cost Worksheet" relating to the Freedom of Information Act changes effective July 1, 2015 as set forth in Exhibits "B," "C" and "D" attached hereto.

2015-74-F. A resolution approving budget amendments for FY 2014-15 as set forth in Exhibit "E" attached hereto.

2015-74-G. A contract for road resurfacing projects with Superior Asphalt Inc. in the amount of \$455,000.00 through bids procured by the Kent County Road Commission.

- 2015-74-H. A contract with OMM Engineering in the amount of \$20,194 to perform storm water detention study for detention areas on Beechwood and at Remington Field.
- 2015-74-I. An extension of a lease agreement and a memorandum of agreement with AT&T Wireless for the water tower site at Breton and Burton as set forth in Exhibits "F" and "G" attached hereto.
- 2015-74-J. The preliminary minutes of the Planning Commission meeting held January 13, 2015.
- 2015-74-K. The preliminary minutes of the Parks & Recreation Commission meeting held February 9, 2015.
- 2015-74-L. The preliminary minutes of the Parks & Recreation Commission meeting held March 9, 2015.
- 2015-74-M. The preliminary minutes of the Library Commission meeting held April 27, 2015.

Yeas: Dills, Graham, Johnson, Miller, Skaggs and Seibold – 6
Nays: -0-

The meeting adjourned at 6:22 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until July 6, 2015.

Karen K. Brower, City Clerk

Attachments: A – Resolution for Reeds Lake Boulevard pedestrian bridge project
B – Freedom of Information Act Procedures & Guidelines
C – Public Summary of FOIA Procedures & Guidelines
D – FOIA Request Itemized Cost Worksheet
E – Resolution approving budget amendments for FY 2014-15
F – AT&T Water Tower Lease Extension
G – AT&T Water Tower Memo of 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 July 6, 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, Miller, Skaggs and Mayor Seibold

Absent: Commissioner Johnson

Also Present: City Attorney Huff; City Manager Donovan; Assistant City Manager LaFave; Finance Director Mushong; City Clerk Brower; Communications Specialist Snow-Buckner

2015-75. No public comment was received.

2015-76. Commissioner Skaggs stated he had heard many wonderful reports from the 4th of July Celebration.

Commissioner Graham reported the July 4 festivities were fantastic and he had a great time on the Segway.

Commissioner Duncan commented on all the wonderful floats and entries in the parade.

Commissioner Miller complimented everyone involved in the great community celebration.

Mayor Seibold thanked the parks & Recreation Department for the festive family day that began with the Reeds Lake Trail Blazer event in the morning and concluded with the great fireworks at night.

2015-77. Election of President for FY 2015-16.

2015-77-A. Miller-Skaggs. That Commissioner Graham be elected President of the East Grand Rapids City Commission to assume leadership duties in the absence of the Mayor for FY 2015-16.

Yeas: Dills, Duncan, Graham, Miller, Skaggs and Seibold – 6

Nays: -0-

2015-78. Miller-Duncan. Motion to approve the consent agenda as follows:

2015-78-A. To approve the minutes of the regular meeting held June 15, 2015.

2015-78-B. Report of Finance Committee on disbursement of funds: payroll disbursements of \$217,208.29; county and school disbursements of \$-0-, and total remaining disbursements of \$342,606.39.

2015-78-C. Advisory board appointments as follows:

Planning Commission	John Arendshorst, 2056 Wilshire David deVelder, 2242 Lake Drive	Three-year terms ending 6/30/18
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Parks & Recreation Comm.	Brad Andrzejewski, 3105 Bonnell Judith Baxter, 3060 Hall Dirk Buth, 1900 San Lu Rae Richard Sprague, Jr., 2332 Burchard Pam Witting, 1019 Floral Stacey Wykoski, 2311 El Dorado Carol Campbell, 2109 Elmwood	One-year terms ending 6/30/16
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Library Commission	Micki Benz, 817 Gladstone Betsy Brown, 1410 Sherwood Carol Donovan, 2944 Hall Judy Freeman, 425 Cambridge Azizah Hines, 2244 Hall Ellen Schendel, 429 Briarwood Christopher Smith, 461 Lakeside	One-year terms ending 6/30/2016
Board of Review	Martin Green, 2463 Oakwood Paul Howland, 2809 Woodcliff Circle Ann Nowak, 1033 San Lucia Stephen MacGuidwin, 2559 Lake Drive	One-year terms ending 6/30/2016
Traffic Commission	Reynolds Brander, 2648 Lake Drive Vasily Gagin, 2935 Pioneer Club Hunter Meriwether, 526 Lovett Laura Roy, 1119 Lakeside Frank Spies, 2122 Tenway	One-year terms ending 6/30/2016
Construction Board Of Appeals	Kurt Lacks, 3105 Bonnell Jeff Stoltz, 1118 Orchard	Two-year terms ending 6/30/2017

2015-78-D. A change order to the contract with Superior Asphalt in the amount of \$256,000 for the grind and resurfacing of five additional streets in July and August for a total contract price of \$711,000.

Assistant City Manager LaFave reported that favorable bid prices mean additional streets can be resurfaced or patched. He noted a new cape seal method would be tested on Maplewood. All additional work will be completed by August 28.

Yeas: Dills, Duncan, Graham, Miller, Skaggs and Seibold – 6
Nays: -0-

The meeting adjourned at 6:12 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until July 20, 2015.

Karen K. Brower, City Clerk

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COMMISSION
CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

Regular Meeting Held July 20, 2015

Commission President Graham 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, Graham, Johnson and Miller

Absent: Commissioner Duncan, Skaggs and Mayor Seibold

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

2015-79. Chris Afendoulis, 73rd District State Representative, offered to meet with anyone on issues of concern and noted the new Reeds Lake Trail bridge would be a great addition to the community when it was finished.

Steve Edison of Law Weathers presented a new pen to City Clerk Brower to replace one that had disintegrated during a recent meeting.

2015-80. Commissioners Dills and Miller offered wishes for a speedy recovery to the Public Works employees injured in an accident recently.

Commissioner Johnson announced that National Night Out would be held August 4th and encouraged residents to plan block parties as a way of getting to know their neighbors.

President Graham announced East Grand Rapids has been named as one of Family Circle Magazine's Top 10 Towns for Families in the country. Mr. Graham also commented on the outpouring of support from the city staff for the injured workers in the Public Works Department.

