

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COMMISSION
CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

Regular Meeting Held January 4, 2021

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. She announced the meeting was also being held electronically as allowed by the recent amendment to the Michigan Open Meetings Act in response to the COVID-19 crisis. She invited any citizen attending by computer or phone to ask questions or offer comments during the public comment times.

Present in Person: Commissioners Hamrick and Mayor Favale

Present Virtually: Commissioners Arendshorst, Duncan, Hecksel, Pachla and Walters

Absent: None

Also Present: City Attorney Huff; Interim City Manager LaFave; Finance Director Seath; Public Safety Director Herald; City Clerk Brower; Parks & Recreation Director Bunn; Recreation Supervisor Fasbender; Recreation Supervisor Granstra; Recreation Supervisor Slater, Administrative Clerk Ritzke; Administrative Clerk Molenaar; Administrative Clerk Orrs; Shea Charles

2021-01. The agenda was approved as published.

2021-02. Recreation Supervisor Fasbender spoke on behalf of the Parks & Recreation Department employees to thank Fred Bunn for his years of leadership and commitment to the community and wished him well in his retirement.

Pete Ricketson, 6356 Durham (Whitehall), a Rapid bus driver, updated the commission on the contract negotiations between the Rapid and the transportation union and asked the city to contact the Rapid leadership and urge them to treat the employees honestly and fairly.

2021-03. Commissioner Hamrick wished everyone a Happy New Year. She also welcomed Shea Charles to his first city commission meeting.

Commissioner Hecksel recognized the lasting effect Fred's enthusiastic and passionate leadership has had on the community.

Commissioner Walters noted Fred had been a great ambassador for the community and praised the department's efforts to continue offering recreation programs and outdoor recreation spaces during the COVID pandemic.

Commissioner Pachla also commended Fred Bunn on his career accomplishments and noted that he would be missed by so many. Mr. Pachla reminded residents that Christmas trees were being picked up by the Public Works Department until January 15.

Commissioners Duncan and Arendshorst thanked Mr. Bunn for his 30 years of service and wished him well after retirement.

Interim City Manager LaFave voiced his appreciation for Fred's leadership and his willingness to jump in and help in any situation needed. Mr. LaFave announced the next city commission meeting would be on Tuesday, January 19 due to the Martin Luther King holiday.

Mayor Favale presented Fred Bunn with a proclamation naming January 15, 2021 as "Fred Bunn Day" in East Grand Rapids to honor his retirement. She also announced that the planned multi-use trails at Manhattan Park would be named "the Fred Bunn Trails" as a tribute to Fred's commitment to all forms of recreation opportunities for the citizens of our area.

2021-04. Laura St. Louis of Disability Advocates of Kent County, Valerie Lefler of Feonix-Mobility Rising and Paul Ryan of the West Michigan Veterans Coalition presented information on their partnership to offer transportation to veterans and their families in the area.

Commissioner Hamrick asked that a resolution of support for this program be drafted for adoption at the next meeting.

2021-05. City Manager Employment Agreement.

City Attorney Huff outlined the basic terms of the contract with Shea Charles as the new city manager.

Shea Charles thanked Mr. Huff and Mayor Favale for working with him on the terms of the agreement and stated he hoped to begin work in early- to mid-February.

2021-05-A. Hamrick-Pachla. That a three-year employment agreement with Shea Charles as the new city manager be approved as outlined in the agenda materials.

Yeas: Arendshorst, Duncan, Hamrick, Hecksel, Pachla, Walters and Favale – 7
Nays: -0-

2021-06. Pachla-Arendshorst. To approve the consent agenda as follows:

2021-06-A. Minutes of the regular meeting held December 21, 2020.

2021-06-B. The reappointment of David Bilardello to the Interurban Transit Partnership Board for a two-year term ending December 31, 2022.

Yeas: Arendshorst, Duncan, Hamrick, Hecksel, Pachla, Walters and Favale – 7
Nays: -0-

2021-07. Mayor Favale reopened the meeting for public comment. No public comment was received.

The meeting adjourned at 6:42 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until January 4, 2021.

Karen K. Brower, City Clerk

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COMMISSION
CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

Regular Meeting Held January 19, 2021

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. She announced the meeting was also being held electronically as allowed by the recent amendment to the Michigan Open Meetings Act in response to the COVID-19 crisis. She invited any citizen attending by computer or phone to ask questions or offer comments during the public comment times.

Present in Person: Commissioners Hamrick and Mayor Favale

Present Virtually: Commissioners Arendshorst, Hecksel, Pachla and Walters

Absent: Commissioner Duncan

Also Present: City Attorney Huff; Interim City Manager LaFave; Finance Director Seath; Public Safety Director Herald; City Clerk Brower; Recreation Supervisor Fasbender

2021-08. Mayor Favale asked that a withdrawal contract with MERS be added to the agenda for consideration.

2021-08-A. Arendshorst-Hamrick. That a Defined Benefit Plan Withdrawal and Asset Transfer Agreement with MERS of Michigan be added to the agenda.

Yeas: Arendshorst, Hamrick, Hecksel, Pachla, Walters and Favale – 6

Nays: -0-

2021-09. Peter Ricketson, 6356 Durham Rd (Whitehall) stated he was a bus driver for the Rapid and was concerned about the organization's policy of allowing riders to not wear a mask if they state they have a medical condition.

2021-10. Commissioner Hamrick appreciated the rescheduling of the meeting to observe the Martin Luther King holiday yesterday.

Commissioner Walters spoke about local government's role in addressing racial inequality and asked the city commission to find ways to address the issue more actively. Commissioner Arendshorst agreed.

Commissioner Pachla spoke about the need to continue engaging citizens in all decisions and plans.

Mayor Favale announced the start of the #9PMROUTINE to encourage residents to bring in valuables, lock their homes and vehicles and turn on lights to deter crime. She also announced the next blood drive would be held on January 26.

Mayor Favale and Interim City Manager LaFave presented a plaque to City Attorney Huff recognizing his 35 years as city attorney and thanked him for his dedication and commitment to the city.

2021-11. Resolution supporting veteran's transportation pilot through Disability Advocates of Kent County.

2021-011-A. Hamrick-Pachla. That a resolution supporting a pilot program organized by the West Michigan Veterans Coalition, Feonix/Mobility Rising, Disability Advocates of Kent County and the Kent County Veterans Services to provide transportation for veterans and their families be adopted as attached in Exhibit "A."

Yeas: Arendshorst, Hamrick, Hecksel, Pachla, Walters and Favale – 6

Nays: -0-

2021-12. MERS Defined Benefit Plan Withdrawal and Asset Transfer Agreement.

Finance Director Seath explained the agreement was one of the last steps involved in closing the defined benefit plan with the Municipal Employees Retirement System (MERS) and establishing an independent plan for administration of the employee defined benefit pension plan.

2021-012-A. Pachla-Arendshorst. That a Defined Benefit Plan Withdrawal and Asset Transfer Agreement with MERS of Michigan be approved as attached in Exhibit "B."

Yeas: Arendshorst, Hamrick, Hecksel, Pachla, Walters and Favale – 6
Nays: -0-

2021-13. Hecksel-Pachla. To approve the consent agenda as follows:

2021-013-A. Minutes of the regular meeting held January 4, 2021.

2021-013-B. Payroll disbursements of \$405,579.49; county and school disbursements of \$590,768.60, and total remaining disbursements of \$222,024.98.

Yeas: Arendshorst, Hamrick, Hecksel, Pachla, Walters and Favale – 6
Nays: -0-

2021-14. Staff members updated the city commission on several of the FY 2020-21 goals and objectives.

Finance Director Seath reported the Retirement Health Savings Program has been implemented and the transition to a new Assessor has been completed.

Public Safety Director Herald gave an update on the training scheduled for the coming weeks to implement the new body cameras and on the efforts to reduce overtime spending while maintaining staffing levels in case of emergencies.

Interim City Manager LaFave announced that 70% of the city's streets and sidewalks were at a PASER rating of "good/fair" to "excellent" thanks to the funding provided by the streets and sidewalk millage approved by voters in 2015. He also provided information on the condition of the water and sewer systems.

Acting Parks & Recreation Director Fasbender updated the commission on the Reeds Lake Trail signage that would be installed in the spring, including a QR code that people could scan to find nearby amenities.

2021-15. Mayor Favale reopened the meeting for public comment. No public comment was received.

The meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until February 1, 2021.

Karen K. Brower, City Clerk

Attachments: A – Resolution supporting veterans transportation pilot program
B – MERS Withdrawal and Asset Transfer Agreement

Attachments listed above are available for inspection at the office of the City Clerk.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COMMISSION
CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

Regular Meeting Held February 1, 2021

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. She announced the meeting was also being held electronically as allowed by the recent amendment to the Michigan Open Meetings Act in response to the COVID-19 crisis. She invited any citizen attending by computer or phone to ask questions or offer comments during the public comment times.

Present in Person: Commissioners Hamrick and Mayor Favale

Present Virtually: Commissioners Arendshorst, Hecksel, Pachla and Walters

Absent: Commissioner Duncan

Also Present: City Attorney Huff; City Manager Charles; Assistant City Manager LaFave; Finance Director Seath; Public Safety Director Herald; City Clerk Brower; Recreation Supervisor Fasbender; Planning Consultant LeBlanc; Captain Buikema; Public Safety Officer Buter

2021-16. The agenda was approved as published.

2021-17. Peter Ricketson, 6356 Durham Rd (Whitehall) reported that The Rapid bus service was not correctly enforcing the medical exemption portion of President Biden's order requiring masks on public transportation.

2021-18. Commissioners Hamrick, Hecksel, Arendshorst, Pachla and Walters welcomed Shea Charles to the City as the new city manager.

Commissioner Pachla noted that vaccinatewestmi.com contained extensive information for those wanting information about COVID-19 vaccination eligibility and scheduling.

Mayor Favale reported the blood drive last week was very successful with every reservation slot filled. She also thanked the Public Works Department for their quick response to a resident concern recently.

2021-19. City Clerk Brower administered the oath of office to City Manager Shea Charles.

2021-20. Zoning variance hearing on the request of Bill & Jillane Payne of 741 San Jose to allow the construction of an addition to the home creating a combined side yard setback of 16'9" instead of the required 18.'

Planning Consultant LeBlanc outlined the request for a reduced combined yard setback to allow for an addition to the home accommodating a larger two-stall garage.

Jeremy Frost and Victor Scalzo were present representing the owners to answer questions about the addition.

Mayor Favale opened a public hearing. No other public comment was received. Mayor Favale closed the public hearing.

2021-21. ~~Walters-Arendshorst~~. That the request of Bill & Jillane Payne of 741 San Jose to allow the construction of an addition to the home creating a combined side yard setback of 16'9" instead of the required 18' be approved as outlined in the Planning Consultant's memo contained in the agenda materials.

Commissioner Walters referenced the analysis in the agenda materials and the fact the home did not sit completely parallel on the lot as his reasons for supporting what he felt was a modest variance request.

Commissioner Arendshorst noted that only a small portion of the garage was causing the need for a variance due to the angle of the lot line in relation to the home.

Commissioner Pachla stated he concurred with Mr. LeBlanc's analysis in the agenda packet and felt this was an appropriate use of the variance process.

Yeas: Arendshorst, Hamrick, Hecksel, Pachla, Walters and Favale – 6

Nays: -0-

2021-22. Division of land at 203 Lakewood.

Planning Consultant LeBlanc explained the proposal to divide the property at 203 Lakewood and combine each half with the property on either side.

Tom & Carole Hammerslag, owners of all three properties, stated they want to preserve the character of the area by creating two large lots instead of leaving two of the properties as smaller lots.

Mayor Favale opened a public hearing. The following people were present to express their opinions:

- Kirsten Holz, 530 Greenwood

Buyer of the new lot at 197 Lakewood, stated they were already working to create a home to fit the lot and the neighborhood.

The following communications were received at City Hall concerning this variance request:

- Michael Tomich & Jeanne Glowicki, 222 Lakewood Supported proposed land division.

No other public comment was received. Mayor Favale closed the public hearing.

