

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COMMISSION
CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

Regular Meeting Held June 19, 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 Burdick, Hamrick, Schwartz, Schulz, Wessely and Mayor Favale.

Absent: Commissioner Arendshorst.

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

2023-109. The agenda was approved as submitted.

2023-110. Public comment: None.

2023-111. Mayor and City Commission comments, including committee liaison reports.

Commissioner Schulz mentioned that the Girl's Soccer Team took second place in the State Competition. He mentioned that the Community Foundation will not be holding the Trail Blazer this year, but there are good things happening for the future.

Commissioner Burdick thanked everyone who came to Manhattan Park for the input sessions and reminded everyone to do the survey.

Commissioner Wessely noted that members of the Community Foundation would be in John Collins Park on the Fourth of July giving away cooling towels. He also noted Juneteenth and Pride Month and the importance of each of the occasions.

Commissioner Hamrick mentioned that Brooke Oosterman from Housing Next gave a presentation during the Planning Commission meeting and that it was very informative. She also mentioned the importance of Pride Month and Juneteenth and asked the public for more feedback on Manhattan Park.

City Manager Charles noted that there were over 500 responses on the survey so far and over 70 at the community input sessions.

2023-112. Recognition of Kelly Clum-Matthysse for her years of participation on the East Grand Rapids Community Foundation Board.

Mayor Favale read and presented Kelly Clum-Matthysse with a proclamation for her years of service on the Community Foundation.

2023-113. Public hearing to certify the attached lists of delinquent accounts receivable and authorize placement of these accounts on the July 1, 2023, tax roll.

Finance Director Seath introduced the request and the purpose for it.

Public Hearing opened at 6:15 pm.

Public Hearing closed at 6:16 pm.

2023-113-A. Schulz-Schwartz. To certify the list of delinquent accounts receivable and authorize placement of them on the July 1, 2023 tax roll.

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

Nays: -0-

2023-114. Consider creation of a Social District within Gaslight Village.

City Manager Charles highlighted the request and noted that he was seeking feedback on the hours of operation and the common areas. He also noted that he would provide a resolution at the next meeting to formalize the Social District.

Commissioner Hamrick asked if there was flexibility to change the common area in the future. City Manager Charles stated that there was.

Mayor Favale asked what the other businesses thought about the Social District. City Manager Charles said that they are excited for the district.

Commissioner Wessely wondered why John Collins Park was not included. City Manager Charles noted that alcohol is not allowed in the park and mentioned the apartments and condos on Lakeside.

Commission Hamrick wondered if John Collins Park had alcohol restrictions. City Manager Charles said that would have to be looked in to.

Commissioner Schwartz stated that it would make sense to start small and go bigger in the future if it is working.

Public Safety Chief Herald stated that the Social District is a great idea, but alcohol can cause problems and it is better to start small.

2023-115. Second reading of an Ordinance Amendment to Section 5.201 of Chapter 51 of Title V of the Code of the City of East Grand Rapids as requested by the Planning Commission.

Deputy City Manager La Fave reviewed the proposed changes to the ordinance and noted that this was just a housekeeping item.

2023-115-A. Hamrick-Burdick. To approve the Ordinance Amendment to Section 5.201 of Chapter 51 of Title V of the Code of the City of East Grand Rapids as requested by the Planning Commission allowing the appointment of a City Commissioner to the Planning Commission.

Yeas: Burdick, Hamrick, Schwartz, Schulz, Wessely and Favale – 6
Nays: -0-

2023-116. Advisory Board appointments.

City Manager Charles reviewed the Personnel Committee's recommended appointments.

2023-116-A. Schwartz-Schulz. To approve the list of appointments as submitted in request.

Yeas: Burdick, Hamrick, Schwartz, Schulz, Wessely and Favale – 6
Nays: -0-

2023-117. Consider approving the redesign of the City website as included in our current contract and approve the renewal of our annual hosting and support contract in the amount of \$7,625.80.

Finance Director Seath highlighted the request and noted that this was for a one-year contract renewal.