2015-81. Miller-Johnson. To approve the consent agenda as follows:

2015-81-A. To approve the minutes of the regular meeting held July 6, 2015.

2015-81-B. Report of Finance Committee on disbursement of funds: payroll disbursements of \$229,891.15; county and school disbursements of \$20.01, and total remaining disbursements of \$357,792.42.

2015-81-C. The upgrade of the traffic signal at Lake Drive and Hall Street through the City of Grand Rapids Traffic Safety Division at a cost of \$16,000.

2015-81-D. A traffic study of the intersection of Alexander, Cambridge and Rosewood through URS Corporation at a cost not to exceed \$8,500 and a corresponding budget amendment from the Local Street Fund ending balance.

2015-81-E. The purchase of a sewer camera from Bell Equipment in the amount of \$16,000.

2015-81-F. Permission for the Public Works Department to seek bids for excavation and replacement of the sanitary sewer mains in Frederick Drive and Mary Avenue.

2015-81-G. A three-year agreement with Kent County for public safety dispatching services at a cost of \$68,987 per year as set forth in Exhibit "A" attached hereto.

2015-81-H. A contract with Moore & Bruggink for design and traffic signal engineering for the Lake Drive redesign project in the amount of \$49,000.

2015-81-I. A contract for t-shirts with Brothers Screen Printing of Harrisville in the amount of \$48,649.00 for all programs and events of the Parks & Recreation Department.

Yeas: Dills, Duncan, Graham, Miller – 4

Nays: -0-

The meeting adjourned at 6:08 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until August 3, 2015.

Karen K. Brower, City Clerk

Attachments: A – Dispatch agreement with Kent County.

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 August 3, 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 Duncan, Graham, Johnson, Miller and Mayor Seibold

Absent: Commissioner Dills and Skaggs

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

2015-82. No public comment was received.

2015-83. Commissioner Johnson thanked United Bank for their sponsorship of the very popular summer concert series again this year.

City Manager Donovan noted there was no serious damage during the high winds and thunderstorms on Sunday, August 2.

Mayor Seibold thanked the Public Works Department for their work procuring and installing the signs notifying pedestrians and cyclists of the Reeds Lake Trail being closed for construction.

2015-84. Resolution to adopt new fee schedule.

Commissioner Johnson suggested increasing the fine for blocking an emergency exit and for blocking a fire escape to \$100 to match other fines such as parking in a handicap parking space.

2015-84-A. Johnson-Duncan. That a resolution adopting a new fee schedule be adopted as set forth in Exhibit "A" attached hereto with the change noted above.

Yeas: Duncan, Graham, Johnson, Miller and Seibold – 5

Nays: -0-

2015-85. Graham-Miller. To approve the consent agenda as follows:

2015-85-A. To approve the minutes of the regular meeting held July 20, 2015.

2015-85-B. Report of Finance Committee on disbursement of funds: payroll disbursements of \$234,636.95; county and school disbursements of \$2,655,510.80, and total remaining disbursements of \$332,498.79.

2015-85-C. The purchase of excavating trench materials for the Public Works Department from Pro-Tech Equipment of Grand Rapids in the amount of \$11,428.

2015-85-D. Contracts with American Grinding and Precision Concrete Cutting in the amount of \$25,000 each for the removal of trip hazards on city sidewalks, and to authorize the Public Works Department to solicit bids for the replacement of sidewalk sections that cannot be repaired.

2015-85-E. The purchase of a sewer camera from Bell Equipment in the amount of \$16,000.

Yeas: Duncan, Graham, Johnson, Miller and Seibold – 5

Nays: -0-

The meeting adjourned at 6:08 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until August 17, 2015.

Karen K. Brower, City Clerk

Attachments: A – Resolution approving new fee schedule.

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 August 17, 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, Miller, Skaggs and Mayor Seibold

Absent: Commissioner Johnson

Also Present: City Attorney Huff; City Manager Donovan; Finance Director Mushong; Assistant City Manager LaFave; Recording Secretary Taylor

2015-86. Peter Ross Dickow, 2536 Indian Trail, announced he recently joined the office of U. S. Senator, Gary Peters, as his West Michigan Director. He said he will be interacting with governments, businesses and groups across 14 Michigan counties. He thanked the City Commission and City Staff for the work they have done to make East Grand Rapids a great place to live.

2015-87. Commissioner Dills said it was nice to see the all road work being done and thanked the tax payers for the millage dollars to be able to get it done.

Commissioner Miller thanked Public Safety, Parks and Recreation and the business district for the Criterium Bike Race that was held on Sunday. He said it was a fantastic spectator sport going right through Gaslight Village and that it was exciting and fun.

Commissioner Skaags and Commissioner Graham echoed Commissioner Dills' comments on the road work being done and also thanked tax payers. He thanked Assistant City Manager LaFave, his Public Works team for living up to the goals that had been set.

Mayor Seibold reported she had received a complaint from one resident about the City having signs made that say "Project made possible by 2015 EGR Street Millage". She also said many people have thanked her for putting up the signs and that it was nice to be reminded that the taxes being paid are going for something so substantial. She expressed the City's gratitude for the millage passing and said it was very exciting to see the roadwork being done.

City Manager Donovan mentioned that a report on the roads and water main issues would be added to the meeting agenda.

2015-88. Kent District Library Director Lance Werner, KDL Board Member Craig Wilson and EGR Branch Manager Dawn Lewis were present to give an update on KDL operations and statistics for 2014. In addition to the reports, Ms. Lewis thanked Parks and Recreation Director Bunn and his staff for their help with program rooms and last minute changes. She also thanked Assistant City Manager LaFave and City Services Coordinator Mike Ferris and his staff for working hard to keep the library looking good. Ms. Lewis thanked Mayor Seibold for her participation in the recent pet show.

Mayor Seibold thanked KDL for the work they do, specifically the East Grand Rapids branch. She stated it was a huge resource used by so many of the citizens.

2015-89. Assistant City Manager LaFave gave an overview of the street projects stating that they are all progressing well and ahead of schedule. Weather permitting, the fifteen street projects are anticipated to be finished by the end of the week. All of the grind and resurface projects, as well as the cape seal on Maplewood, should be completed by August 28.