2021-022-A. Pachla-Hamrick. That the request of Thomas & Carole Hammerslag, owners of 203 Lakewood, to divide the property at 203 Lakewood with 35 feet of frontage being added to 197 Lakewood and the remaining 35 feet of frontage being added to 2819 Cotswold, be approved with the following conditions:

1. The split complies with the surveys presented in the land division application; and
2. The relevant deed(s) or land contract(s) be recorded with the Kent County Registrar of Deeds within 90 days of approval.

Commissioner Arendshorst was concerned about reducing the number of buildable lots in the city in light of the goal to create affordable housing and add additional kids in the school system. He questioned whether the split and combination could be denied if it was found to be of detrimental impact to the city as a whole.

Commissioner Pachla noted this proposal will add another home for the tax base and for the school system. He also noted that the two smaller lots would have required variances to be deemed buildable.

Commissioner Hamrick felt that further dividing the properties to make affordable housing may be problematic and detrimental to the area. She liked the fact the division would create an additional homesite.

Commissioner Walters supported the request as it would eliminate non-conforming lots and create one new conforming lot and add additional land to the other property.

Yeas: Arendshorst, Hamrick, Hecksel, Pachla, Walters and Favale – 6

Nays: -0-

2021-23. Assistant City Manager LaFave reviewed the Planning Commission's 2020 Annual Report and answered questions from the commission on upcoming development proposals and zoning reviews the Planning Commission would be considering. He suggested the commission use the goals work session in March to add and prioritize items they would like discussed.

Commissioner Walters stated he would be interested in discussing the creation of a Zoning Board of Appeals to take over the zoning related hearings and discussions currently done by the city commission.

- 2021-24. Public Safety Director Herald highlighted several areas of the Public Safety Department's quarterly report and answered questions from the city commission. He noted there had been a decrease in accidents and traffic stops due to people staying home due to the pandemic, while some property and larceny crimes have increased for the same reason.

Chief Herald spoke at length about the collection of racial data for all public interactions and about the lack of data prior to 2021. He conveyed the opinion of several experts who cautioned the use of incomplete data to draw conclusions about bias or inequity. Mr. Herald noted that data would be available on a quarterly basis starting after March 31 when the first quarter data is compiled. Captain Buikema answered questions about new reporting and query options that were being implemented.

Commissioners Walters and Pachla stated they were interested in seeing historical data—even if incomplete—to see if there were conclusions that could be drawn from the limited information.

Mayor Favale the meeting for public comment. The following comments were received:

- Abbie Groff-Blaszak, 2360 Lake Drive Wanted to see historical data because it would be helpful to understand what questions to ask about locations, time of day, etc. Felt justice would be neglected if historical data is not considered.

The following communications were received at City Hall concerning this variance request:

- Haley Raines, 2732 Albert Requested historical racial data.

No other public comment was received. Mayor Favale closed public comment.

- 2021-25. Pachla-Hecksel. To approve the consent agenda as follows:

- 2021-025-A. Minutes of the regular meeting held January 19, 2021.
 - 2021-025-B. Payroll disbursements of \$256,964.27; county and school disbursements of \$181,055.01, and total remaining disbursements of \$83,878.70.
 - 2021-025-C. The purchase an installation of a carport structure for cold storage at the Public Works Complex from Midwest Steel Carports in the amount of \$17,770.00.
 - 2021-025-D. Preliminary minutes of the Planning Commission meeting held December 8, 2020.
 - 2021-025-E. Preliminary minutes of the Parks & Recreation Commission meeting held January 11, 2021.
- Yeas: Arendshorst, Hamrick, Hecksel, Pachla, Walters and Favale – 6
Nays: -0-

- 2021-26. Mayor Favale reopened the meeting for public comment. No public comment was received.

The meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until February 15, 2021.

Karen K. Brower, City Clerk

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COMMISSION
CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

Regular Meeting Held February 15, 2021

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. She announced the meeting was also being held electronically as allowed by the recent amendment to the Michigan Open Meetings Act in response to the COVID-19 crisis. She invited any citizen attending by computer or phone to ask questions or offer comments during the public comment times.

Present in Person: Commissioners Hamrick and Mayor Favale

Present Virtually: Commissioners Arendshorst, Duncan, Hecksel, Pachla and Walters

Absent: None

Also Present: City Attorney Huff; City Manager Charles; Assistant City Manager LaFave; Finance Director Seath; Public Safety Director Herald; City Clerk Brower; Staff Sgt. Schweitzer; PSO Buter; Clerks Postema and VanHouten; Zoning Administrator Gianotti; Engineer Bigorowski; Admin Clerks York and Taylor

2021-27. Approval of Agenda.

2021-027-A. Pachla-Arendshorst. That consent agenda items #11 and #12 be moved to the regular agenda to allow for discussion.

Yeas: Arendshorst, Duncan, Hamrick, Hecksel, Pachla, Walters and Favale – 7

Nays: -0-

2021-28. No public comment was received.

2021-29. Commissioner Pachla reminded everyone that Greenwood would be closed at Lakeside Drive periodically this week to allow for construction on the lift station at that corner.

Commissioner Walters thanked the Public Safety Department for releasing follow-up information on the reported hit and run in January. He asked that future posts on public safety events be updated when possible to keep citizens informed and asked that options for restorative justice be explored for the future.

City Manager Charles thanked the Public Works Department for all their work in recent days to keep the streets and sidewalks clear despite the recent snow accumulation.

2021-30. Public Safety Director Herald presented Chief Citation Awards for Public Safety Clerks Dave VanHouten and Bianca Postema for their work in procuring hard to find equipment and supplies during the early days of the pandemic when masks and sanitizing items could not be found in stores.

2021-31. Addition of Deputy City Manager position.

City Manager Charles announced that Doug LaFave would be promoted to a new position of Deputy City Manager. Mr. Charles noted that Doug had done an outstanding job maintaining operations and initiating new programs in the last two years in the absence of a city manager and the new title was well deserved in light of the additional duties he has taken on.

Commissioners Hamrick and Duncan congratulated Deputy City Manager LaFave on his new title and thanked him for all his extra work over the last two years.

Commissioner Pachla expressed his appreciation for Mr. LaFave's innovations and his responsiveness to questions and concerns. Commissioner Arendshorst agreed and noted Doug kept his sense of humor even in difficult times.

Mayor Favale thanked Mr. LaFave for guiding the city through so many new projects and unexpected events over the last two years. She thanked his family for putting up with all of the early morning calls and late night emails while he worked two demanding positions.

Commissioner Walters also thanked Mr. LaFave for doing such an amazing job during the manager vacancy.

City Attorney Huff and Chief Herald congratulated Doug on his promotion and thanked him for his professionalism and positive attitude.

2021-031-A. Hamrick-Arendshorst. That Assistant City Manager Doug LaFave be appointed to a new classification of Deputy City Manager.

Yeas: Arendshorst, Duncan, Hamrick, Hecksel, Pachla, Walters and Favale – 7

Nays: -0-

Mayor Favale presented Deputy City Manager LaFave with a plaque containing a key to the city as a symbolic thank you for his dedication. Mr. LaFave thanked everyone for attending and for the kind words. He credited all of the members of the city staff who work so well together to provide programs, services and operations every day for the organization's success.

2021-32. Discussion of spring break meeting.

2021-032-A. Hecksel-Pachla. That the city commission meeting of April 5, 2021 be rescheduled to Monday, March 29 at 6 p.m.

Yeas: Arendshorst, Duncan, Hamrick, Hecksel, Pachla, Walters and Favale – 7

Nays: -0-

2021-33. Contracts for administrative and actuarial services for the new City of East Grand Rapids Retirement Plan for city employees.

City Manager Charles explained one of the final steps in withdrawing from the MERS defined benefit pension plan was to approve agreements for the services needed for the new independent pension plan.

Commissioner Walters noted the item was removed from the consent agenda to allow any questions to be discussed since additional information was provided after the original agenda materials were published.

2021-033-A. Walters-Arendshorst. That a contract Fifth Third Bank for investment, custodial and trust management services for the City of East Grand Rapids Retirement Plan be adopted as attached in Exhibit "A."

Yeas: Arendshorst, Duncan, Hamrick, Hecksel, Pachla, Walters and Favale – 7

Nays: -0-

2021-033-B. Pachla-Hecksel. That a contract with Watkins, Ross & Co for administrative and actuarial services for the City of East Grand Rapids Retirement Plan be adopted as attached in Exhibits "B."

Yeas: Arendshorst, Duncan, Hamrick, Hecksel, Pachla, Walters and Favale – 7

Nays: -0-

2021-34. Plan documents for the City of East Grand Rapids Retirement Plan.

2021-034-A. Pachla-Hecksel. That retirement plan documents outlining the structure and benefits of the new City of East Grand Rapids Retirement Plan for city employees to replace the former defined benefit plan with MERS be adopted as attached in Exhibit "C."

Mayor Favale asked for public comment on this issue. No public comment was received. Mayor Favale closed public comment.

Yeas: Arendshorst, Duncan, Hamrick, Hecksel, Pachla, Walters and Favale – 7
Nays: -0-

2021-35. Arendshorst-Hecksel. To approve the consent agenda as follows:

2021-035-A. Minutes of the regular meeting held February 1, 2021.

2021-035-B. Payroll disbursements of \$222,162.26; county and school disbursements of \$198,183.69, and total remaining disbursements of \$277,525.39.

2021-035-C. Preliminary minutes of the Library Commission meeting held January 25, 2021.

Yeas: Arendshorst, Duncan, Hamrick, Hecksel, Pachla, Walters and Favale – 7
Nays: -0-

2021-36. Mayor Favale reopened the meeting for public comment. No public comment was received.

The meeting adjourned at 6:42 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until March 1, 2021.

Karen K. Brower, City Clerk

Attachments: A – Investment, custodial and trust management contract with Fifth Third Bank
B – Administrative and actuarial services contract with Watkins, Ross & Co.
C – City of East Grand Rapids Retirement Plan Document.

Attachments listed above are available for inspection at the office of the City Clerk.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COMMISSION
CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

Regular Meeting Held March 1, 2021

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. She announced the meeting was also being held electronically as allowed by the recent amendment to the Michigan Open Meetings Act in response to the COVID-19 crisis. She invited any citizen attending by computer or phone to ask questions or offer comments during the public comment times.

Present in Person: Commissioners Hamrick and Mayor Favale

Present Virtually: Commissioners Arendshorst, Duncan, Hecksel, Pachla and Walters

Absent: None

Also Present: City Attorney Huff; City Manager Charles; Assistant City Manager LaFave; City Clerk Brower; Interim Parks & Recreation Director Fasbender; Zoning Administrator Gianotti

2021-37. The agenda was approved as published.

2021-38. No public comment was received.

2021-39. Commissioner Hamrick noted the ice is beginning to melt and will quickly become unsafe to walk on. She urged everyone to be careful.

Commissioner Pachla reminded everyone to help keep storm drains clear of ice, snow and debris so that water can flow into the storm water system.

Mayor Favale urged everyone to “adopt a drain” as promoted by the Lower Grand River Organization of Watersheds. She thanked everyone who participated in last week’s Public Safety Engagement Session and Community Blood Drive.

City Manager Charles asked if the city commission wanted to have an introductory meeting with the crew team regarding the proposed expansion of the boathouse at Collins Park prior to their submitting a zoning approval request. Commissioners responded they were comfortable with the general concept of the team’s proposal and suggested the matter go through the zoning approval process first with staff and the Planning Commission before final discussion by the city commission.

Mr. Charles also noted the March 15 commission agenda would contain a proposed bond refinancing for the community center and the presentation of the staff’s goals and objectives for the upcoming year.

2021-40. Zoning variance hearing on the request of Craig & Marissa Bilbrey of 1616 Robinson to allow the construction of an addition to the rear of the home creating a rear yard setback of 19’6” instead of the required 25.’

Zoning Administrator Gianotti explained the applicants had revised their December 2020 request to reduce the size of the addition, thereby reducing the proposed encroachment into the required rear yard setback. The applicants looked at using a detached garage, but felt an attached garage would better meet their needs.

Aaron Taylor of Via Designs noted the addition had been downsized by 4’ while still accomplishing the goals of the family. Craig Bilbrey of 1616 Robinson reiterated that an attached garage is preferred. He stated his home was in a dense area with many pre-existing nonconformities which presented challenges that should be considered when granting variances. He felt this was the type of project identified by the city master plan.

Mayor Favale opened a public hearing. No other public comment was received. Mayor Favale closed the public hearing.

