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CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

Regular Meeting Held February 20, 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, Schwartz, Wessely and Mayor Favale.

Absent: Commissioner Schulz.

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

2023-01. The agenda was approved as submitted.

2023-02. Discussion/Appointment of new First Ward Commissioner.

Commissioner Hamrick said that both candidates would be great, and it was a tough decision. She is voting for Ryan because he has more experience and is familiar with issues. She encouraged Michelle to apply to other boards and committees.

Commissioner Arendshorst was impressed with both candidates as well. He felt Ryan edged out Michelle because of his experience and encouraged Michelle to apply for other boards and committees.

Commissioner Schwartz was impressed with both candidates but is voting for Ryan due to experience and hopes Michelle will apply for other boards.

Commissioner Wessely reviewed the recording because he was late arriving to the interviews but thought both would be a good fit. He liked that Michelle referenced her job and the listening and following through that she does. Ryan has a strong background and did a slightly better job answering questions and is voting for Ryan.

Mayor Favale agrees that both are tremendous candidates, but Ryan's experience put him over the edge. Michelle did a phenomenal job and Mayor Favale hopes she gets involved.

2023-02-A. Schwartz-Hamrick. To appoint Ryan Burdick to fill the vacant First Ward Commission seat.

Yeas: Arendshorst, Hamrick, Schwartz, Wessely and Favale – 5

Nays: -0-

2023-03. Public comment:

Chris Lamange spoke regarding the conditions at the Remington Park ball field. He is disappointed that there will be a dog park and states that it will be a hazard for people at the

park with foul balls. He noted that the field is not playable most of the time and stated that someone needs to fight for the park.

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

Commissioner Wessely sat in on the Finance Committee meeting today and will look into Remington Park.

Commissioner Hamrick had a Planning Commission meeting last week. They are revising the ordinance for home occupations.

City Manager Charles said kudos the public works for handling multiple water main breaks along with plowing and other duties. Remington ball field was brought to the attention of staff last year. The field was constructed in wetlands and staff is working on ways to improve the field.

2023-05. Consider engineering service agreements with authorization for services.

Deputy City Manager LaFave highlighted the request.

2023-05-A. Wessely-Schwartz. To approve the engineering agreements with authorization for services as presented.

Commissioner Wessely noted that it was reviewed by Finance and found to be in order.

Yeas: Arendshorst, Hamrick, Schwartz, Wessely and Favale – 5

Nays: -0-

2023-06. Consider authorization and contract approval for the recommended mill-overlay and pavement preservation projects for 2023.

Deputy City Manager LaFave highlighted the request.

2023-06-A. Arendshorst-Wessely. To authorize and approve the contract for recommended mill-overlay and payment preservation projects for 2023 as presented.

Commissioner Arendshorst stated this was reviewed by the Infrastructure Committee and found to be in order.

Commissioner Wessely said that it was also reviewed by Finance and found to be in order.

Yeas: Arendshorst, Hamrick, Schwartz, Wessely and Favale – 5

Nays: -0-

2023-07. Consider amending the temporary pilot approval for RSFS installations in addition to existing installations.

Deputy City Manager LaFave highlighted the request.

2023-07-A. Wessely-Arendshorst. To amend the temporary pilot approval for RSFS installations in addition to existing installations.

Yeas: Arendshorst, Hamrick, Schulz, Wessely and Favale – 5

Nays: -0-

2023-08. Playground replacement project funding plan.

Parks and Recreation Director Melville highlighted the plan. He noted that there were two bids received for the project and gave a breakdown of the costs. The shortfall of \$345,000 and if the City and school both contributed \$300,000 it would cover cost and give the project a contingency fund. He noted that it could be borrowed from other park millage projects or with the use of ARPA funds.

Commissioner Hamrick confirmed that the school's total contribution would be \$1.75 million.

Mayor Favale asked what site furniture included. Parks and Recreation Director Melville stated that it was seating under the gazebos, benches and chairs.

Commissioner Hamrick asked if City staff could construct any of the equipment to save some money. City Manager Charles noted that the contractors would do this for liability reasons.

Commissioner Hamrick said the Infrastructure Committee discussed the use of ARPA funds and she supports this. She stated that this is a chance to do the project right the first time.

Mayor Favale asked what the total ARPA funds amounted to. City Manager Charles stated it was \$1.2 million.

Commissioner Wessely said that it is pricey but can see the importance of doing the project all at once and appreciates staff for working to find savings to be able to do the project. He asked how much was left from ARPA. City Manager Charles said about \$680,000.

Commissioner Schwartz said that the Finance Committee agreed with using ARPA funds.

City Manager Charles said that other options were fund balance, other park millage fund projects and stated that the project also straddles fiscal years.

2023-09. Wessely-Schwartz. To approve the consent agenda as follows:

2023-09-A. Minutes of the regular meeting held February 6, 2023.

2023-09-B. Disbursement of funds: payroll disbursements of \$256,799.82; county and school disbursements of \$264,124.29, and total remaining disbursements of \$394,164.89.

Yeas: Arendshorst, Hamrick, Schwartz, Wessely and Favale – 5

Nays: -0-

Work Session: Goals & Objectives for FY 2023-24.

City Manager Charles gave an overview of the goals and objectives for the City Manager's office.

Finance Director Seath highlighted the Finance Department goals and objectives.

Parks and Recreation Director Melville highlighted the Parks Department and noted that they were able to hire an intern middle school sports which has been very beneficial.

Deputy City Manager LaFave highlighted the Public Works Department goals and objectives.

Public Safety Chief Herald highlighted the Public Safety goals and objectives.

The meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until March 6, 2023.

Lori A Parmenter, City Clerk