City Manager Donovan reported that there are three water main problems that need to be addressed as soon as possible. Mr. LaFave explained that there is slow water leak on Cascade Road coming from the City's distribution system. It involves two old valves that were encased in cement in manholes. This repair will be done by City crews beginning on August 18, 2015.

The water main on San Jose between Lake Drive and San Lu Rae has had eight documented breaks, four of which occurred in the last month and a half. This main was installed in 1928 and there is concern for the service to residents and for the safety of City employees with winter coming. Mr. Donovan added that an outside company will replace this main.

Mr. LaFave reported that there have been a few leaks recently in the water main on Audobon. There are at least twenty sleeves on the main, so this main will also be replaced.

Mr. Donovan said the goal is to have a proposal for these repairs prepared for the Commissioners' review at the September 8 meeting.

2015-90. Miller-Graham. To approve the consent agenda as follows:

2015-90-A. To approve the minutes of the regular meeting held August 3, 2015.

2015-90-B. Report of Finance Committee on disbursement of funds: payroll disbursements of \$219,378.52; county and school disbursements of \$8,511,175.14, and total remaining disbursements of \$661,254.00.

2015-90-C. The quarterly financial reports for the period ending June 30, 2015.

2015-90-D. The appointment of Michelle Grinnell of 946 Ogden Avenue to the Traffic Commission for a term ending June 30, 2016.

2015-90-E. The purchase of seven self-contained breathing apparatus and 14 face pieces for the Public Safety Department from West Shore Fire, Inc. of Allendale in the amount of \$37,491.00 and a related budget amendment of \$1,091 from the general fund ending balance.

2015-90-F. The purchase of a new packer truck cab and chassis from Tri-County International Trucks of Dearborn through the State of Michigan contract in the amount of \$88,000.

2015-90-G. The purchase of a concrete saw for the Public Works Department from Hammersmith in the amount of \$6,510.00.

2015-90-H. The minutes of the Parks & Recreation Commission meeting held June 8, 2015.

2015-90-I. The minutes of the Parks & Recreation Commission meeting held July 13, 2015.

Yeas: Dills, Duncan, Graham, Miller, Skaggs and Seibold – 6

Nays: -0-

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until September 8, 2015.

Lynda S. Taylor, Recording Secretary

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COMMISSION
CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

Regular Meeting Held September 8, 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, Miller, Skaggs and Mayor Seibold

Absent: Commissioner Johnson

Also Present: City Attorney Huff; City Manager Donovan; Finance Director Mushong; Assistant City Manager LaFave; Zoning Administrator Faasse; Captain Buikema; City Clerk Brower

2015-91. No public comment was received.

2015-92. Commissioner Dills reminded everyone the Rhoades McKee Reeds Lake Triathlon was Saturday and would be using EGR streets for all of the events.

Commissioner Skaggs commented on the progress made with road resurfacing over the summer months and looked forward to improving streets and sidewalks over the next several years.

Commissioner Graham reported that Reeds Lake Boulevard was again open for traffic, ahead of schedule. Mayor Seibold asked everyone to drive especially carefully over the next several weeks as the new school year gets underway. She also noted the Reeds Lake Triathlon needs volunteers for Saturday morning.

2015-93. A zoning variance hearing was held regarding the request of Jeff Olsen of 1112 Eastwood to allow the construction of a two-stall garage creating lot coverage by pavement and buildings of 44% instead of the allowable 40%.

Zoning Administrator Faasse explained the request to use a stone-filled underground chamber to detain stormwater, a method not addressed by city ordinances. Mr. Faasse noted that a variance for lot coverage by pavement and buildings was necessary only because this lot was a non-conforming parcel by current zoning standards.

Jeff Olsen, 1112 Eastwood, stated the stormwater detention system was a better method of controlling groundwater than pervious pavers. He estimated the system would contain 13 days of rain before allowing it to enter the ground. He stated his intention was to keep the extra rainfall away from home foundations in the area. Mr. Olsen noted he planned to install gutter guards and construct cleanouts in the system to hopefully eliminate any future maintenance issues since the chamber will not be accessible once constructed.

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

2015-93-A. Graham-Miller. That the request of Jeff Olsen of 1112 Eastwood to allow the construction of a two-stall garage creating lot coverage by pavement and buildings of 44% instead of the allowable 40% be approved with the installation of a 2,300 gallon underground chamber retention system.

Commissioner Graham felt this solution made sense as a means of keeping water away from the street and other homes. He felt a 4% variance was minimal and would allow a better use of the property.

Commissioner Dills felt the surface water runoff was a separate issue from the lot coverage, but noted the property was already over the percentage allowed and the new garage would not adversely affect the neighbors.

Mimi Ray, 417 Briarwood, spoke about the slop of the front yards from north to south and the resulting drainage issues. She noted there is already a tall retaining wall between her property and 413 Briarwood which blocks her view up and down the street.

Ellen Schendel, 429 Briarwood, stated construction has continued in spite of the city's notices, the wall in constructed of both brick and concrete, and is 19" deep instead of the 16" stated. She objected to the wall because of the drainage and safety aspects, and because it was very tall and massive and not attractive. She felt the drainpipe through the wall was not installed properly and that the wall was uneven and possibly buckling. She also noted many blobs of concrete on the sidewalk have created a trip hazard for pedestrians.

Steve Ratliff, 435 Cambridge, felt snow accumulation would be an issue in the winter as this retaining wall would create a bottleneck.

Elaine Stewart, 413 Briarwood, spoke about the height difference between the property and the resulting drainage issues that they have solved with the two retaining walls. She expressed disappointment in the contractor they have hired, but stated they poured the additional concrete to stop water and weed infiltration.

Leslie Stewart, 413 Briarwood, stated he was told by the contractor that a permit was not needed to erect the wall. He stated that when he became aware of the hydrant issue, he took steps to correct the problem. Reiterated that the contractor did a poor job on the wall and that the recent concrete was added to stabilize the wall, not to flaunt the rules.

2015-95-A. Miller-Skaggs. That the request to approve a right-of-way permit with Marcus Stewart, owner of 413 Briarwood, to allow a retaining wall along the Briarwood right-of-way be denied.

Commissioner Graham stated he understood the problems, but believed the solutions could have been achieved through the proper procedures.