- 2021-41. Pachla-Arendshorst. That the request of Craig & Marissa Bilbrey of 1616 Robinson to allow the construction of an addition to the rear of the home creating a rear yard setback of 19'6" instead of the required 25' be approved as outlined in the Zoning Administrator memo contained in the agenda materials.

Commissioner Pachla stated his support for the variance and adopted the zoning administrator's review from the agenda materials. He appreciated the applicant's efforts to lessen the impact of the addition.

Commissioner Arendshorst agreed this was a good compromise that satisfied the family's needs with a minimal variance from the ordinance requirements.

Mayor Favale thanked Mr. and Mrs. Bilbrey for revising their request and gave her support for the project.

Yeas: Arendshorst, Duncan, Hamrick, Hecksel, Pachla, Walters and Favale – 7

Nays: -0-

- 2021-42. Property line adjustment between 518 Lakeside and 524 Lakeside.

Zoning Administrator Gianotti explained the proposed land division to re-divide these two lots to add square footage to 518 Lakeside, bringing 518 Lakeside into conformity with zoning standards.

Mayor Favale opened a public hearing. The following communications were received at City Hall concerning this variance request:

- Louie & Nora Cares, 530 Lakeside Dr Support the land division

No other public comment was received. Mayor Favale closed the public hearing.

- 2021-42-A. Walters-Hamrick. That the request to transfer a piece of property with 28.36' of street frontage and sides of 145' on the north and 121' on the south from the property at 524 Lakeside to the property at 518 Lakeside be approved with the following conditions:

1. The split complies with the surveys presented in the land division application; and
2. The relevant deed(s) or land contract(s) be recorded with the Kent County Registrar of Deeds within 90 days of approval.

Commissioner Walters adopted the analysis provided by the zoning administrator in the agenda materials and noted the two lots are now both conforming to zoning standards and consistent with the master plan.

Commissioner Hamrick also supported the adjustment as it will eliminate a non-conformity.

Yeas: Arendshorst, Duncan, Hamrick, Hecksel, Pachla, Walters and Favale – 7

Nays: -0-

- 2021-43. Introduction of an ordinance to amend Article I of Chapter 83 of Title VIII of the City Code pertaining to general fence requirements.

Deputy City Manager LaFave reviewed the changes proposed by the Infrastructure Committee to add definitions to assist with measuring calculations, to allow driveway entrance pillars up to 6' in height and to provide guidance for the repair and maintenance of fences on interior, corner and double-frontage lots.

- 2021-43-A. Walters-Duncan. That an ordinance to amend Article I of Chapter 83 of Title VIII of the City Code pertaining to general fence requirements be introduced as attached in Exhibit "A."

Commissioner Walters supported the proposed changes and suggested the commission explore options to move fence variances from the city commission's agendas to some other group or process. He questioned whether the proposed amendments addressed low brick walls in front yards. Mr. LaFave stated that the few requests for walls have been for short heights and have been worked through with the applicants to avoid variances. City

Attorney Huff noted that a 2' wall with 2' of open space or an open-type wrought iron fencing would meet the requirement for 50% opacity for the maximum 4' fence allowed. This will be addressed on a case-by-case basis instead of attempting to write this language into ordinance wording.

Mayor Favale opened a public hearing. The following comments were received concerning this issue:

- Ellen Schendel, 429 Briarwood Thanked the commission for addressing the repair and replacement of through-lot fences.

No other public comment was received. Mayor Favale closed the public hearing.

Yeas: Arendshorst, Duncan, Hamrick, Hecksel, Pachla, Walters and Favale – 7

Nays: -0-

2021-44. Joint Facilities Playground Update Project and Funding Proposal.

City Manager Charles outlined the proposal to repair and replace components of the five city/school playgrounds to extend the life of all structures by 10 years to allow the city and schools to build up a reserve fund for the eventual replacement of the playgrounds at each location. The estimated \$275,000 funding for the updates will come from the Joint Facilities capital reserve fund and an additional \$30,000 from both the city and schools. Staff plans to order the necessary parts now and complete the work during the summers of 2021 and 2022, using city staff when possible and outside contractors where necessary. Safety concerns will be addressed first, then other faded or worn-out parts will be replaced.

Commissioner Pachla expressed his concern that some structures would be almost 40 years old by the time they were replaced and wondered if new structures could be accelerated. Mr. Charles noted the funding plans can be reviewed in the future to see if adjustments can be made.

Commissioner Walters supported the plans for immediate repairs and the long-term replacement strategy. He noted he would be open to discussing an acceleration of funding if necessary or feasible in the future.

Commissioner Hamrick noted the structures have been maintained well but she looked forward to new structures as they would attract new families to the area.

Mayor Favale stated these upgrades are long overdue and looked forward to replacing the structures as soon as possible.

Commissioner Pachla stated the creation of the reserve fund shows innovation and responsible use of taxpayer dollars. He thanked the staff and Joint Facilities Committee for planning ahead for these large capital projects.

2021-44-A. Arendshorst-Duncan. To approve the requested budget amendment for an additional \$30,000 for playground updates in FY 2020-21, and to approve the creation of a Playground Reserve Fund for the eventual replacement of all the playground structures.

Yeas: Arendshorst, Duncan, Hamrick, Hecksel, Pachla, Walters and Favale – 7

Nays: -0-

2021-45. Pachla-Hamrick. To approve the consent agenda as follows:

2021-45-A. Minutes of the regular meeting held February 15, 2021.

2021-45-B. Payroll disbursements of \$222,015.17; county and school disbursements of \$549,533.71, and total remaining disbursements of \$682,317.43.

2021-45-C. Resolution amending the FY 2021-budget for the quarter ending December 31, 2020 as attached in Exhibit "B."

2021-45-D. Fireworks permit for the 4th of July Celebration.

- 2021-45-E. Meeting dates for FY 2021-22 for the City Commission, Planning Commission, Finance Committee, Library Commission, Parks & Recreation Commission and Board of Review.
- 2021-45-F. A one-year extension of the rectangular rapid flashing beacons pilot program at Lake Drive and Bagley and the addition of a new beacon on Lakeside Drive in front of the Community Center.
- 2021-45-G. Purchase of two computer servers from Ocean Inc./Omega Systems in the amount of \$8,940.00.
- 2021-45-H. A contract with Advanced Rehabilitation Technology of Bryan, Ohio in the amount of \$225 per lineal foot, up to budgeted amounts, for sanitary sewer manhole and catch basin rehabilitation.
- 2021-45-I. Contracts with Lodestar Construction not to exceed \$819,074.90 plus 10% contingency for mill and overlay street projects, with Strawser Construction of Columbus Ohio for microsurface and capeseal pavement preservation treatments not to exceed \$182,606.00 plus 10% contingencies and Hall Street project authorization of \$630,000 plus 12% contingencies after reimbursements from the City of Grand Rapids, as outlined in the Assistant City Manager memo in the agenda materials.
- 2021-45-J. A contract for hydro excavating services with Advanced Hydrovac Inc of Cedar Springs in the amount of not-to-exceed \$58,500 for 2021 and not-to-exceed \$251,680 for 2022-2024.
- 2021-45-K. Preliminary minutes of the Joint Facilities Committee meeting held February 10, 2021.
Yeas: Arendshorst, Duncan, Hamrick, Hecksel, Pachla, Walters and Favale – 7
Nays: -0-
- 2021-46. Mayor Favale reopened the meeting for public comment. No public comment was received.

The meeting adjourned at 7:16 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until March 15, 2021.

Karen K. Brower, City Clerk

Attachments: A – Ordinance Amendment to Chapter 83 concerning fence requirements
B – Resolution adopting budget amendments for period ending December 31, 2020.

Attachments listed above are available for inspection at the office of the City Clerk.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COMMISSION
CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

Regular Meeting Held March 15, 2021

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. She announced the meeting was also being held electronically as allowed by the recent amendment to the Michigan Open Meetings Act in response to the COVID-19 crisis. She invited any citizen attending by computer or phone to ask questions or offer comments during the public comment times.

Present in Person: Commissioners Hamrick and Mayor Favale

Present Virtually: Commissioners Arendshorst, Hecksel, Pachla and Walters

Absent: Commissioner Duncan

Also Present: City Attorney Huff; City Manager Charles; Deputy City Manager LaFave; City Clerk Brower; Interim Parks & Recreation Director Fasbender; Finance Director Seath; Zoning Administrator Gianotti

2021-47. The agenda was approved as published.

2021-48. No public comment was received.

2021-49. City Manager Charles reminded everyone the April 5 City Commission meeting had been moved to March 29. He announced a meeting to discuss the potential multi-use trails at Manhattan Park would be held March 30 at 6 pm at the Manhattan Park Pavilion; all residents are invited to attend. Mr. Charles also noted the Open Meetings Act provision allowing virtual meetings expires at the end of March. He will keep the commission informed on extensions or other options.

2021-50. Final Reading of an ordinance to amend Article I of Chapter 83 of Title VIII of the City Code pertaining to general fence requirements.

Deputy City Manager LaFave reviewed the changes proposed by the Infrastructure Committee to better define certain terms, measurements and maintenance provisions. He noted illustrations had been prepared to assist staff and residents in understanding the requirements, including a new drawing for through-lot situations that was revised after the agenda materials were published.

2021-050-A. Pachla-Arendshorst. That an ordinance to amend Article I of Chapter 83 of Title VIII of the City Code pertaining to general fence requirements, including the new drawing, be adopted as attached in Exhibit "A."

Mayor Favale opened the meeting for public comment. No other public comment was received. Mayor Favale closed the public comment.

Yeas: Arendshorst, Hamrick, Hecksel, Pachla, Walters and Favale – 6

Nays: -0-

2021-51. Public Safety Department 2020 Annual Report.

Public Safety Director Herald thanked the community for supporting the officers and department during a very challenging year that saw the COVID-19 pandemic, racial unrest and many political divisions. He listed several departmental accomplishments and reviewed the statistics for personal and property crimes in 2020 and compared to prior years. Mr. Herald noted the COVID-19 pandemic had affected crime rates across the country as people's routines were changed by stay-at-home orders and reduced recreational opportunities.

- 2021-52. Public Safety Department 2020 Annual Analysis & Review of Use of Force and Pursuits.

Public Safety Director Herald reviewed the annual use of force report and the investigation results from each incident. The commission discussed at length one of the incidents where the driver did not pull over immediately and the officer drew his weapon when approaching the car after it finally stopped. Commissioners Walters and Arendshorst expressed concern about the level of the response given there was no overt indication of violence. Commissioner Arendshorst suggested revising policies to minimize the instances where officers are drawing their weapons. Chief Herald explained that officers face unknown situations anytime they engage with the public and procedures are standardized across police agencies. He noted that only 9 of the 3,754 calls for service in 2020 used any type of force, which was 0.24%, and that each incident is reviewed afterwards for possible alternatives and additional training opportunities.

- 2021-53. Resolution authorizing the refinancing of bonds issued for the Community Center.

City Manager Charles explained the plan to take advantage of the current low interest rates to save taxpayers money on the bond payments for the community center. The bonds were issued in 2004 and then refinanced in 2012, but the rates have dropped again making it advantageous to consider this again.

- 2021-053-A. Hamrick-Pachla. That a resolution authorizing the refinancing of bonds issued for the Community Center be adopted as attached in Exhibit "B."

Yeas: Arendshorst, Hamrick, Hecksel, Pachla, Walters and Favale – 6
Nays: -0-

- 2021-54. Pachla-Walters. To approve the consent agenda as follows:

2021-054-A. Minutes of the regular meeting held March 1, 2021.

2021-054-B. Payroll disbursements of \$230,432.17; county and school disbursements of 107,317.05, and total remaining disbursements of \$316,336.68.

2021-054-C. Establishment of June 7, 2021 as the date to hold public hearings for the budget and for delinquent accounts and to hold a special meeting to adopt the budget on this date.

Yeas: Arendshorst, Hamrick, Hecksel, Pachla, Walters and Favale – 6
Nays: -0-

- 2021-55. Mayor Favale reopened the meeting for public comment. No public comment was received.

- 2021-56. City staff presented the FY 2021-22 Goals & Objectives report to the city commission.

City Manager Charles reported he planned to streamline the budget process and documents, update the strategic plan over the next two years, and continue communication efforts. After input from the commission, he noted he would like to add researching a separate zoning board of appeals and holding some type of community conversation on diversity.

