

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COMMISSION
CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

Regular Meeting Held March 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, Burdick, Hamrick, Schulz, Schwartz, Wessely and Mayor Favale.

Absent: None.

Also Present: City Manager Charles, Deputy City Manager La Fave, City Attorney Huff, Finance Director Seath, Parks & Recreation Director Melville, Zoning Administrator Gianotti and Recording Secretary Taylor.

2023-50 The agenda was approved as submitted.

2023-51 Mayor Favale opened public comment. No public present at the meeting. Mayor Favale closed public comment.

2023-52 Mayor and City Commission comments, including committee liaison reports.

- Commissioner Schwartz: Nothing to report.
- Arendshorst: Nothing to report.
- Commissioner Hamrick: Regarding the Amendment to Chapter 50, the Planning Commission had several work sessions and discussions before unanimously approving the amendments. The amendments will adapt the ordinance to current times.
- Commissioner Schulz: Wished everyone a Happy First-Day-of-Spring. He reported that he attended the GVBA meeting and that the association is trying to increase their membership and is growing in strength. He congratulated the East Grand Rapids Hockey and Swim teams for their participation at State level and both in runner up positions in State Championships.
- Commissioner Burdick: Nothing to report.
- Commissioner Wessely: Nothing to report.
- Mayor Favale: Stated she was honored to give out awards at the Science Olympiad West Michigan Finals competition at G.V.S.U. this past weekend and congratulated all the East Grand Rapids participants. They did well medaling in both the Middle School and High School competitions.
- City Manager Charles: Thanked all those who helped with the cancellation of the Irish Jig on Saturday. He also announced that Commissioner Burdick would be unable to attend the next City Commissioner meeting on March 28. He reported DTE will be on the next City Commission meeting agenda regarding a gas renewal program where 17 miles of gas lines will be replaced in 2024. The Commission will explore whether to do this work all in one year or break of the process into multiple years.

2023-53 Consider the final reading of amendments to Amendment to Chapter 50, Sections 5.16, 5.27, 5.36, 5.61, 5.68 and 5.70 of the Zoning Ordinance – Home Occupations and Related Uses

Zoning Administrator Gianotti reviewed the proposed ordinance amendments dealing with home occupations in the City. The amendments will be updated to reflect that home occupations are becoming more popular and that the City's current regulations may not reflect the current trends and the way that home occupations are currently operating in general throughout the country. There may be some home occupations that the City

doesn't know about that may be technically non-conforming to current regulation, but at the same time do not cause any harm or nuisance. The updates will make the regulations more flexible and more tailored to current trends in home occupations. Mr. Gianotti asked for questions or comments from Commissioners.

- Hamrick: Asked for a summary of 5.27 regarding adult foster care homes. City Attorney Huff explained that years ago foster care homes were not allowed in the City. After State intervention, the City chose to adopt the minimum permitted use which would allow these facilities in the R2 and R3 districts. He added that this can be changed to include the R1 district if needed.
- Commissioner Schulz asked for a definition of an accessory building. Mr. Gianotti explained that this would be building not attached to the main residence such as garage or shed. There are standards regarding placement and size for these.
- Commissioner Wessely asked for an explanation of the 2' setback for mechanical equipment. Mr. Gianotti explained that the current ordinance could allow this equipment up to the property line. The amendment would prevent this by requiring at least a 2' setback.

2023-53A Wessely/Schwartz. Approve an amendment to Chapter 50, Sections 5.16, 5.27, 5.36, 5.61, 5.68 and 5.70 of the Zoning Ordinance – Home Occupations and Related Uses.

Yeas: Arendshorst, Burdick, Hamrick, Schulz, Schwartz, Wessely and Favale – 7
Nays: -0-

2023-54 Consider the appointment of Michelle Brown to the Parks and Recreation Commission

City Manager Charles explained that because of Commissioner Burdick's appointment to the City Commission he resigned from the Parks and Recreation Commission leaving vacancy in membership there. Based on conversation with the Mayor and feedback from interviews, the Mayor felt that Ms. Brown would be a good fit for the Parks and Recreation Commission. This appointment is just to fulfill Commissioner Burdick's former term.

Commissioner Arendshorst commented that he thought Ms. Brown would be great on the Parks and Recreation Commission, but wondered if there was any concern about not running the appointment through the Personnel Committee first. City Manager Charles responded that he and City Attorney Huff discussed this and legally, there is no obligation to go through the personnel committee. Commissioner Hamrick added that this is also a partial term.

2023-54A Arendshorst/Wessely. To approve the appointment of Michelle Brown to the Parks and Recreation Commission for the partial term ending June 30, 2024.

Mayor Favale stated that everyone had a chance to meet Ms. Brown and that they were impressed by her. She definitely had a passion for the Parks. The personnel committee will be reviewing all appointments coming up in June.

Yeas: Arendshorst, Burdick, Hamrick, Schulz, Schwartz, Wessely and Favale – 7
Nays: -0-

2023-55 Schulz/Schwartz. To approve the consent agenda as follows:

2023-55A. Minutes of the regular City Commission meeting held March 6, 2023

2023-55B. Disbursement of funds: Payroll disbursements of \$249,031.22; county and school disbursements of \$55,973.79; and total remaining disbursements of \$178,497.43.

2023-55C. Minutes of the January 23, 2023 Parks and Recreation Meeting.

2023-55D. Minutes of the February 14, 2023 Planning Commission Meeting.

Yeas: Arendshorst, Burdick, Hamrick, Schulz, Schwartz, Wessely and Favale – 7

Nays: -0-

The meeting adjourned at 6:23 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until March 28, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynda Taylor
Recording Secretary