Commissioner Dills questioned whether the fence ordinance would apply to this structure. Assistant City Manager LaFave stated the code defined a retaining wall as something below ground level which holds back the land, so it applied to this situation. Mr. LaFave stated that the dividing wall between 413 and 417 Briarwood was not subject to any permit requirements because it was less than 4' tall and on private property; however, the retaining wall that was constructed along the sidewalk is in the public right-of-way and is over 4' tall, requiring both a right-of-way permit and a building permit.

Mayor Seibold stated the underground utilities were her main concern and that it would cost the city considerable time and effort to work in this area with the wall in place. She felt it was best for the neighborhood if the illegal wall were removed.

Yeas: Dills, Duncan, Graham, Miller, Skaggs and Seibold – 6
Nays: -0-

2015-96. Public Safety Captain Buikema presented the Public Safety Department's quarterly report for the period ended June 30, 2015 and answered questions from the City Commission. Mayor Seibold reminded residents to lock their homes and vehicles and to report any suspicious activity to the Public Safety Department immediately.

2015-97. Dills-Miller. To approve the consent agenda as follows:

2015-97-A. To approve the minutes of the regular meeting held August 17, 2015.

2015-97-B. Report of Finance Committee on disbursement of funds: payroll disbursements of \$431,662.14; county and school disbursements of \$7,448,533.89, and total remaining disbursements of \$783,061.20.

2015-97-C. A resolution authorizing the first addendum to the Michigan Mutual Aid Box Alarm System Agreement as set forth in Exhibit "A" attached hereto.

- 2015-97-D. A resolution approving an amendment to the Grand Valley Metro Council's Articles of Incorporation adding Nelson Township and the Village of Sparta to the GVMC as set forth in Exhibit "B" attached hereto.
- 2015-97-E. A contract with Strawser Construction for crack sealing of city streets at a material cost of \$1.48 per pound and an estimated quantity of 11,648 pounds.

Yeas: Dills, Duncan, Graham, Miller, Skaggs and Seibold – 6
Nays: -0-

The meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until September 21, 2015.

Karen K. Brower, City Clerk

Attachments: A – Resolution approving the Michigan Mutual Aid Box Alarm System Agreement.
B – Resolution approving an amendment to the GVMC Articles of Incorporation.

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 September 21, 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; Zoning Administrator Faasse; Public Safety Director Herald; Captain Williams; Captain Buikema; City Clerk Brower; Equipment Operators Huggett, Stults, Browneye, Ross and Barr; Account Clerk York; Public Safety Officers Lobezoo, Karnes, Naumcheff, Grams, Katje, Kreiner and Nagtzaam; Sergeants Perez and Smith

2015-98. No public comment was received.

2015-99. Commissioners Dills and Miller congratulated all of the athletes who participated in the Reeds Lake Triathlon on September 12 and thanked all of the staff and volunteers who worked so hard to make the event successful.

Commissioner Skaggs reported the sidewalk grinding program continues to work its way around the city removing trip hazards and making the sidewalks safer for pedestrians.

Commissioner Graham congratulated the employees receiving awards tonight and thanked them for their actions in saving the life of a fellow employee.

Mayor Seibold reported the Reeds Lake Triathlon went very well and she heard many good things from participants and residents about this fun community event.

2015-100. Public Safety Director Herald presented life-saving awards to several employees for their actions on July 14, 2015 following an accident during a water main repair. Two "Medal of Honor" awards were given to Public Safety Officers Scott Grams and David Katje. The "Chief's Citation" awards were given to Public Works employees Jeff Stults, Jason Huggett and Cody Browneye.

2015-101. A zoning variance hearing was held regarding the request of Alan and Marney Salmon of 2861 Bonnell to allow the construction of a brick wall which is more than 50% opaque and pillars at the driveway entrances which are taller than the 36" height allowed for fences in front yard.

Zoning Administrator reported the owners wished to construct a new wall and pillars along the front of the property to replace an older wall that was removed to facilitate the major renovations on the home.

Brian Miedema of Insignia Homes stated the new wall would replicate the former wall's position and height exactly except to add another set of pillars for the second driveway. The wall will be 28" tall and the pillars will be 8' tall with limestone caps and light fixtures on top.

Commission Johnson questioned whether the pillars had to be 8' tall or if shorter structures could be constructed. Mr. Miedema stated the pillars could be shorter.

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

- Wayne Visbeen, 662 Croswell

Supported the effort to rebuild the wall.

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

- David Hooker, 2747 Bonnell In Favor.

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

2015-101-A. Graham-Duncan. That the request of Alan and Marney Salmon of 2861 Bonnell to allow the construction of a brick wall which is more than 50% opaque and pillars at the driveway entrances which are taller than the 36" height allowed for fences in front yard be approved.

2015-101-B. Miller-Skaggs. Motion to amend 2015-98-A. to state the wall will not exceed 28" in height except to slope up to the pillars as shown in the application materials.

Vote on amendment:

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

Nays: -0-

Commissioner Johnson expressed concern about the height of the pillars. She noted other driveway pillars in the area are no more than 3-4' in height and these proposed pillars will be twice as tall. Mayor Seibold questioned whether the original gates will be reinstalled between the pillars and noted the size of the gates may determine the need for taller pillars.

Commissioner Dills noted the fence ordinance did not likely envision a shorter wall such as this that did not obstruct a driver's vision along the sidewalk.

Mayor Seibold stated she would support the request because it was nearly an exact replacement of what was in place before.

Commissioner Skaggs stated he was hesitant to approve walls in most neighborhoods, but since this was recreating what was there before, he would support this request.

Commissioner Graham expressed his support of the request as it was in keeping with the style of the home and the neighborhood.

Vote on 2015-98-A, as amended.

Yeas: Dills, Duncan, Graham, Miller, Skaggs and Seibold – 6

Nays: Johnson – 1

2015-102. Introduction of an ordinance amendment to amend Sections 5.28, 5.70 and 5.114 of Chapter 50 of Title V of the City Code pertaining to lot coverage, accessory buildings and setback requirements.