Finance Director Seath noted staff training, a wage study and changing to a comprehensive audited financial report format were some of the goals of the Finance Department.

Interim Parks & Recreation Director Fasbender outlined several potential changes to the Manhattan Recreation Area as well as possible updates to the plans for Waterfront Park. Some commissioners expressed interest in discussing accelerated funding for playground improvements.

Deputy City Manager LaFave reviewed plans to present the draft Mobility Plan, continue the Redevelopment Ready Certification, explore possible zoning ordinance changes and continue infrastructure improvements. The commission asked Mr. LaFave to explore a residential composting program and ways to improve the overall garbage collection system through designated collection days or the city providing trash service.

Public Safety Director Herald explained his plans to expand de-escalation and use of force training as well as county-wide crisis intervention training to help officers deal with mental illness.

The meeting adjourned at 8:53 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until March 29, 2021.

Karen K. Brower, City Clerk

Attachments: A – Ordinance Amendment to Chapter 83 concerning fence requirements
 B – Resolution authorizing the refinancing of the community center bonds

Attachments listed above are available for inspection at the office of the City Clerk.

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PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COMMISSION
CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

Regular Meeting Held March 29, 2021

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. She announced the meeting was also being held electronically as allowed by the recent amendment to the Michigan Open Meetings Act in response to the COVID-19 crisis. She invited any citizen attending by computer or phone to ask questions or offer comments during the public comment times.

Present in Person: Commissioners Hamrick and Mayor Favale

Present Virtually: Commissioners Arendshorst, Duncan, Hecksel, Pachla and Walters

Absent: None

Also Present: City Attorney Huff; City Manager Charles; Deputy City Manager LaFave; City Clerk Brower; Interim Parks & Recreation Director Fasbender; Finance Director Seath; Public Safety Director Herald; Traffic Consultants Zull and Schultz

2021-57. The agenda was approved as published.

2021-58. No public comment was received.

2021-59. Commissioner Hamrick reminded everyone of the Manhattan Trails meeting at 6 pm tomorrow evening.

Commissioner Pachla congratulated the boys swim team and girls basketball teams on their recent district championships and the H.S. Science Olympiad team for their 2nd place in the Region 12 tournament.

Commissioner Hecksel reminded everyone to call the city with questions/concerns or to use the “submit a request” icon on the website to submit the request online.

Commissioner Walters also congratulated the high school dive team on their recent state results.

Mayor Favale announced that yard waste pickup starts on Monday, April 5. She also encouraged everyone to make use of the Styrofoam recycling event on May 15 at the DPW Garage.

City Manager Charles reported staff was working on updating the city’s bond rating for the refinancing of the community center bonds. He also noted that the public safety data collection discussion was being moved to May 5 due to staff vacation schedules.

2021-60. Presentation of draft Mobility Bike Action Plan.

Chris Zull and Suzanne Schultz of Progressive AE reviewed the draft of the Mobility Bike Action Plan compiled after several public input sessions and citizen surveys to determine areas of interest and concern. The plan provides a framework for various types of treatment to improve access, safety and connectivity for pedestrians and cyclists. The mobility plan is the beginning of a multi-year process of capital improvement planning, short- and long-term plans and suggestions for policy updates that should be considered.

Mayor Favale asked for public comment on the draft plan.

Tom Tilma, 1635 Hall, noted it was a great start but didn’t contain enough specific action items. He suggested taking three months to refine the plan, update ordinances and explore federal grants and programs like the Safe Routes to School and then submit a revised plan for implementation. He did not feel that the public was aware of this plan and should be allowed additional time to comment.

Mayor Favale closed the public comment.

Commissioner Walters felt the plan was a good overview of the issues but also felt that more specific actions, including 1-year, 5-year and longer plans, should be added. He also wondered how residents would prioritize and embrace some of the suggestions in the plan when the changes are slated for their streets and neighborhoods.

Commissioner Arendshorst looked forward to working through the ideas in the plan as staff designs street and sidewalk improvements each year.

Commissioner Pachla agreed the plan was a good foundation and community input would be important as each step was implemented. He suggested adding more definitive timelines to the plan.

Commissioner Hamrick wanted to see alternative shadow routes developed and promoted to take traffic and congestion off the main streets.

Mr. Zull noted that pages 34-37 of the Mobility Bike Action Plan outlines many recommended short-mid- and long-term suggested changes for various locations.

2021-61. Discussion of Lakeside Drive mural replacement request.

High School Art Club students Abby Schad and Audrey Grunwaldt presented a preliminary design for a new mural and a draft budget for materials. The design includes many current and historical landmarks of East Grand Rapids and would take about 10 days to complete. They requested approximately \$587 for paint, supplies and possibly sandblasting to remove the old mural before repainting.

Commissioners enthusiastically approved of the historical design elements and thanked the students for all their work in research, designing and planning the mural. Mayor Favale suggested the city approve the requested funding with the possibility of additional material costs if necessary.

2021-061-A. Pachla-Arendshorst. To approve the submitted mural design and to direct staff to work with the student group to provide adequate supplies for the project.

High School Art Teacher Terry Szpieg thanked the commission for being receptive to the new ideas and for providing the supplies.

Yeas: Arendshorst, Duncan, Hamrick, Hecksel, Pachla, Walters and Favale – 7

Nays: -0-

2021-62. Discussion of options for virtual and in-person meetings.

City Attorney Huff reported the current Open Meetings Act exemption allowing virtual participation on public meetings was expiring on March 30. However, the Act does allow virtual participation if there is a state of emergency. Due to the continued rise in COVID-19 cases, it is advisable to continue limiting in-person gatherings. Therefore, as allowed by Chapter 6 of the City Code, Mayor Favale has declared a local state of emergency for the purpose of allowing public bodies to meet virtually until June 30, 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The City Code requires the City Commission to affirm the decision of the Mayor. The state of emergency can be rescinded before its expiration if necessary.

City Manager Charles reported Kent County had also declared a state of emergency through June 30.

2021-062-A. Walters-Pachla. To affirm the decision of the Mayor to declare a state of emergency until June 30, 2021 to allow remote participation in meetings due to the continued need to restrict gatherings to slow the spread of COVID-19 be adopted as attached in Exhibit "A."

Yeas: Arendshorst, Duncan, Hamrick, Hecksel, Pachla, Walters and Favale – 7

Nays: -0-

2021-63. Approval of Goals & Objectives document.

City Manager Charles reviewed the changes made following the work session at the March 15 meeting.

2021-063-A. Arendshorst-Hamrick. That the revised Goals & Objectives document be adopted as presented.

Yeas: Arendshorst, Duncan, Hamrick, Hecksel, Pachla, Walters and Favale – 7
Nays: -0-

2021-64. Hecksel-Pachla. To approve the consent agenda as follows:

2021-064-A. Minutes of the regular meeting held March 15, 2021.

2021-064-B. Payroll disbursements of \$224,920.31; county and school disbursements of \$-0-, and total remaining disbursements of \$412,748.82.

2021-064-C. The purchase of six computers and docking stations for Public Safety vehicles from SBC Tech Partners in the amount of \$19,100.00.

2021-064-D. A four-year contract for catch basin, manhole and storm sewer rehabilitation with Havener Tech Inc. of Troy, Michigan in the amount of \$350 per structure plus \$50 per additional foot and \$10 per pound for fill materials up to the budgeted amounts for fiscal years ending June 30, 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024.

2021-064-E. An amendment to the dispatching agreement with Kent County extending the agreement until December 31, 2025 as attached in Exhibit "A."

2021-064-F. An amendment to the agreement with the City of Grand Rapids clarifying cost allocations for the improvements for the Hall Street Reconstruction Project as attached in Exhibit "B."

2021-064-G. Resolution authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to sign contracts with the Michigan Department of Transportation for the 2021 Hall Street Reconstruction Project as attached in Exhibit "C."

Yeas: Arendshorst, Duncan, Hamrick, Hecksel, Pachla, Walters and Favale – 7
Nays: -0-

2021-65. Mayor Favale reopened the meeting for public comment. No public comment was received.

The meeting adjourned at 7:21 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until April 19, 2021.

Karen K. Brower, City Clerk

Attachments: A – Contract extension for dispatching services
B – Contract amendment for Hall Street project
C – Resolution authorizing Mayor and Clerk to sign Hall Street agreements

Attachments listed above are available for inspection at the office of the City Clerk.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COMMISSION
CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

Regular Meeting Held April 19, 2021

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. She announced the meeting was also being held electronically as allowed by the recent amendment to the Michigan Open Meetings Act and a local declaration of emergency in response to the COVID-19 crisis. She invited any citizen attending by computer or phone to ask questions or offer comments during the public comment times.

Present in Person: Commissioners Hamrick, Walters and Mayor Favale

Present Virtually: Commissioners Arendshorst, Hecksel and Pachla

Absent: Commissioner Duncan

Also Present: City Attorney Huff; City Manager Charles; Deputy City Manager LaFave; City Clerk Brower; Finance Director Seath; Zoning Administrator Gianotti; Captain Buikema

2021-66. The agenda was approved as published.

2021-67. No public comment was received.

2021-68. Commissioner Pachla announced he was attending the meeting virtually from his home in East Grand Rapids. He noted construction projects have begun and urged everyone to drive carefully and pay attention in construction zones.

Commissioner Arendshorst stated he was attending virtually from his home.

Commissioner Hecksel reported he was attending the meeting virtually from his home in East Grand Rapids.

City Manager Charles noted the Mobility Bike Action Plan would be on the City Commission agenda on May 17 and the first quarter data from the public safety department would be reviewed on May 3. He also noted the Public Safety Department has been working with the City of Grand Rapids to coordinate staffing in the event of marches or protests later this month.

2021-69. KDL Board Representative Chuck Myers, KDL Fund Development Director Christine Mwangi and KDL Branch Manager Dawn Lewis presented the Kent District Library 2020 Annual Report.

2021-70. Sign variance hearing on the request of Rite Aid Pharmacy of 2130 Wealthy to allow new signage for the building using alternate calculation methods of signage area or to allow the sign to measure 40 square feet instead of the 25 square feet allowed.

Zoning Administrator Gianotti explained Rite Aid wished to replace the existing 49 square foot non-conforming sign with a new logo and coloring scheme. The sign ordinance provides different methods of measurement and limitations on size. Rite Aid is requesting to use an alternate method to measure only the lettering without using the proposed backing board in the calculation or to allow a larger square footage if required to include the backing board. Mr. Gianotti did not feel the sign ordinance variance standards were met by this application.

Brad Rhodes of Sign Art, representing Rite Aid, explained the backing board was being used to avoid and cover multiple wires and holes in the façade when wiring individual letter. He did not feel the backing board should be counted in the calculation because it would be painted to match the building and hardly noticeable. He stated the backing board or overall lettering could be reduced if necessary.

Mayor Favale opened a public hearing. No other public comment was received. Mayor Favale closed the public hearing.

Commissioners questioned if the backing board was necessary and whether it could be made smaller. Mr. Rhodes stated the signs are individually custom-built for each store, so the sizes and use of backing boards vary.

- 2021-070-A. Walters-Hecksel. That the request of Rite Aid Pharmacy of 2130 Wealthy to allow the alternate method of calculating signage for the building as provided in Section 8.15(D.2) be approved as outlined in the Zoning Administrator memo contained in the agenda materials.

Commissioner Walters stated he would be voting no on this request as he felt the Zoning Administrator's interpretation was correct and if the commission wanted to allow a larger sign, it should be done with a variance and not a different method of measurement. Commissioner Pachla and Mayor Favale agreed.

Yeas: - 0 -

Nays: Arendshorst, Hamrick, Hecksel, Pachla, Walters and Favale – 6

- 2021-070-B. Walters-Hamrick. That the request of Rite Aid Pharmacy of 2130 Wealthy to allow new signage for the building to measure 40 square feet instead of the 25 square feet allowed be approved as outlined in the Zoning Administrator memo contained in the agenda materials.

Commissioner Walters spoke against allowing the larger sign since Mr. Rhodes admitted the signs would be custom made and could easily meet the sign ordinance requirements.

Commissioners Arendshorst and Pachla also noted the sign could be made to fit the requirement or done without the backing board to keep the proposed lettering size.