2023-117-A. Schulz-Schwartz. To approve the redesign of the City website as included in our current contract and approve the renewal of our annual hosting and support contract with CivicPlus in the amount of \$7,625.80.

Yeas: Burdick, Hamrick, Schwartz, Schulz, Wessely and Favale – 6
Nays: -0-

2023-118. Consider authorizing the purchase of Power Engage & Power FTO software program for a total amount of \$13,389.90.

Public Safety Chief Herald highlighted the request.

Commissioner Burdick asked where the data was stored and if the City owned the data. Public Safety Chief Herald to check on this to make sure the City would retain the data.

2023-118-A. Schulz-Burdick. To approve the purchase of Power Engage & Power FTO software program from PowerDMS by NEOGOV in the amount of \$13,389.90.

Yeas: Burdick, Hamrick, Schwartz, Schulz, Wessely and Favale – 6
Nays: -0-

2023-119. Consider authorizing signalized intersection signage improvements.

Deputy City Manager La Fave highlighted the request.

2023-119-A. Hamrick-Schulz. To authorize intersection signage improvements as noted by Traffic Engineering Consultants from Progressive AE.

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

Nays: -0-

2023-120. Consider authorizing repairs of Lakeside Drive's culvert.

Deputy City Manager La Fave highlighted the request, the process and the work done to date.

Commissioner Burdick commends La Fave for being proactive on the situation.

2023-120-A. Burdick-Schwartz. To approve the repairs to the culvert pipe on Lakeside Drive between Robinson Road and Durant Street in the amount not to exceed \$270,000 plus 15% contingency through the existing contract with Corby Energy Services, Inc.

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

Nays: -0-

2023-121. Schwartz-Schulz. To approve the consent agenda as follows:

2023-121-A. Minutes of the regular and special meetings held June 5, 2023.

2023-121-B. Disbursement of funds: payroll disbursements of \$254,799.28 county and school disbursements of \$230.00, and total remaining disbursements of \$486,665.41.

2023-121-C. Fourth Quarter Budget Adjustments for 2022-2023 Fiscal Year.

2023-121-D. Consider authorizing the purchase of four sets of turnout gear for \$13,593.92.

2023-121-E. Consider a request from the Parks and Recreation Department to merge two part-time Administrative Clerk positions into one full-time position.

2023-121-F. Consider approving Amendment No. 41 to the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council Articles of Incorporation removing the City of Hastings from the Metro Council.

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

Nays: -0-

2023-122. Consider authorizing the Commission to enter into closed session under 15.268(c) for strategy and negotiations relating to a collective bargaining agreement.

2023-122-A. Schwartz-Burdick. To authorize the commission to enter into a executive session at 7:15 p.m. under 15.268(c) of the open meetings act. A roll call vote was taken.

Yeas: Burdick, Hamrick, Schulz, Schwartz, Wessely and Favale – 6
Nays: -0-

2023-123. The meeting recessed at 7:15p.m. to conduct the executive session. The meeting resumed at 7:53 p.m.

2023-124. Approval of collective bargaining agreement with the AFSCME Local 1645 Public Works union.

2023-110-A. Schulz-Schwartz. That a three-year contract with AFSCME Local 1645 Public Works Union beginning July 1, 2023, be approved as presented.

Yeas: Burdick, Hamrick, Schulz, Schwartz, Wessely and Favale – 6
Nays: -0-

2023-125. Approval of a collective bargaining agreement with EGR Public Safety Officers Association.

2023-111-A. Hamrick-Schulz. That a three-year contract with EGR Public Safety Officers Association beginning July 1, 2023, be approved as presented.

Yeas: Burdick, Hamrick, Schulz, Schwartz, Wessely and Favale – 6
Nays: -0-

2023-126. Approval of proposed increases for non-union staff as well as increased contribution to the City's Defined Contribution retirement plan and FICA.

2023-112-A. Schulz-Hamrick. That proposed increases for non-union staff as well as increased contribution to the City's Defined Contribution retirement plan and FICA.

Yeas: Burdick, Hamrick, Schulz, Schwartz, Wessely and Favale – 6
Nays: -0-

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until July 10, 2023.

Lori A Parmenter, City Clerk