Assistant City Manager Doug LaFave reported that a subcommittee had recently reviewed the lot coverage portions of the zoning ordinance for possible changes to the percentage of coverage allowed by buildings and pavement. After several months of discussion, research and public input, the recommendation is to set the building coverage at 35% for all residential lots, and lot coverage by buildings and pavement be set at 60% for lots less than 5,000 square feet, 55% for lots 5,000-7,199 square feet, 45% for lots 7,200-11,999 square feet, and 40% for lots over 12,000 square feet. Mr. LaFave showed several graphs showing research on several neighborhoods comparing lot coverage percentages that were used to make the recommendations.

Commissioner Dills clarified the current maximum for building coverage was 40% in conforming lots and this was being changed to 35%.

Mayor Seibold reiterated that the building setbacks or height restrictions would remain unchanged.

Mayor Seibold opened the meeting for public comment. The following people were present to express their opinions:

- Jan Smith, 915 Orchard Reviewed 2014 and 2015 lot coverage variance requests. Felt the two numbers work in tandem, so increasing the total means more area for building size. Concerned about green-space and stormwater management. Reviewed percentages in her neighborhood, and asked the building coverage percentage be lowered even further because too many homes were close to hitting the maximum percentage.
- Bruce Smith, 915 Orchard Stated their study showed Orchard has an average of 21% home coverage and Lakeside has a 23% average. Showed a sketch of current, proposed, and his alternate proposal to limit lot coverage by buildings to 30% and overall of 55%. He felt this would make people come before the city and allow a conversation about what is being built.
- John Barbour, Planning Commission Chair Outlined the committee's process and the collaboration of Planning Commission, City Commission, staff and planning consultants. He felt the group considered a broad cross section of the city and made a reasonable recommendation.

Mayor Seibold closed the public comment portion.

2015-102-A. Miller-Johnson. That an ordinance amendment to amend Sections 5.28, 5.70 and 5.114 of Chapter 50 of Title V of the City Code pertaining to lot coverage, accessory buildings and setback requirements be adopted as set forth in Exhibit "A" attached hereto with a change to 5.28-1a to limit maximum impervious surface to 50% for lots less than 5,000 square feet and for lots 5,000-7,199 square feet, with the corresponding change to the maximum not-to-exceed impervious surface square feet.

Commissioner Miller stated his desire to help the smaller lots in zones R-2 and R-3 be able to improve their properties. He noted that a few properties may not conform with the new ordinance, but felt this amendment would allow a majority of homeowners to expand their homes and patios within the new limits while fitting in with surrounding homes and preserving much of the greenspace that people value.

Commissioner Skaggs felt that moving to a square footage calculation would be fairer to owners of smaller properties and would keep homes in the character of their surrounding neighborhoods. He stated this was a good compromise between the low and high percentages discussed, and that the City Commission could entertain variances requests for exceptional situations. He also felt this amendment would help prevent the loss of greenspace over time.

Commissioner Dills noted that many of the existing nonconforming lots were nonconforming for reasons like frontage and that overall property owners have been very good stewards of their homes and greenspace. He expressed concern that a 50% limitation would make many homes in the R3 nonconforming and suggested setting the limit at 55% to alleviate the need for variance requests.

Commissioner Johnson expressed support for the 50% limitation as a way to address stormwater and greenspace issues, but acknowledged some properties will become non-conforming under the new ordinance.

Commissioner Duncan also expressed support for the compromise as a way to allow the majority of homeowners to improve their homes.

Mayor Seibold thanked Mr. Barbour for leading the subcommittee's research into this complex issue. She stated there was not a magic number to eliminate all variance requests, but felt 50% was a good compromise.

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

2015-103. Consider request to approve the division of land at 2119 Lake Drive.

City Attorney Huff explained the request to divide the church property into two separate residential lots, each requiring variances for frontage and/or size as neither met the current zoning standards.

Joel Peterson of J. Peterson Homes, stated he was purchasing the property and wanted to demolish the church and build two single-family homes. He felt this would be in keeping with the surrounding area. Mr. Peterson stated that specific house plans had not yet been developed, but they had developed some generalities for the upcoming variance requests that would closely match other homes nearby. He also stated he would be interested in postponing the setback variances later on the agenda if the City Commission felt any of the requests should be revised.

City Manager Donovan noted that Parcel A (fronting Lake Drive) was zoned single-family and Parcel B (fronting on Croswell) was zoned multi-family.

Zoning Administrator Faasse noted the standards for approving lot splits were met if the variance requests were granted.

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

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| - Wayne Visbeen, 662 Croswell | Involved in the redevelopment project. Stated he was designing a concept home with less mass and less building envelope than the current church building. |
| - Suzanne Eberle, 2107 Lake Drive | Concerned about density of other projects, but supported two single-family homes and Peterson Homes as she felt they would respect the style and density of the surrounding area. |
| - Todd Schaal, Keystone Church | Stated the church members were happy with the plans. |
| - Matt Gerard, 252 Hodenpyl | In Favor. |

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

2015-103-A. Johnson-Dills. That the request to approve the division of 2119 Lake Drive into two separate parcels and related variances with 1) Parcel A having a front yard on Lake Drive with 52' of frontage instead of the required 72' and a lot area of 5,200 square feet instead of the required 7,200 square feet as required in Sections 5.28A Table 5.28-1, 5.58 and 5.403 and 5.406A1, and 2) with Parcel B having a front yard on Croswell with 48' of frontage instead of the required 50' as required in Sections 5.28A Table 5.28-1, 5.58 and 5.403 and 5.406A1, 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;

Commissioner Johnson felt these two homes would create a good transition between the single-family and multi-family uses in the area.

Commissioner Dills stated that while this would create non-conforming lots, they would be largely consistent with others on the surrounding streets.

Commissioner Skaggs noted that while he was not usually in favor of dividing a conforming lot to create non-conforming lots, there were few other options for this property and the resulting lots would be consistent with the size and shape of surrounding lots.

Mayor Seibold reported the comprehensive master plan had several years ago envisioned this type of growth on the streets surrounding Gaslight Village. She expressed her support for the land division request and single-family homes planned.

Commissioner Miller stated he originally opposed this request because it would create non-conforming lots, but now agreed this use would be better for the neighborhood than forcing multi-family or other uses.

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

2015-104. The zoning variance hearing hearings for the new parcels created from 2119 Lake Drive were withdrawn by Mr. Peterson pending further work on the home designs and setback requests.