Yeas: - 0 -

Nays: Arendshorst, Hamrick, Hecksel, Pachla, Walters and Favale – 6

- 2021-71. Zoning variance hearing on the request of Katie Stein, owner of 815 Plymouth, to allow the construction of an addition to the home creating a side yard setback of 14'4" instead of the required 24.'

Zoning Administrator Gianotti explained the property had frontage on two streets and the proposed 25'x29' garage would encroach into the side yard setback on the Pontiac Road frontage.

Commissioners Walters and Arendshorst announced they would be abstaining from the discussion and vote on this issue because their law firm does significant legal work for the applicant's family.

Katie Stein, 55 Park Hills SE, explained she bought the house to renovate instead of having it torn down. The goal of the project is to remodel the outdated home and add ADA compliance for those needing a home on one level. She reviewed the other options considered that will not work well for this home.

Mayor Favale opened a public hearing. The following people were present to express their opinions:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| - Dru Chapman, project architect | Garage size is to allow two vehicles with room to open doors. |
| - Bob Kirchgessner, 1900 El Dorado | Stated his support as a lot of work had gone into the plans. |
| - Steve Wilson, 1734 Pontiac | Opposed because it will change his view dramatically and there are other options for a garage on the property. |

The following communications were received at City Hall concerning this variance request:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| - Scott Brundage, 835 Plymouth | No objection if privacy wall or landscaping is installed around new deck. |
| - Steve Wilson, 1734 Pontiac | Oppose two-car garage 14' from the sidewalk. |

No other public comment was received. Mayor Favale closed the public hearing.

- 2021-071-A. Hamrick-Hecksel. That the request of Katie Stein of 815 Plymouth to allow the construction of an addition to the home creating a side yard setback of 14'4" instead of the required 24' be approved as outlined in the Zoning Administrator memo contained in the agenda materials.

Commissioner Hamrick felt this modest size home would provide character and desirable housing options. She noted the unique shape of the lot created the side yard situation and it would not have a negative impact on the neighborhood.

Commissioner Hecksel agreed the variance standards are met and noted the angle of the lot line meant only a triangular portion of the garage encroached into the setback.

Commissioner Pachla also stated the required standards are met with this proposal and the impact on the neighbors was minimized by only having a portion of the garage in the setback.

Yeas: Hamrick, Hecksel, Pachla and Favale – 4

Nays: -0-

Abstain: Arendshorst and Walters – 2

- 2021-72. Discussion of treatment options for gypsy moths.

Deputy City Manager LaFave stated the city's forestry consultant, Lee Mueller, had conducted a survey of the egg masses in the areas of city affected by gypsy moths and reported that while the population will be somewhat elevated this year, it should not substantially impact tree health. The report included several options for homeowners to use to mitigate the nuisance effects of the feeding caterpillars, including relying on nature to control the moths, adding tree bands or aerial spraying of a bacteria to kill the caterpillars. Mr. LaFave noted that while some residents are very supportive of aerial spraying to alleviate the unpleasant droppings, others are very opposed to such spraying due to safety concerns. Mr. LaFave further noted that spraying can have limited effects based on the growing season, weather conditions, and whether surrounding municipalities spray their affected areas.

Lee Mueller of Davey Resource Group stated that healthy trees can withstand 1-2 years of defoliation without lasting effects, and he did not feel tree health was in danger with the projected levels this year. He noted that aerial spraying, while somewhat effective in the short term, can artificially prolong the outbreak of gypsy moths and was not generally recommended unless the health of the trees was jeopardized. The DNR and the MSU are also recommending letting nature control most outbreaks.

Mayor Favale opened a public hearing. The following communications were received at City Hall concerning this variance request:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| - Taylor Allen, 2023 Hall | Disagrees with recommendation. Requested spraying. |
| - Jeanne DeRouseau, 2029 Hall | Disagrees with recommendation. Requested spraying. |

No other public comment was received. Mayor Favale closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Arendshorst stated he lived in the affected area and felt aerial spraying should be considered because of the number of people affected by the nuisance considerations of the infestation.

Commissioner Walters agreed the cost of spraying would be minimal but may not be entirely effective and may actually prolong the outbreak.

Commissioner Hamrick expressed concern about the affects on other wildlife in the area.

Commissioner Pachla suggested expanding the public education about the options available, including hiring contractors to spray individual properties with truck-mounted equipment. He also suggested increasing the accessibility of the products to homeowners.

Mayor Favale agreed the situation could be unpleasant for several weeks, but felt spraying had limited effectiveness and could prolong the overall outbreak.

2021-072-A. Walters-Hamrick. To accept the recommendation of the city's forestry consultant to rely on natural fungus and tree band barriers to control any remaining gypsy moth pockets for the next year without aerial spraying and to encourage staff to expand the public communication and access to tree bands and products.

Yeas: Arendshorst, Hamrick, Hecksel, Pachla, Walters and Favale – 6

Nays: -0-

Deputy City Manager LaFave stated the city will communicate the decision to residents and make sure everyone is given information and access to mitigation efforts.

2021-73. Designated Assessor Agreement with Kent County.

City Manager Charles explained a recent state law added options for municipalities who could not perform assessing operations by using a county designated assessor to complete the assessment duties. There is no cost if a municipality does not use the services available.

Commissioner Walters suggested waiting to see what other communities are doing and what other options there may be. Everyone concurred with this approach. City Manager Charles will monitor the situation and bring this matter back the commission when appropriate.

2021-74. Report on refinancing of the Community Center bonds.

Finance Director Seath reported the refinancing was completed in early April and will save taxpayers about \$46,000 collectively each year. The lower interest rates will mean the city can reduce the millage amount levied each year to make the payments on the bonds.

2021-75. Arendshorst-Pachla. To approve the consent agenda as follows:

2021-075-A. Minutes of the rescheduled meeting held March 29, 2021.

2021-075-B. Payroll disbursements of \$217,558.19; county and school disbursements of \$-0-, and total remaining disbursements of \$170,905.19.

2021-075-C. Quarterly neighborhood communications report from Blodgett Hospital.

2021-075-D. Proclamation designating April 30, 2021 as Arbor Day for the City of East Grand Rapids as attached in Exhibit "A."

Yeas: Arendshorst, Hamrick, Hecksel, Pachla, Walters and Favale – 6

Nays: -0-

2021-76. Mayor Favale reopened the meeting for public comment. No public comment was received.

2021-77. City Manager Charles and Finance Director Seath presented an overview of the upcoming budget approval process. Mr. Charles complimented the staff for their work over the last year minimizing the effects of COVID-19 on the City's programs, services and financial position. He reviewed the overall projected revenues and expenses and noted that water/sewer rates would remain the same for this fiscal year. The City is monitoring the federal COVID funding for local governments and will bring this issue to the commission when more information is received.

Commissioner Pachla requested more information on the cumulative effects of Proposal A on the city's property tax revenues.

Commissioner Walters suggested looking at ways to tie all of the goals, capital and budget matters together for both the commission and for communications to residents.

The city commission will review the capital requests at their next meeting on May 3.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until April 19, 2021.

Karen K. Brower, City Clerk

Attachments: A – Arbor Day Proclamation

Attachments listed above are available for inspection at the office of the City Clerk.

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PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COMMISSION
CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

Regular Meeting Held May 3, 2021

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. She announced the meeting was also being held electronically as allowed by the recent amendment to the Michigan Open Meetings Act and a local declaration of emergency in response to the COVID-19 crisis. She invited any citizen attending by computer or phone to ask questions or offer comments during the public comment times.

Present in Person: Commissioners Duncan, Walters and Mayor Favale

Present Virtually: Commissioners Arendshorst, Hecksel and Pachla

Absent: Commissioner Hamrick

Also Present: City Attorney Huff; City Manager Charles; Deputy City Manager LaFave; City Clerk Brower; Finance Director Seath; Public Safety Director Herald; Interim Parks & Recreation Director Fasbender; Zoning Administrator Gianotti; Captain Buikema; Communications Specialist Licari

2021-78. Mayor Favale announced the zoning variance request for 2536 Maplewood had been withdrawn from the agenda at the request of the applicant.

2021-79. No public comment was received.

2021-80. Commissioner Walters congratulated the three residents who are running for city commission seats in November. He also encouraged people to apply for positions on the city's advisory boards that will be open for the next fiscal year.

Commissioner Pachla announced that COVID-19 vaccines were readily available now and urged everyone to get vaccinated. Mr. Pachla noted he was attending the meeting virtually from his home in East Grand Rapids.

Commissioner Hecksel stated he was attending the meeting virtually from his home in East Grand Rapids.

Commissioner Arendshorst reported he was attending virtually from his home in East Grand Rapids.

City Manager Charles announced that construction work has begun on several local streets already.

Deputy City Manager LaFave noted the Hall Street project would begin after school in mid-June and be completed by mid-August.

2021-81. Zoning variance hearing on the request of Ron & Ginger Springer of 1750 Robinson to allow the installation of a driveway increasing lot coverage by impervious surfaces to 55.9% instead of the 40% allowed.

Zoning Administrator Gianotti explained the applicants wish to install a circular turnaround with a secondary driveway exit to avoid backing out onto Robinson Road. The property currently has 52.2% of impervious surface coverage due to a pool and tennis courts, and the additional paving for the driveway would increase this to 55.9%. Since this property sits slightly below Robinson Road, there have been some past drainage problems in this area that may be exacerbated by additional pavement. Mr. Gianotti reported the city's traffic consultant had reviewed the proposal and recommended a smaller "hammerhead" turnaround on the property instead of another driveway exit on Robinson.

Commissioner Walters asked how to evaluate the standard relating to a detriment to the neighborhood for the reported drainage issues. City Attorney Huff noted that since the city is aware of past drainage issues on this property, the burden would be on the applicant to show additional problems would not occur.

Ronald Springer, 1750 Robinson, stated the increase in impervious surfaces was only 3.7% above the current coverage. He noted their driveway was across from the Aquinas Performing Arts Center which made it difficult to exit their driveway, necessitating a multi-point turn in their driveway to exit facing forward. He stated the new curb installed along Robinson Road has solved the prior drainage issues.

Commissioner Walters asked if the Springers had considered using some type of porous pavers to alleviate some of the surface area. Mr. Springer stated it was more expensive and would not match the other surfaces.

Commissioner Arendshorst questioned whether there were other options for turning around on the property. Mr. Springer noted a space closer to the home would save only a small amount of paving and would not drain in the right direction. Mr. Springer further noted that while there is a wide shoulder on the side of Robinson Road used by delivery trucks, it was not meant for backing out.

Mayor Favale opened a public hearing. The following communications were received at City Hall concerning this variance request:

- Sarah & Rhett Rainero, 1700 Robinson	In Favor.
- Greg Metz, 303 Briarwood	Opposed.

No other public comment was received. Mayor Favale closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Walters agreed that special circumstances exist due to the driveway entrance on Robinson and the complications of traffic and Aquinas College's driveway. However, he did not feel he had enough information about whether the drainage issues exist and whether additional water runoff would be detrimental to the neighborhood. He suggested taking the time to get an engineer's review of the drainage as he did not feel he could vote for the proposed variance without that information.

2021-82. Walters-Arendshorst. That the request of Ron & Ginger Springer of 1750 Robinson to allow the installation of a driveway increasing lot coverage by impervious surfaces to 55.9% instead of the 40% allowed be tabled to allow the applicant to provide additional expert drainage analysis.

Yeas: Arendshorst, Duncan, Hecksel, Pachla, Walters and Favale – 6
Nays: -0-

2021-83. Public Safety quarterly report for the period ending March 31, 2021.

Public Safety Director Herald briefly reviewed historic data from 2016 to 2020 comparing traffic crash and traffic stop information pulled from the old data system prior to requiring racial data to be entered by officers. He noted this data was anecdotal and only for basic information since it was incomplete.

Chief Herald then reviewed the data collected during the first 90 days of 2021 and noted that Hispanic will be added as a race field going forward. Mr. Herald answered questions from commissioners on various numbers and totals.

Commissioner Walters asked that racial data be collected for the verbal warnings category as he wanted to know if race affected who received warnings versus tickets. Mr. Walters felt the existing data was cause for concern. He called for the city to hire an expert as soon as possible to begin interpreting the data so that changes could be made sooner rather than later if warranted and to analyze the historic data. City Manager Charles noted there have already been discussions about selecting an expert to assist with this data.

