

©PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COMMISSION
CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

Regular Meeting Held March 28, 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, Wessely and Mayor Favale.

Absent: Commissioners Burdick and Schwartz.

Also Present: City Manager Charles; Deputy City Manager LaFave; City Attorney Huff; Finance Director Seath; Parks & Recreation Director Melville; City Clerk Parmenter

2023-56. The agenda was approved as submitted.

2023-57. Public comment: None.

2023-58. Mayor and City Commission comments, including committee liaison reports.

Commissioner Schulz reminded everyone that curbside pickup is next week. This is for leaves, clippings and branches. Place them in the outlawn and not in the street.

Mayor Favale thanked City Manager Charles for going to speak to the government class with her.

City Manager Charles said that the dog park construction was underway, April 14th was the start date for the playground construction and that the school sent letters to parents regarding this. He also gave an update that staff is checking into solutions for the flooding problem at Remington Park.

2023-59. Consider approval of alternative #1 with Superior Asphalt for a total amount of \$140,725 to include the following design changes for:

*The revised traffic island plan for Englewood Dr. and Gorham Dr.

*The revised re-alignment plan for Martin Luther King Jr. St. and Rosewood Ave.

*The revised re-alignment plan for Martin Luther King Jr. St. and Gladstone Ave.

Deputy City Manager LaFave highlighted the request, the resident feedback and the changes made based on the feedback.

Commissioner Hamrick asked where the crosswalks were located at Englewood and Gorham. It was noted that they were shifted west so as not to enter into a driveway.

Commissioner Schulz inquired if there were stop signs at Englewood and Gorham. There will be.

Commissioner Arendshorst asked about a crosswalk on the east side of the street at MLK Jr. and Gladstone. He believes it will lead to jaywalking without one there.

Jared Halverson with Halverson Engineering stated that the intent is to reduce multiple

crossing areas.

Mayor Favale asked if the more crosswalks are more hazardous and inquired about a traffic circle at the intersections.

Jared Halverson noted that traffic circles were looked at, but there would be driveways within the circles which would create more hazards.

Chris Zull with Progressive AE said that the number of crosswalks can be hazardous. He understands the problem of jaywalking.

Commissioner Arendshorst asked if the crosswalks break up the road enough to make traffic go slower. It was noted that this is not known, but the presence of more people being visible has impact on speed.

Commissioner Hamrick noted that the comments that were sent in were done prior to the revisions and it is good to point out that the revisions have taken care of the concerns.

Commissioner Wessely noted that it makes sense to do this in conjunction with scheduled road maintenance.

Ray Fisher, 2108 Tenway Dr SE, lives off Englewood and Gorham. He thanked everyone for the work put in on this and the clarification of the purpose of the changes. He requested the new posts have reflectors all the way down, to look at the parking as he doesn't feel there is enough space to keep it and requested FAQ's go out to residents to ease their minds and to help answer questions.

2023-59-A. Hamrick-Schulz. To approve the project for Englewood Dr. and Gorham Dr. and related costs.

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

Nays: -0-

2023-59-B. Arendshorst-Wessely. To approve the project for Martin Luther King Jr. St. and Rosewood Ave. and related costs.

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

Nays: -0-

2023-59-C. Hamrick-Schulz. To approve the project for Martin Luther King Jr. St. and Gladstone Ave. and related costs.

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

Nays: -0-

2023-60. Consider authorizing professional traffic engineering services for associated traffic signal replacement for the Breton Road and Boston Street traffic signal at \$27,380 plus 10% contingency and associated schedule of rates for as needed traffic engineering service needs through FY 23/24.

Deputy City Manager LaFave highlighted the request and gave a history of the replacements.

Commissioner Arendshorst questioned the cost of the signals.

Commissioner Wessely inquired about the relationship with Halverson and Progressive AE. Deputy City Manager LaFave responded that they are on a need only basis and have knowledge of the area.

2023-60-A. Schulz-Hamrick. To approve professional traffic engineering services with Progressive AE for traffic signal replacement for the Breton Road and Boston Street traffic signal at \$27,380 plus 10% contingency.

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

Nays: -0-

2023-61. Consider approval of National Opioid Settlement Agreement with Teva, Allergan, CVS, and Walmart and authorize the City Manager to execute any documents necessary on behalf of the City of East Grand Rapids.

City Manager Charles highlighted the request and noted that if take the settlement, we waive our right to sue in the future.

2023-61-A. Arendshorst-Schulz. To approve participation in the National Opioid Settlement Agreement and authorize the City Manager to execute any documents necessary on behalf of the City of East Grand Rapids.

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

Nays: -0-

2023-62. Consider approval of a one-year contract in the amount of \$25,000 for the 2023 4th of July Firework show.

Parks and Recreation Director Melville highlighted the request.

Mayor Favale asked for clarification that the show would only be a couple of minutes shorter. The reply was yes.

Commissioner Arendshorst asked if we would have to pay the full \$25,000 if no sponsor was found. The response was yes.

Commissioners Hamrick and Arendshorst have concerns regarding the noise with pets, wildlife and service members. They also have environmental concerns and would like to seek other options for next year.

2023-62-A. Wessely-Schulz. To approve a one-year contract with Great Lakes Fireworks in the amount of \$25,000 for the 2023 4th of July Fireworks show.

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

Nays: -0-

2023-63. Consider authorizing a one-year contract with DTE for a Gas Renewal Program to occur in 2024.

City Manager Charles highlighted the program and mentioned that a senior project manager would be on site every day.

Mayor Favale asked if a multi-year contract was on the table and if we hire outside engineers would they have a say in the project. City Manager Charles said that there was not a multi-year contract at this time and that an outside engineer would advocate for us and help with field decisions.

Commissioner Arendshorst said that residents are concerned because of what is going on in Grand Rapids and he is glad to hear that steps are being taken to mitigate issues.

2023-63-A. Schulz-Arendshorst. To approve a one-year replacement contract and the hiring of outside engineering with related costs.

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

Nays: -0-

2023-64. Hamrick-Schulz. To approve the consent agenda as follows:

2023-64-A. Minutes of the regular meeting held March 20, 2023.

2023-64-B. Disbursement of funds: payroll disbursements of \$251,814.95; county and school disbursements of \$0, and total remaining disbursements of \$420,756.48.

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

Nays: -0-

*COMMISSIONER SCHULZ LEFT AT 7:48 PM.

Work Session

1. Goals & Objectives for FY 2023-24.

City Manager Charles reviewed the goals and objectives for the City Managers office and noted that he would add a goal for a Climate Action Plan.

Commissioner Hamrick pointed out typos in the document to be corrected prior to it being finalized.

Finance Director Seath reviewed the Finance Goals and Objectives.

Parks and Recreation Director Melville highlighted their Goals and Objectives.

Deputy City Manager LaFave reviewed the department Goals and Objectives.

Commissioner Hamrick asked about a Climate Action Plan. City Manager Charles noted that an RFP for a Climate Action Plan is in process.

City Manager Charles reviewed the Public Safety goals in the absence of Chief Herald.

The meeting adjourned at 8:18p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until April 17, 2023.