2015-105. Skaggs-Johnson. To approve the consent agenda as follows:

2015-105-A. To approve the minutes of the regular meeting held September 8, 2015.

2015-105-B. Report of Finance Committee on disbursement of funds: payroll disbursements of \$202,180.47; county and school disbursements of \$124,957.68, and total remaining disbursements of \$798,637.69.

2015-105-C. The purchase of a hydraulic valve turner for the Public Works Department from Lewis Municipal Sales in the amount of \$57,040.

2015-105-D. The purchase of a brake lathe for the Public Works Department from NAPA in the amount of \$6,799.00.

2015-105-E. A contract with H.A. Irish in the amount of \$6,900 for tree removal services.

2015-105-F. Authorization to solicit bids for the rehabilitation of the Briarwood Lift Station.

2015-105-G. Authorization to solicit bids for televising, limited cleaning and Pipeline Assessment and Certification Program for sanitary and storm system infrastructure.

2015-105-H. The purchase of Microsoft exchange licenses and consulting services from Trivalent Group at a cost not-to-exceed \$6,600, and a related budget amendment if the cost exceeds \$6,175.00.

2015-105-I. Authorization for the City Manager to award a contract for water main replacement following a bid process on Audobon and San Jose, and a contract addendum with Superior Asphalt of Grand Rapids for repaving following the water main replacement.

Assistant City Manager LaFave reviewed the request and answered questions from the City Commission. The final contracts will be brought back to the City Commission for ratification at a future meeting.

2015-105-J. A “Public Inspection of Records Policy” as set forth in Exhibit “B” attached hereto.

2015-105-K. The preliminary minutes of the Parks & Recreation Commission meeting held July 13, 2015.

2015-105-L. The preliminary minutes of the Joint Facilities Committee meeting held August 12, 2015.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until October 5, 2015.

Karen K. Brower, City Clerk

Attachments: A – Ordinance Amendment to Sections 5.28, 5.70 and 5.114 regarding lot coverage
B – Public Inspection of Records policy

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 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, 73rd District Representative, gave an update on road funding issues, 3rd 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.

Karen K. Brower, City Clerk

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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 1st Place in the Men's 50-54 age group, and 37th 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 30th 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:

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| - 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.

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 Vredeveld of Vredeveld Haefner reviewed the audited financial statements for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2015 and answered questions from the City Commission. Mr. Vredeveld 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:

2015-121-H. Contracts with Symetra for stop loss insurance, Physicians Care as the PPO provider and Madison National Life for life/ADD insurance and long-term disability, and with ASR Corporation for third-party administration for the employee benefit programs as outlined in the agenda materials memo dated October 20, 2015.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:08 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until November 16, 2015.

Karen K. Brower, City Clerk

Attachments: A – Warranty Deed for right-of-way acquisition from EGR Public Schools.
B – Temporary Permit to change land contours.

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 16, 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; Captain Buikema; City Clerk Brower; Sgt. Perez, Public Safety Officers Katje, Gruzin, Lobbezoo, Kreiner and Karnes; Communications Specialist Snow-Buckner

2015-122. No public comment was received.

2015-123. Commissioner Graham thanked all the family and friends of those receiving awards for attending the meeting this evening.

Commissioner Duncan congratulated Mayor Seibold, Commissioner Miller, Chad Zagel and Karey Hamrick on their election results on November 3.

Mayor Seibold also congratulated those winning the recent election and thanked the residents who took the time to participate in the November 3rd election.

Mayor Seibold announced that Amy Snow-Buckner would be taking a new position with the City of Grand Rapids and would no longer be working on communications for East Grand Rapids. Mayor Seibold thanked Amy for her wonderful work over the past eleven months and wished her good luck in the future.

2015-124. Public Safety Director Herald presented a life-saving award to Public Safety Officer Jon Karnes for his actions on August 18, 2015 in reviving a patron at a local business who had suffered a heart attack. He also presented a Unit Citation to Staff Sergeant Eric Smith and Public Safety Officers Kelly Kreiner, Pete Gruzin and Dan Lobbezoo. Mr. Joseph Vanessendelft was presented with the Chief's Citation for assisting the Public Safety Department on that day.

2015-125. Preliminary minutes of the Traffic Commission meeting held October 26, 2015 regarding the staff recommendations for the reconstruction of the Lake/Breton/Lakeside intersection in 2016.

Assistant City Manager LaFave reviewed the Traffic Commission's decisions to extend the no parking zone on Breton Road south of Lake Drive, to remove the planned median to stop drivers turning left into the middle school from Lake Drive, and to remove the planned relocation of the middle school driveway off Lake Drive.

After an extended discussion, the City Commission decided it would be best to relocate the Lake Drive entrance to the middle school per staff's recommendation to allow better sight distance and flow of traffic around cars waiting to turn into the middle school and to ratify the decision to use a painted no turning zone instead of a physical median to deter vehicles from turning left. Several commissioners felt that if the painted zone was not enough to deter traffic, a median could be installed at a later date.

Commissioner Dills spoke in favor of adding the median back to the plans because it would be less expensive during the initial construction. Chief Herald also noted that a physical barrier would be better at deterring vehicles.

2015-125-A. Skaggs-Duncan. To amend the motion of the Traffic Commission to move the middle school entrance to the west as recommended by staff.

Yeas: Duncan, Graham, Johnson, Miller, Skaggs and Seibold – 6
Nays: Dills – 1

Mr. LaFave then reviewed the Traffic Commission's decision to ask staff to study the recommended traffic bumpouts along Lake Drive recommended for speed reduction. The engineers had recommended bumpouts at Bellclaire, Princeton and Kenesaw. The Traffic Commission had removed the recommended bumpout at Kenesaw because there was already a crosswalk at this location and had asked staff to further study this issue.

Commissioner Johnson reported many students crossed Lake Drive at the Kenesaw crosswalk and felt a bumpout would make this location safer.

2015-125-B. Johnson-Miller. To amend the motion of the Traffic Commission to add the additional bumpout at Kenesaw as recommended by staff.

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

2015-126. Graham-Johnson. To approve the consent agenda as follows:

2015-126-A. To approve the minutes of the regular meeting held November 2, 2015.

2015-126-B. Report of Finance Committee on disbursement of funds: payroll disbursements of \$283,431.07; county and school disbursements of \$24,851.06, and total remaining disbursements of \$187,815.49.