City Manager Charles noted the overall safety of our streets in East Grand Rapids means there are very few crashes to provide data, and this could be somewhat misleading without looking at a much larger sample than three months of information. Chief Herald added that socioeconomic influences could also play a factor in the numbers, resulting in a disparity that is not necessarily racial discrimination. Lower travel volumes due to COVID-19 could also be influencing numbers.

Mayor Favale asked if there was any public comment on this report. No public comment was received.

2021-84. Duncan-Arendshorst. To approve the consent agenda as follows:

- 2021-084-A. Minutes of the rescheduled meeting held April 9, 2021.
- 2021-084-B. Payroll disbursements of \$224,799.52; county and school disbursements of \$-0-, and total remaining disbursements of \$340,849.58.
- 2021-084-C. A four-year contract with Pluene Service Company for heating, ventilation and air conditioning preventative maintenance services for city facilities in the amounts of \$13,596 for FY2021-22 and FY2022-23, \$13,596 for FY2023-24, and \$14,410 for FY2024-25.
- 2021-084-D. A four-year contract for cleaning services for city facilities with West Michigan Janitorial in the amount of \$147,330 for FY 2021-22 with increases of 2.5% each subsequent year.
- 2021-084-E. The purchase of replacement vehicles and equipment for FY 2-021-22 as outlined in the Deputy City Manager memo of April 10, 2021.
- 2021-084-F. An updated Investment Policy as attached in Exhibit "A."
- 2021-084-G. Preliminary minutes of the Parks & Recreation Commission meeting held April 12, 2021.

Yeas: Arendshorst, Duncan, Hecksel, Pachla, Walters and Favale – 6
Nays: -0-

2021-85. City staff reviewed the capital improvement document for FY2021-22 and answered questions from the commission on the various requests.

Commissioner Arendshorst suggested removing funding for replacement patrol rifles for the Public Safety Department as he did not feel additional weapons improved safety. He didn't like the idea of these guns being carried around when they weren't needed since officers already have handguns. Chief Herald noted these are a standard tool for law enforcement and were only used in high-risk traffic stops or in case of an active shooter situation at the schools or hospital. Mayor Favale and Commissioner Walters felt the rifles should be available in the unlikely event they are ever needed.

City Manager Charles noted staff is looking at several long-term projects at the Community Center to replace aging mechanical equipment. Additional information and possible funding requests will be brought to the commission in the future if changes from the budgeted amounts are recommended.

Commissioner Pachla asked that staff continue to evaluate the use of electric and hybrid vehicles when replacing vehicles in the future, even if they are more expensive than traditional replacements.

2021-86. Mayor Favale reopened the meeting for public comment. No public comment was received.

The meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until May 17, 2021.

Karen K. Brower, City Clerk

Attachments: A – Investment Policy

Attachments listed above are available for inspection at the office of the City Clerk.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COMMISSION
CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

Regular Meeting Held May 17, 2021

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. She announced the meeting was also being held electronically as allowed by the recent amendment to the Michigan Open Meetings Act and a local declaration of emergency in response to the COVID-19 crisis. She invited any citizen attending by computer or phone to ask questions or offer comments during the public comment times.

Present in Person: Commissioners Walters and Mayor Favale

Present Virtually: Commissioners Arendshorst, Duncan, Hecksel and Pachla

Absent: Commissioner Hamrick

Also Present: City Attorney Huff; City Manager Charles; Deputy City Manager LaFave; City Clerk Brower; Finance Director Seath; Public Safety Director Herald; Interim Parks & Recreation Director Fasbender; Zoning Administrator Gianotti; Communications Specialist Licari

2021-87. The agenda was approved as published.

2021-88. No public comment was received.

2021-89. Commissioner Walters congratulated the East Grand Rapids High School Class of 2021.

Commissioners Duncan, Arendshorst and Hecksel announced they were attending the meeting from their homes in East Grand Rapids.

Commissioner Pachla stated he was attending virtually from his home. He reminded everyone that it was National Public Works week and invited everyone to watch the parade of vehicles on Thursday.

Mayor Favale reported the Sustainability Initiative had collected 62 cubic yards of Styrofoam at its collection event last weekend.

City Manager Charles noted the staff was working to incorporate the CDC's latest guidance into city operations, programs and events.

2021-90. Zoning variance hearing on the request of EGR Crew Team to allow the expansion of the Crew Team Boat-house at Collins Park with the addition of an exterior staircase encroaching more than 3' into the side yard setback.

Zoning Administrator Gianotti explained the proposal to add a second story to the facility to add training and meeting space, including an exterior staircase on the south side of the building. With the building sitting approximately 3' from the property line where the staircase is to be constructed, the staircase would be built up to the property line.

Jeff Olsen, representing the EGR Crew Team organization, explained the proposal to expand the boat house and noted the stairway had been proposed on the south side of the building to shield it from the park users and allow the stairs to be secured to prevent public use.

Mayor Favale opened a public hearing. The following people were present to express their opinions:

- Steve Williams, Commodore of GR Yacht Club GRYC Board supports unanimously. No concern with the placement or encroachment of the staircase.

- Matt Stares, 270 Lakeside

Vice Chair of Crew Team and Coach who supported the concept and noted the location was to provide security.

The following communications were received at City Hall concerning the expansion proposal:

- Lakeshore Club Condominium Assn.

Expressing concerns about the height, visual impact, traffic, lighting, signs as proposed.

No other public comment was received. Mayor Favale closed the public hearing.

2021-91. Walters-Pachla. That the request of EGR Crew Team to allow the expansion of the Crew Team Boathouse at Collins Park with the addition of an exterior staircase encroaching more than 3' into the existing non-conforming side yard setback of 3.1' be approved as outlined in the Zoning Administrator memo contained in the agenda materials.

Commissioner Walters felt the standards for a zoning variance for the stairway encroachment are met by this proposal as it was not a detriment to the surrounding area and was already a public use permitted by the ordinance. Mayor Favale agreed.

Yeas: Arendshorst, Duncan, Hecksel, Pachla, Walters and Favale – 6

Nays: -0-

2021-92. Zoning variance hearing on the request of EGR Crew Team to allow the expansion of the Crew Team Boathouse at Collins Park with eave overhangs of 4' instead of the allowed 1'.

Zoning Administrator Gianotti explained the new second story would have a covered observation area on the east side and a matching overhang on the west side covering the main entry.

Mayor Favale opened a public hearing. The following people were present to express their opinions:

- Steve Williams, Commodore of GRYC

Yacht Club approves of this feature as well.

The following communications were received at City Hall concerning the expansion proposal:

- Lakeshore Club Condominium Assn.

Expressing concerns about the height, visual impact, traffic, lighting, signs as proposed.

No other public comment was received. Mayor Favale closed the public hearing.

2021-93. Walters-Arendshorst. That the request of EGR Crew Team to allow the expansion of the Crew Team Boathouse at Collins Park with eave overhangs of 4' instead of the allowed 1' be approved as outlined in the Zoning Administrator memo contained in the agenda materials.

Commissioner Walters adopted the Zoning Administrator's analysis as his reasons for supporting this variance request. He noted this was different than a residential area where the overhangs would look out of place.

Yeas: Arendshorst, Duncan, Hecksel, Pachla, Walters and Favale – 6

Nays: -0-

2021-94. EGR Crew Team Building Expansion Site Plan Approval.

Zoning Administrator Gianotti reported the crew team held a neighborhood meeting to explain the renovation proposal prior to the Planning Commission's review on April 13. Mr. Gianotti noted the new second story will add 5' to the height, but will not change the footprint of the existing building or look substantially different from the street. A street-level entrance on Lakeside Drive and a new sign will be added on the west side of the building by the sidewalk.

2021-96. Manhattan Park Multi-Use Trails.

City Manager Charles reported the West Michigan Mountain Biking Alliance (WMMBA) was proposing to construct multi-use trails for walking, running and biking on a 3- to 4-mile loop through the wooded areas at Manhattan Park. The WMMBA is seeking conceptual approval of the trail proposal so that fundraising and design work can begin. The city would provide \$75,000 in funding of the estimated \$150,000 cost for the initial construction; the WMMBA will oversee construction and then maintain the trails in the future. The preliminary plans have been reviewed and approved by the Parks & Recreation Commission. Mr. Charles noted the trail system would likely not attract significant bike traffic due to the relatively short combined length and multi-use design. He cited similar trail systems in Kent County and noted appropriate rules and signage could be developed and adapted to ensure walker, bikers and runners can all use the trail safely.

Mayor Favale opened a public hearing. The following communications were received at City Hall concerning the proposed trails:

- Reynolds Brander, 2648 Lake Drive	Concerned.
- Brian Dokter, WMMBA President	Fully support the project and future partnership.
- Jamie Kusmierczak, 230 El Centro	Concerned trails will become unsafe for hikers and children.
- Susan Laffrey, 921 San Jose	Opposed to changes to the trails.
- David Langley, 1032 Floral	Support as improvement to community.
- Lisa McLean, 880 Bradford NE	Lives nearby and look forward to using new trails.
- Brian Miller, 1033 Floral	Support because of multi-use/WMMBA maintenance
- Sandra & John Quick, 619 Manhattan	Oppose splash pad at Manhattan Park
- Jeremy Tesch, 2739 Maplewood	Support improvements to current overgrown trails
- Joelle Williams, Ottawa Hills	Support multi-use trails
- David Chandler, 1036 Lakeside	Additional trails are very welcome
- Lori Mann, 671 Manhattan Rd	Excited about new and improved trails

No other public comment was received. Mayor Favale closed the public hearing.

2021-096-A. Arendshorst-Duncan. That the conceptual plans for multi-use trails at Manhattan Park be approved as outlined in the City Manager's memo of May 12, 2021 including the need for public input and the development of a formal agreement regarding the construction, funding model and ongoing maintenance of the trail system.

Commissioner Arendshorst stated he was impressed with the plans and the commitment from the WMMBA.

Commissioner Hecksel supported the development of the trail system as he was familiar with other trail systems designed by the WMMBA.

Yeas: Arendshorst, Duncan, Hecksel, Pachla, Walters and Favale – 6

Nays: -0-

2021-97. Joint Resolution regarding Parks Improvement Debt Millage.

City Manager Charles explained the initiative to accelerate the implementation of several items in the Parks & Recreation Master Plan and the placement of a millage request on the November 2021 ballot to fund the improvements. Projects would include updates and additions to Manhattan Park, Waterfront Park, several natural areas, sports courts, and the replacement one city playground and four school playgrounds. He estimated the cost to be between \$6.3 and \$7 million, which would equate to about .5 mills to approved by voters. He asked for feedback from the city commission on the general plan and presented a joint resolution to be adopted at an upcoming meeting by both the City Commission and the Board of Education regarding the basic understanding of the playground replacements before moving forward. Mr. Charles also noted the schools were considering an early renewal of their recreation millage to be placed on the same ballot.

The commission discussed the points of the resolution, whether to be specific or general with the ballot language and the deadlines for placing an item on the ballot. Mr. Charles suggested holding a community engagement meeting to discuss the proposal and get input before deciding on final details.

Commissioner Walters supported the concept of a millage proposal and taking advantage of community support for recreation upgrades and the favorable interest rates. He wanted to discuss the project list and what to include before making a final decision.

Mayor Favale opened a public hearing. No public comment was received. Mayor Favale closed public comment.

City Manager Charles will continue discussions with school officials and have more information at an upcoming meeting.

2021-98. Introduction of an ordinance to amend Section 7.124 of Chapter 79B of Title VII of the City Code pertaining to the placement of telecommunication pedestals.

Deputy City Manager LaFave stated the ordinance change would allow use of in-ground vaults for equipment to minimize pedestals and poles in the outlawsns.

2021-098-A. Walters-Pachla. That an ordinance to amend Section 7.124 of Chapter 79B of Title VII of the City Code pertaining to the placement of telecommunication pedestals be introduced as attached in Exhibit "A."

Yeas: Arendshorst, Duncan, Hecksel, Pachla, Walters and Favale – 6

Nays: -0-

2021-99. Pachla-Arendshorst. To approve the consent agenda as follows:

2021-099-A. Minutes of the regular meeting held May 3, 2021.

