

©PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COMMISSION
CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

Regular Meeting Held February 6, 2023

Mayor Favale called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the City Commission Chambers at the East Grand Rapids Community Center and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Commissioners Arendshorst, Hamrick, Schulz, Schwartz, Wessely and Mayor Favale.

Absent: None.

Also Present: City Manager Charles; Deputy City Manager LaFave; City Attorney Huff; City Clerk Parmenter; Finance Director Seath; Parks, Recreation Director Melville, Zoning Administrator Gianotti and Public Safety Chief Herald.

2023-01. The agenda was approved as submitted.

2023-02. City Commission interviews.

Michelle Brown was interviewed from 6:02 p.m. until 6:13 p.m.

Ryan Burdick was interviewed from 6:14 p.m. until 6:25 p.m.

2023-03. Public comment: None.

2023-04. Mayor and City Commission comments, including committee liaison reports.

Commissioner Schulz thanked the DPW for clearing the roads after the snowfall.

City Manager Charles thanked DPW for clearing the snow and reminded everyone that the playground bids were due tomorrow at 10:00.

2023-05. Consider approval of revised Fred Bunn Trail design and authorize staff to release project for bid and apply for necessary permits.

Parks and Recreation Director Melville highlighted the request, the process to date, input sessions, environmental assessment, both options for the design and noted that Parks and Recreation Commission thought Option B was the better option.

Commissioner Wessely arrived at 6:34 p.m.

Commissioner Arendshorst asked if there was any difference in the quality of the trail going through the wetlands. Parks and Recreation Director Melville stated there was no difference.

Commissioner Schulz asked if there was a chance of damage to the wetlands with a trail going through them. Parks and Recreation Director Melville stated that it was low impact with no paving and the impact was part of the review process.

Commissioner Hamrick wondered if both design options have the same level of permits

needed. Director Melville responded that Option A had less permits needed.

Mayor Favale wondered what closing a section for sledding would look like. Director Melville stated that it could be just signage or only open to foot traffic. It would be looked at as it was monitored over time.

Commissioner Schwartz asked about the access points being one-way or two-way traffic. Parks and Recreation Director Melville stated that they have worked closely with WWMBBA on guidance on the access points to the trails.

Public Comment:

Brian Miller, 1033 Floral Ave, stated he was part of the fundraising committee and supports Option B. He stated the sledding hill will exist no matter what and people are already walking through the wetlands.

Drew Collette stated he was the Cross Country Coach for East Grand Rapids. He said that the trails would be great for training, safer for the students and would provide opportunities for hosting races and events.

Alex (didn't catch his last name) said that they would go sledding there, play hide and seek and also stated that people are crossing the wetlands already.

2023-05-A. Arendshorst-Wessely. To approve the Option B Trail design and authorize staff to release project for bid and apply for the necessary permits.

Commissioner Arendshorst stated that it was a great job capturing the wants and needs of the community.,

Commissioner Schwartz is in favor of Option B and appreciates all the feedback she has received.

Commissioner Hamrick is in favor of Option B as well.

Mayor Favale is in favor of Option B and is proud of the process that has taken place.

Yeas: Arendshorst, Hamrick, Schulz, Schwartz, Wessely and Favale – 6

Nays: -0-

2023-06. Consider second reading of to amend Chapter 53 of Title V, in its entirety, as required by FEMA with respect to updates to the National Flood Insurance Program and associated Flood Insurance Rate Map updates for effective maps.

Deputy City Manager LaFave highlighted the amendments.

2023-06-A. Schulz-Wessely. To approve the proposed amendments of Chapter 53 of Title V, in its entirety, as required by FEMA.

Yeas: Arendshorst, Hamrick, Schulz, Schwartz, Wessely and Favale – 6

Nays: -0-

2023-07. Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals 2022 Annual Reports.

Zoning Administrator Gianotti highlighted the report.

Commissioner Hamrick wondered when the Zoning Board of Appeals went into effect. Zoning Administrator Gianotti stated January 2022.

2023-08. Consider an agreement to purchase Renewable Natural Gas-Environmental Attributes (RNG-EA) and Nature-Based-Carbon Offset Credits (COCs) to offset 100% of City of East Grand Rapids natural gas carbon emissions commencing in in Fiscal Year 2023-2024 through Fiscal Year 2032-2033 at 5% RNG-EA/95% COCs for a total program investment per Fiscal Year of \$21,151.

Deputy City Manager LaFave highlighted the request.

Commissioner Hamrick likes that we are taking steps to meet our climate goals.

Commissioner Schulz started that the cost is a very doable number.

Commissioner Arendshorst said that this is a good tool and is encouraged that we will be doing more.

2023-08-A. Arendshorst-Schwartz. To approve the agreement as presented.

Yeas: Arendshorst, Hamrick, Schwartz, Schulz, Wessely and Favale – 6

Nays: -0-

2023-09. Consider approving the creation of a Public Safety Recruit position with a starting salary of \$25.00/hour and benefits.

City Manager Charles highlighted the request.

Public Safety Chief Herald said that it was a good program.

2023-09-A. Schulz-Hamrick. To approve the creation of a Public Safety Recruit position as requested.

Yeas: Arendshorst, Hamrick, Schwartz, Schulz, Wessely and Favale – 6

Nays: -0-

2023-10. Consider changing the date of the April 3, 2023, Commission meeting as it occurs during Spring Break.

City Manager Charles highlighted the request.

Hamrick-Arendshorst. To change the April 3rd meeting to Tuesday, March 28th.

Yeas: Arendshorst, Hamrick, Schwartz, Schulz, Wessely and Favale – 6

Nays: -0-

2023-11. Schwartz-Schulz. To approve the consent agenda as follows:

2023-11-A. Minutes of the regular meeting held January 17, 2023.

2023-11-B. Disbursement of funds: payroll disbursements of \$240,228.23; county and school disbursements of \$1,595,730.12, and total remaining disbursements of \$496,477.72.

2023-11-C. Consider re-appointment of David Bilardello to the Rapid Board.

2023-11-D. Quarterly Financial Report for period ending December 31, 2022.

2023-11-E. Quarterly Budget Adjustments for FY 2022-23.

Yeas: Arendshorst, Hamrick, Schwartz, Schulz, Wessely and Favale – 6

Nays: -0-

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until February 20, 2023.

Lori A Parmenter, City Clerk