2015-126-C. A resolution amending the FY 2015-16 budget for the quarter ending September 30, 2015 as set forth in Exhibit "A" attached hereto.

2015-126-D. A resolution opting out of the health care premium requirements under State of Michigan Public Act 152 for the calendar year 2016 as set forth in Exhibit "B" attached hereto.

2015-126-E. The quarterly financial reports for the period ended September 30, 2015.

2015-126-F. Preliminary minutes of the Traffic Commission meeting held September 28, 2015.

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:48 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until December 7, 2015.

Karen K. Brower, City Clerk

Attachments: A – Resolution approving budget amendments for September 30, 2015.
B – Resolution opting out of PA 152 requirements

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 December 7, 2015

Mayor Seibold called the meeting to order at 6:04 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, Hamrick, Johnson, Miller, Skaggs, Zagel 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; Public Safety Director Herald; City Clerk Brower; Communications Specialist Greenleaf

2015-127. Chris Afendoulis, 73rd District State Representative, gave an update on issues in Lansing, including energy legislation, the Detroit Public Schools and proposed tax breaks. He congratulated the new members of the city commission and thanked the retiring commissioners for their service.

2015-128. Commissioner Johnson thanked the citizens, staff and her fellow commissioners for the great honor of serving as a city commissioner.

Commissioner Skaggs reminded everyone this was the last week for leaf pickup. He thanked Bill Graham and Cindy Johnson for their service, stating had been a pleasure to work with them over the last few years.

Commissioner Graham stated he had enjoyed every minute of his eight years on the Planning Commission and then eight years on the City Commission.

Mayor Seibold congratulated Parks & Recreation Director Fred Bunn on his world championship title in the Men's 50-54 Duathlon in Adelaide, Australia in October.

2015-129. Consider request to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held November 16, 2015.

2015-129-A. Johnson-Graham. To approve the minutes of the regular meeting held November 16, 2015.

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

Nays: -0-

2015-130. Consider request to approve disbursements.

2015-130-A. Graham-Johnson. To approve payroll disbursements of \$208,626.85; county and school disbursements of \$14,924.11, and total remaining disbursements of \$445,705.99.

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

Nays: -0-

2015-131. Mayor Seibold presented Commissioners Graham and Johnson with gifts commemorating their time as City Commissioner and thanked them for their dedicated service to the residents during their terms.

2015-132. City Clerk Brower administered the oath of office to 1st Ward City Commissioner Chad Zagel, 2nd Ward City Commissioner Karey Hamrick, 3rd Ward City Commissioner Brian Miller and Mayor Anna Seibold. The new officials then took their seats on the City Commission.

2015-133. A zoning variance hearing was held regarding the request of J. Peterson Homes on behalf of the owner of 455 Lakeside to allow the construction of a new home with a corner lot side yard setback of 12' instead of the required 14', and to allow the construction of a detached garage closer to the street than the principal building.

Zoning Administrator Faasse noted there had been an error in calculation with a result that the side yard variance was no longer required. However, the applicant has requested the city commission consider a 2' side yard variance of 10' instead of the required 12.'

Commissioner Miller stated his concern about granting a variance given the notice sent to residents gave the side yard setback proposal at 12.'

Mr. Faasse noted this lot looks wider because of the city right-of-way along Lansing. Unless the road is widened at some point, there will continue to be a strip of land that looks as if it is part of this lot. Future sidewalks would be located in the right-of-way. He also way explained that because the zoning code requires a detached garage to be located behind the front setback line of the neighboring house, it would be impossible to place a detached garage on this property unless a variance is granted. An attached garage would require a larger setback than a detached garage.

Joel Peterson of J. Peterson Homes, stated he felt this project would result in a nice little house on a narrow lot without being a detriment to the neighborhood. He stated they were proposing a detached garage so that the patio and back yard area could be placed directly behind the house instead of farther away behind a garage and to allow natural light into the west side of the home. The proposal would still allow 50' of space between structures. He asked the commission to consider allowing them to move the home two feet north to allow more separation from the home to the south. He noted the current home sits even closer to Lansing than the proposed home.

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

- Ben Sietsma, 2155 Lansing. Fully supported the proposal and noted there would still be plenty of greenspace in the area.
- Diane Lange, 2150 Lansing Felt this was a good use of a very small lot.

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

- Martha Mackay, 2156 Lansing Opposed due to green space concerns.

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

2015-133-A. Duncan-Miller. That the request of J. Peterson Homes on behalf of the owner of 455 Lakeside to allow the construction of a single-family home with a detached garage closer to the street than the principal building on the adjoining lot be approved.

Commissioners agreed it would not be appropriate to discuss the revised side yard variance request until proper notice could be given to property owners in the area.

Commissioner Skaggs felt the construction of a new home on a soon to be vacant lot could likely be built without a variance and he could not support a variance request.

Commissioner Miller stated his agreement that it would be nearly impossible to build a detached garage because of the size of the lot and the setback of neighboring properties.

Commissioner Dills agreed that he did not like to give variances for new homes, but agreed the size of the lot made this situation unique. Commissioner Duncan agreed, noting this would be a better use of space and natural lighting.

Commissioner Hamrick felt it made more sense to put the patio behind the home instead of behind the garage.

Mayor Seibold stated she could not support this request because the home to the west would then be looking at a garage. She felt an attached garage would be better for the neighbor.

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

2015-134. A zoning hearing on the request of Matt & Allisandra Kruer, owners of 2713 Reeds Lake Boulevard, for a determination of the definition of “double frontage or through lot” in the city ordinance.

Zoning Administrator Faasse asked the commission to assist with the interpretation of the zoning code regarding a through lot as it relates to the property at 2713 Reeds Lake Blvd. He explained that Meadowvale Road was originally platted, but has never been improved or used as a street, and exists only in legal definition on city plat maps. The applicants wish to build a new home on their property, but the new through lot ordinance would prevent most of the land from being used as a building site. The applicants feel this lot does not meet the definition of a through lot because Meadowvale is not being used as a street and the platted location of Meadowvale is not parallel to Reeds Lake Blvd as detailed in the ordinances.

Mayor Seibold noted many residents of the area had been discussing the idea of vacating Meadowvale and deeding the property to the homes on either side, but that request has not been made and would not be discussed this evening.