2021-099-B. Payroll disbursements of \$249,377.79; county and school disbursements of \$0, and total remaining disbursements of \$390,860.48.

2021-099-C. A contract for mulch for city landscaping projects with Green Pro Landscape Management in the amount of \$6,850.00 with reimbursement from the EGR Public Schools for their portion of the expenses.

2021-099-D. Contracts with B&V Mechanical in the amount not-to-exceed \$40,521 plus 15% contingencies for a boiler at Wealthy Pool, mini-split systems at the Community Center and air ventilation systems at the Public Works garage, as well as associated electrical work with GR Electric of Grand Rapids within the existing purchasing policy and budgeted amounts.

2021-099-E. A contract with Groundhawg Construction, as well as engineering and other expenses relating to parking lot improvements at the Public Works Complex and Remington Park up to the budgeted amount of \$118,000 for the entire project.

2021-099-F. The Joint Facilities Operating and Capital Fund budgets for FY 2021-22.

2021-099-G. Preliminary minutes of the Planning Commission meeting held April 13, 2021.

2021-099-H. Preliminary minutes of the Joint Facilities Committee meeting held April 20, 2021.

2021-099-I. Preliminary minutes of the Planning Commission meeting held April 26, 2021.

Yeas: Arendshorst, Duncan, Hecksel, Pachla, Walters and Favale – 6

Nays: -0-

2021-100. City staff presented the FY 2021-22 City Manager's Recommended Budget and answered questions from the City Commission. City Manager Charles reported that details of the funding from the American Rescue Plan were expected soon and then the commission could discuss how to use these additional monies.

Mr. Charles discussed the necessary funding for the new independent defined benefit plan and noted staff was working to get more information on the required annual funding amounts prior to the adoption of the budget.

Commissioner Walters again suggested better alignment of goals and priorities with budget items in the future. He also requested additional examples from 2010 through 2020 on the impacts of Proposal A on tax bills.

2021-101. Mayor Favale reopened the meeting for public comment. No public comment was received.

The meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until June 7, 2021.

Karen K. Brower, City Clerk

Attachments: A – Ordinance Amendment Section 7.124 regarding telecommunications pedestals

Attachments listed above are available for inspection at the office of the City Clerk.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COMMISSION
CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

Regular Meeting Held June 7, 2021

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. She announced the meeting was also being held electronically as allowed by the recent amendment to the Michigan Open Meetings Act and a local declaration of emergency in response to the COVID-19 crisis. She invited any citizen attending by computer or phone to ask questions or offer comments during the public comment times.

Present in Person: Commissioners Duncan, Hamrick, Pachla, Walters and Mayor Favale

Present Virtually: Commissioners Arendshorst and Hecksel

Absent: None

Also Present: City Attorney Huff; City Manager Charles; Deputy City Manager LaFave; City Clerk Brower; Finance Director Seath; Communications Specialist Licari

2021-102. Mayor Favale announced the ordinance amendment to Section 7.124 was being withdrawn from the agenda to allow staff to review some possible revisions before final adoption.

2021-103. No public comment was received.

2021-104. Commissioner Pachla noted the 2020 Water Quality Report was sent out recently with the water bills and detailed the high-quality of the drinking water provided to East Grand Rapids residents.

Commissioner Hamrick congratulated the class of 2021 on their recent graduation. She also noted there would be a vaccination clinic at the Middle School later this week for ages 12 and over.

Mayor Favale announced the first public input session for the proposed Parks Improvement Millage would be held at city hall on Thursday, June 10 and invited the public to attend to have their questions answered.

City Manager Charles reported the City's 4th of July activities would return this year with a modified lineup to reduce crowds. The Trail Blazer 5K Walk/Run would take place at 8:30 am, followed by an extended-route parade through the neighborhoods beginning at 11 am. There will be no events or music in the park in the afternoon, but the fireworks over Reeds Lake will take place at dusk as usual.

Commissioner Arendshorst was attending virtually from his home. Commissioner Hecksel was attending virtually from his office in Grand Rapids.

2021-105. A public hearing was held pertaining to the General Fund budget and the property tax levy for Fiscal Year 2021-22. No public comment was received. Mayor Favale closed the public hearing.

2021-106. A public hearing was held on the special assessment roll of delinquent accounts for placement on the July 1, 2021 tax roll. No public comment was received. Mayor Favale closed the public hearing.

2021-0106-A. Duncan-Arendshorst. That the special assessment roll of delinquent accounts totaling \$41,289.67 be certified and placed on the July 1, 2021 tax roll.

Yeas: Arendshorst, Duncan, Hamrick, Hecksel, Pachla, Walters and Favale – 7

Nays: -0-

2021-107. Specially Designated Merchant (SDM) license for Fromage at 2180 Wealthy.

City Clerk Brower explained the Michigan Liquor Control Commission notified the city of the application for an SDM license which would allow the sale of beer and wine for off-premise consumption and a wine tasting permit for the new business located in East Grand Rapids. East Grand Rapids is able to review and comment on the license, but no formal approval or action is required unless the city commission feels there is a problem with the application.

Debbi McGonigal, owner of the new store, outlined her plans for the retail store offering meats, cheeses, wine and other gourmet foods. She noted the beer and wine will make up 1-3% of their sales and the stock would be kept behind the counter and not out on the floor. In addition, she will offer training and point-of-sale verifications to ensure alcohol is not sold to minors. She anticipated the wine tasting permit would be used for special events only.

Commissioners thanked Ms. McGonigal for addressing the usual concerns and looked forward to visiting the store in Gaslight Village when it was fully open for business.

2021-108. Adoption of Mobility Bike Action Plan.

Deputy City Manager LaFave gave a history of the development of the plan and the input sessions with the public about their perceptions of walking and biking through EGR. He noted the plan had been revised following commission input to clarify and give additional details for future plans and action items. The plan includes short-term and long-term planning goals and a framework for implementing a variety of items to improve safety and connectivity.

Chris Zull of Progressive AE, reviewed the major sections of the Mobility Bike Action Plan and explained the action plan that shows what enhancements may be implemented in various locations in the future. He noted each project would require working with the public, especially surrounding neighbors, to find the right fit.

Commissioner Walters thanked Mr. Zull for including the additional plans and details for the suggested projects and agreed each project will need significant discussion to decide what's appropriate for each neighborhood.

Mayor Favale opened this issue for public comment. No public comment was received. Mayor Favale closed public comment.

2021-0108-A. Pachla-Hamrick. That the updated Mobility Bike Action Plan prepared by Progressive AE be adopted as presented in the agenda materials.

Yeas: Arendshorst, Duncan, Hamrick, Hecksel, Pachla, Walters and Favale – 7

Nays: -0-

2021-109. Designated Assessor Agreement with Kent County.

City Manager Charles reported several other municipalities in Kent County had approved this agreement for assessing services in the event their assessing staff is unable to complete the required operations and certifications needed. He did not anticipate needing to utilize the designated assessor, but felt it was appropriate to have this in place.

2021-0109-A. Hamrick-Walters. That an interlocal agreement with Kent County for designated assessing services in the event the city is unable to meet the assessing needs of the city be adopted as attached in Exhibit "A."

Yeas: Arendshorst, Duncan, Hamrick, Hecksel, Pachla, Walters and Favale – 7

Nays: -0-

2021-110. Defined Benefit Plan annual required contribution.

City Manager Charles outlined the recent transition to an independent defined benefit pension system and explained the process of determining the yearly funding that will ensure the stability of the fund while fitting within the city's budget. The city's advisors were recommending a required annual contribution (ARC) of between \$1.1 and \$1.5 million for FY 2020-21 and have offered several funding plans for future years to meet the needs of the distributions to retired employees. Mr. Charles answered questions from the commission on the recommendations and the impact on future budgets. He noted the city is in a good financial position to make the maximum ARC payment this year which would reduce needed funding in the future. Mr. Charles stated he was waiting for final projections from the consulting firm and would have updated numbers at the next meeting so the commission could make a final decision at the June 21 meeting.

2021-111. Parks Improvement Debt Millage.

City Manager Charles reviewed the first draft of the ballot language that may be presented to voters in November and the joint resolution of intent from the city and schools to begin the process. He reiterated that the project list was taken from the 2020 Parks & Recreation Master Plan and the list has not been vetted by the commission or advisory boards; the items will need to be discussed individually with public input. He stated the \$7 million figure in the ballot language was the maximum that would be borrowed and actual amounts would likely be less depending on which projects the city ultimately decided to move forward. He reported the city would be holding a public engagement session on June 10 to answer questions. The schools are discussing the playground issue at their board meetings and would have final approval choices on the playground projects.

Commissioner Pachla pointed out that with the Wealthy Pool millage ending in 2021 and the Headlee rollbacks to the city's operating millage, this would amount to little or no increase in tax bills if approved by voters.

Commissioner Walters asked that other public input be gathered prior to adopting ballot language. Mr. Charles will work with staff to schedule one or two additional sessions in the next several weeks prior to the ballot language deadline, and would disseminate education materials about the millage proposal to residents prior to a vote in November. Commissioner Walters expressed concern about the \$7 million total and noted he may not be in favor of seeking that high of an amount.

The commission discussed the timeline for upcoming engagement sessions, commission discussion and the deadline to approve the ballot language.

Mayor Favale opened this issue for public comment. The following communications were received at City Hall concerning this issue:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| - Laurel Abraham, 1108 Lakeside Dr | Questions and concerns. |
| - Juyon, Ham, 1134 Conlon | Asked for additional information. |
| - Nicholas Krupansky, 2450 Maplewood | Questions and concerns. |

No other public comment was received. Mayor Favale closed the public comment.

This item will be discussed again at the June 21 City Commission meeting.

2021-112. Duncan-Pachla. To approve the consent agenda as follows:

2021-0112-A. Minutes of the regular meeting held May 17, 2021.

2021-0112-B. Payroll disbursements of \$458,006.60; county and school disbursements of \$-0-, and total remaining disbursements of \$635,292.44.

2021-0112-C. Resolution approving budget amendments for the quarter ending March 31, 2021 as attached in Exhibit "B."

2021-0112-D. Quarterly financial statements for the period ending March 31, 2020.

2021-0112-E. A contract with i3 Business Solutions for monitoring, management and reporting services for IT infrastructure at a monthly cost of \$1,225.00 plus implementation costs of \$2,925.00.

2021-0112-F. Purchase of Microsoft SQL Server licenses from CDW-G in the amount of \$5,634.56.

Yeas: Arendshorst, Duncan, Hamrick, Hecksel, Pachla, Walters and Favale – 7

Nays: -0-

2021-113. Mayor Favale reopened the meeting for public comment. No public comment was received.

The meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until June 21, 2021.

Karen K. Brower, City Clerk

Attachments: A – Designated Assessor Agreement
B – Budget Amendment Resolution

Attachments listed above are available for inspection at the office of the City Clerk.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COMMISSION
CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

Special Meeting Held June 7, 2021

Mayor Favale called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. in the City Commission Chambers at the East Grand Rapids Community Center.

Present in Person: Commissioners Duncan, Hamrick, Pachla, Walters and Mayor Favale

Present Virtually: Commissioners Arendshorst and Hecksel

Absent: None

Also Present: City Attorney Huff; City Manager Charles; Deputy City Manager LaFave; City Clerk Brower; Finance Director Seath; Communications Specialist Licari

2021-114. Resolution adopting the FY 2021-22 budget and setting a millage rate for FY 2021-22.

2021-0114-A. Arendshorst-Pachla. That a resolution adopting the FY 2021-22 budget and setting the millage rate for FY 2021-22 be adopted as attached in Exhibit "A."

Yeas: Arendshorst, Duncan, Hamrick, Hecksel, Pachla, Walters and Favale – 7
Nays: -0-

2021-115. Resolution adopting water and sewer rates for FY 2021-22.

2021-0115-A. Walters-Duncan. That a resolution adopting water and sewer rates for FY 2021-22 be adopted as attached in Exhibit "B."

Yeas: Arendshorst, Duncan, Hamrick, Hecksel, Pachla, Walters and Favale – 7
Nays: -0-

The meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until June 21, 2021.