Rob Sears, architect for the applicants, stated the lot was deemed a through lot by city consultants because it had frontage on two more or less parallel streets. He requested the city commission determine that Meadowvale and Reeds Lake Blvd are not parallel streets because of the angle at which the two streets run.

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

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| - Eaaron Henderson-King, 245 Hodenpyl | Felt the roads do seem parallel with the front and rear property lines. |
| - Rob Sears, Sears Architects | Noted the definition addressed the streets, not property lines. |
| - Donna Henderson-King, 245 Hodenpyl | Concerned there had been mixed messages about plans and the larger implications of vacating the street, making her uncomfortable with making this decision until some issues were clarified. |
| - Matt Abraham, 2705 Reeds Lake Blvd | Felt the focus should be on whether the two roads are considered parallel and not other issues. |

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

City Attorney Huff noted the city code defined a street as an easement, right-of-way or other interest that has been conveyed to and accepted by a governmental body for the purpose of providing access to abutting land. While this right-of-way has not been developed or improved, he felt it had been accepted as a right-of-way when the plat was accepted.

2015-134-A. Skaggs-Miller. That this lot be determined to be a through lot according to Section 5.12H.

Commissioner Skaggs felt the ordinance was trying to avoid strange situations in the middle of existing neighborhoods. He was hesitant to set a precedent by stating this lot was not a through lot. Mr. Skaggs stated he would rather keep the city commission oversight of these situations by addressing them individually and seeking input from neighbors.

Commissioner Miller stated that if the road was paved it would be obvious that this was a through lot.

Commissioner Dills felt the two streets were much closer to parallel than to perpendicular. He further noted the definition of a street per the ordinance makes it very clear that Meadowvale is a legal street according to the ordinance. Mr. Dills noted that not following the ordinance would allow an enormous building envelope that may disrupt the neighborhood with a structure much larger than those surrounding it.

Commissioner Duncan agreed the commission had an obligation to consider the intent of the ordinance and not just the wording. She also supported the determination because of the potential building envelope size.

Commissioner Zagel noted the disparity between the aerial photo that shows greenspace and the plat map that shows the road. He agreed that by legal definition this property is a through lot.

Mayor Seibold stated that determining this to not be a through lot would set a precedent for others. She agreed the intent was to prevent back-to-back platted lots from being developed in a manner inconsistent with the other homes around it. She suggested the applicants consider applying for a variance to allow a larger building envelope than permitted on a through lot.

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

2015-135. Election of President for the remainder of FY 2015-16.

2015-135-A. Miller-Skaggs. That Commissioner Dills be elected as President for the remainder of FY 2015-16 to serve in the absence of the Mayor.

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

2015-136. Duncan-Miller. To approve the consent agenda as follows:

2015-136-A. Assignments to advisory boards and committees as recommended by Mayor Seibold.

2015-136-B. A resolution approving the creation of the Municipal Street Fund for funds related to the Street and Sidewalk Millage and outlining budget amendments to account for this new fund.

2015-136-C. The purchase of a portable pool Lift for Wealthy Pool from O.P. Aquatics in the amount of \$5,915.60.

2015-136-D. The purchase of a fuel management system from VanManen Petroleum Group in the amount of \$8,126.00.

2015-136-E. Improvements to the Briarwood lift station from Franklin Holwerda Company in the amount of \$107,992.00.

2015-136-F. The purchase of road salt for the 2015-16 winter season from North American Salt-Compass Minerals for the early supply delivery of 400 tons at \$64.24 per ton and up to an additional 1,100 tons at a cost of \$66.63 per ton.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:16 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until December 21, 2015.

Karen K. Brower, City Clerk

Attachments: A – Resolution creating a Municipal Street Fund.

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 December 21, 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, Hamrick, Miller, Skaggs, Zagel and Mayor Seibold

Absent: None

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

2015-137. No public comment was received.

2015-138. Mayor Seibold asked commissioners to review the city's street and sidewalk plowing guidelines so they could answer resident questions this winter.

2015-139. Discussion of Breton/Lake Drive intersection crosswalks.

Assistant City Manager LaFave reviewed the reconstruction planned for the Lake/Lakeside/Breton intersection and the options for crosswalks for this project: asphalt intersection with painted crosswalks (currently included in the project estimate of \$1,515,000), asphalt intersection with brick paver crosswalks in a concrete ribbon (added cost of \$40,000); or a concrete intersection with brick paver crosswalks (added cost of \$65,000). He noted the brick pavers may require additional maintenance in the future if they are damaged by plow blades. He further noted the concrete intersection would be more expensive to repair in the event of utility work, such as repairs to the 36" water main that runs under Lake Drive. City Manager Donovan reported the federal funding available on this project has been capped at \$600,000, so any additional costs approved by the commission would be the responsibility of the city through its road funding. The additional \$40,000 - \$65,000 would mean less money for local street resurfacing projects.

Commissioner Miller questioned how other cities are approaching intersection design and maintenance. Mr. LaFave stated he has not noticed a consistent theme or policy regarding amenities at intersections.

2015-139-A. Miller-Duncan. To direct staff to proceed with the asphalt intersection with brick paver crosswalks in a concrete ribbon as for the Lake/Lakeside/Breton intersection for the 2016 construction season.

Commissioner Miller stated the city has invested in these same amenities in other locations in and around Gaslight Village and doing the same here will create the gateway to the central area of the city. He felt the brick crosswalks would also encourage people to pay more attention to the crosswalks which would improve safety. He also felt the city's resurfacing program was slightly ahead of schedule after last year's cost savings and that this addition was worth the investment.

Commissioner Duncan agreed, stating she felt these improvements were appropriate since this was a major intersection in our community.

Commissioner Skaggs reported he had found some research indicating brick crosswalks do improve safety due to higher visibility and the surface texture difference. Mr. Skaggs agreed the additional funding seems reasonable given that will extend the aesthetics of Gaslight Village. He felt saving the funding on other projects allowed financial flexibility and stated the slight increase in maintenance costs were not significant.

Commissioner Dills favored function over fashion and felt this intersection was not a part of Gaslight Village. He suggested bidding the brick pavers as an alternate during the bid process to see if we can afford them and making a decision when the bids come in.

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.