Karen K. Brower, City Clerk

Attachments: A – Budget adoption resolution
B – Water-Sewer Rate resolution

Attachments listed above are available for inspection at the office of the City Clerk.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COMMISSION
CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

Regular Meeting Held June 21, 2021

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. She announced the meeting was also being held electronically as allowed by the recent amendment to the Michigan Open Meetings Act and a local declaration of emergency in response to the COVID-19 crisis. She invited any citizen attending by computer or phone to ask questions or offer comments during the public comment times.

Present in Person: Commissioners Arendshorst, Hamrick, Hecksel, Pachla, Walters and Mayor Favale

Absent: Commissioner Duncan

Also Present: City Attorney Huff; City Manager Charles; Deputy City Manager LaFave; City Clerk Brower; Finance Director Seath; Interim Parks & Recreation Director Fasbender; Zoning Administrator Gianotti; Public Safety Director Herald

2021-116. The agenda was approved as published.

2021-117. No public comment was received.

2021-118. Commissioner Hamrick reminded everyone to volunteer or participate in the Reeds Lake Trail Blazer on Sunday, July 4.

Commissioner Hecksel urged residents to call city staff or commissioners or to check the city's website if they have a question about services or regulations as information on social media sites can often be inaccurate.

Commissioner Pachla announced the Reeds Lake Run would take place on Saturday, June 26.

Mayor Favale reported the Hall Street reconstruction starts in a few weeks and noted the city's website contained updates on all the summer's construction projects.

City Manager Charles noted there would be input sessions concerning the proposed Parks Improvement Millage on June 23 at 7 pm and at noon on June 30.

2021-119. Zoning variance hearing on the request of Mark Gurney & Mary Yurko of 910 Rosewood to allow the enlargement of an accessory building to 1,180 sq. feet instead of the 720 sq. feet allowed.

Zoning Administrator Gianotti explained the request to enclose a covered patio to create living space in the detached structure.

Mark Gurney, 910 Rosewood, and architect Travis Williams reviewed the plans to convert a storage area and patio into a living room-type area with water, heat and air conditioning.

Mayor Favale opened a public hearing. The following communications were received at City Hall concerning this variance request:

- Robert DiVilbiss, 935 Cambridge	In Favor.
- Kelly Sadowski, 1660 Pontiac	In Favor.
- Amy Ponillon, 925 Rosewood	In Favor.
- Susan Samrick, 915 Cambridge	In Favor.
- Keith & Marie English, 1700 Pontiac	In Favor.
- Leslie & Jacob Plaunt, 934 Rosewood	In Favor.

No other public comment was received. Mayor Favale closed the public hearing.

- 2021-120. Walters-Arendshorst. That the request of Mark Gurney & Mary Yurko of 910 Rosewood to allow the enlargement of an accessory building to 1,180 sq. feet instead of the 720 sq. feet allowed be approved as outlined in the Zoning Administrator memo contained in the agenda materials.

Commissioner Walters adopted the zoning administrator's report as his reasoning in support of the variance. He noted he would not support this project if built from scratch, but felt it was a logical request given the history of the building. He further noted the project would not increase the footprint of the building.

Commissioner Hecksel agreed. He stated this was a large lot with no other zoning issues.

Mayor Favale agreed the standards have been met and she supported this variance request.

Yeas: Arendshorst, Hamrick, Hecksel, Pachla, Walters and Favale – 6

Nays: -0-

- 2021-121. Parks Improvement Debt Millage.

City Manager Charles reported city staff has continued to work with the schools on the details of the millage proposal that affect the school playgrounds. The School Board adopted the joint resolution setting out the expectations at their recent meeting. Mr. Charles presented the joint resolution and the draft ballot language for discussion. He noted the millage is proposed at .56 mills for 30 years for the full \$7 million project list. The city has scheduled additional public input sessions for June 23 and June 30. The deadline to approve ballot language for placement on the November 2, 2021 ballot is July 27.

Commissioner Walters suggested waiting to adopt the resolution and approve the ballot language until after the two input sessions are complete. He supported the plan to secure funding to accelerate the parks and playground projects, but wanted a better feel for the public's input on the specific projects and the total amount of the bond.

Commissioner Pachla questioned how the projects would be determined and approved if the millage passes in November. City manager Charles stated that each project would be researched and discussed with amongst staff and with the Parks & Recreation Commission, City Commission, public sessions and would involve the schools for the playground replacements. Each project would have several steps to discuss, refine and approve prior to accessing the bond funding.

Commissioner Pachla noted the .56 mills of the bond proposal would likely be almost entirely offset by the ending of the Wealthy Pool bonds and the Headlee rollbacks to the city's operating millage.

Commissioner Arendshorst supported waiting to finalize the proposal until after the public input sessions. He appreciated the public feedback during the master planning process, but agreed that citizen feedback for a millage proposal was just as important.

Commissioner Hecksel reiterated that the project list encompassed many concepts that were discussed and supported during the recreation planning sessions, but that the final approval process would again involve the public and would provide more detailed information.

Commissioner Hamrick spoke about the amount of feedback received from those who participated in the parks and recreation master plan process. She supported the millage proposal as it would implement all of the projects at once.

Commissioner Pachla questioned how much staff time and attorney/bond costs have been expended on the millage proposal so far. City Manager Charles stated the costs for bond counsel and attorney fees will likely be submitted later and taken out of the bond costs. He estimated staff time at low-to-moderate at this time, mostly spent on updating project estimates.

Mayor Favale opened this issue for public comment. The following people expressed their opinions:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| - Michael Ruehle, 1747 Vesta | Noted incomplete information was being circulated by an outside group. Questioned what other funding sources would be used for projects. |
| - Matt Ludeman, 2258 Englewood | Suggested the millage be split into 2-3 separate ballot questions. Concerned splash pad and dog park had not been well thought out. |
| - Sean Sperling, 1779 Whitfield | Noted building material costs were at an all-time high and projects would likely cost more than anticipated. |

The following communications were received at City Hall concerning this issue:

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| - 3 emails from residents | In Favor of bond proposal |
| - 31 emails from residents | Opposed to bond proposal |

No other public comment was received. Mayor Favale closed the public comment.

Mayor Favale thanked everyone for their input on this matter and announced the issue would be discussed again on July 6 for possible final action.

2021-122. Advisory Board appointments for FY 2021-22.

Commissioner Walters reported the Personnel Committee had reviewed all the openings and applications and had selected candidates with varied experience and from all neighborhoods within the city.

Mayor Favale noted she was proud of the process that has been created for these appointments and thanked all those who volunteered for these open positions.

2021-0122-A. Hamrick-Pachla. That advisory board appointments for FY 2021-22 be approved as follows:

Board of Review (2-year appointment ending June 30, 2023)

1. Jeanne (Sam) Helmrick, 984 Gladstone
2. Kathie Kruizenga, 943 Santa Barbara

Library Commission (3-year appointment ending June 30, 2024)

1. Deirdre Honner, 2011 Argentina
2. Lori Johnson, 3011 Beechwood

Parks and Recreation Commission (3-year appointment ending June 30, 2024)

1. Ryan Burdick, 2904 Pioneer Club
2. Patrick Parkes, 2429 Richards

Planning Commission (3-year appointment ending June 30, 2024)

1. Peter Mitchell, 858 Bellclaire
2. Brian Miller, 1033 Floral

Yeas: Arendshorst, Hamrick, Hecksel, Pachla, Walters and Favale – 6
Nays: -0-

2021-123. Defined Benefit Plan annual required contribution.

City Manager Charles reviewed the updated actuarial reports and the recommended annual contribution for the new independent defined benefit plan. He noted a contribution of \$1.3 million for FY 2020-21 is included in the year end budget amendments to be approved later in the agenda. This contribution is \$100,000 higher than the minimum required by the city's consultants to increase the plan assets early in the hopes of higher annual

returns through the remaining years of the plan. The future funding schedule will be reviewed and discussed at a later date.

2021-0123-A. Walters-Arendshorst. To accept the updated actuarial report from Watkins-Ross for the City of East Grand Rapids Defined Benefit Pension Plan.

Yeas: Arendshorst, Hamrick, Hecksel, Pachla, Walters and Favale – 6
Nays: -0-

2021-124. Contract for reconfiguration of the Lakeside/Lakeside/Greenwood intersection.

Deputy City Manager LaFave reported the Infrastructure Committee had reviewed the reconfiguration plans and the feedback from the demonstration project last year. He noted future development at this intersection may require additional changes, but this proposal is a way to address the current needs to update this intersection.

2021-0124-A. Hecksel-Pachla. To approve the semi-permanent reconfiguration of Lakeside Drive between Reeds Lake Blvd and Greenwood as outlined in the agenda materials and approval of a contract amendment with Groundhewg Excavating in the amount of \$20,125 to complete this work.

Yeas: Arendshorst, Hamrick, Hecksel, Pachla, Walters and Favale – 6
Nays: -0-

2021-125. Purchase of wetlands mitigation credits.

Deputy City Manager LaFave explained the completion of the Reeds Lake Trail project in 2010 required the city to replace the wetlands that were filled in to construct portions of the boardwalk. While the city originally planned to fulfill this obligation with the Waterfront Park project, the costs for restoring those wetlands has become too high to complete. As an alternative, the city can purchase wetlands credits through a state-authorized vendor who will complete a project somewhere within the Grand River watershed as required by the original agreement with the state.

2021-0125-A. Pachla-Hecksel. To approve the purchase of wetland mitigation bank credits with Gunnell Farms LLC in the amount of \$73,600 for the creation of 0.92 acres of wetlands in the Grand River Watershed.

Commissioners Walters and Pachla spoke in favor of this affordable solution to fulfilling this long-standing obligation at an affordable cost.

Deputy City Manger LaFave thanked former Parks & Recreation Director Fred Bunn and Interim Director Shannyn Fasbender for all the research and work on this project.

Yeas: Arendshorst, Hamrick, Hecksel, Pachla, Walters and Favale – 6
Nays: -0-

2021-126. Contract for legal representation services.

Commissioners Walters and Arendshorst announced they would be abstaining from voting on this issue as they were partners in the law firm being contracted.

2021-0126-A. Hamrick-Pachla. To approve a three-year proposal for legal representation with Varnum as outlined in the City Manager's memo dated June 16, 2021.

Yeas: Hamrick, Hecksel, Pachla and Favale – 4
Nays: -0-
Abstain: Arendshorst and Walters – 2

2021-127. Discussion of work session date for Chapter 79C: Marijuana Establishments and Facilities.

City Manager Charles reported staff had planned to use the July 18 meeting to review the current ordinance with the commission; however, there were now officials and staff that would not be in attendance. He asked if there was a consensus for a date that would work better for everyone. After discussion, the commission asked that this matter be placed on the August 16 agenda.

2021-128. Discussion of ordinance change to establish a separate Zoning Board of Appeals.

City Manager Charles outlined the draft ordinance to establish a Zoning Board of Appeals and asked for feedback before sending this issue to the Planning Commission for review and recommendation.

City Manager Huff noted the ZBA would be charged with hearing dimensional and use variances and would be made up of residents, planning commission and city commission representatives, and would provide alternates to ensure complete representation at the hearings. Mr. Huff answered questions on the process of the hearings and other zoning issues.

Commissioners asked that fence variances and sign variances also be directed to the zoning board of appeals. City Attorney Huff will add these to the draft ordinance and will also look at ordinance amendments to other chapters to allow the ZBA to hear the fence and sign variances.

2021-129. Arendshorst-Pachla. To approve the consent agenda as follows:

2021-0129-A. Minutes of the regular meeting held June 7, 2021.

2021-0129-B. Minutes of the special meeting held June 7, 2021.

2021-0129-C. Payroll disbursements of \$239,419.31; county and school disbursements of \$-0-; and total remaining disbursements of \$369,670.24.

2021-0129-D. Resolution approving budget amendments for the quarter ending June 30, 2021 as attached in Exhibit "A."

2021-0129-E. A contract for t-shirts for parks and recreation programs be awarded to Hillhouse of Grand Rapids in the amount of \$47,000.05.

2021-0129-F. A contract with Fer-Pal Construction USA LLC in the amount of \$433,570.00 and a total project budget of \$660,000 for cured-in-place pipe rehabilitation, supplies, rentals and contingencies.

2021-0129-G. Preliminary minutes of the Joint Facilities Committee meeting held May 6, 2021.

2021-0129-H. Preliminary minutes of the Parks & Recreation Commission meeting held May 10, 2021.

Yeas: Arendshorst, Hamrick, Hecksel, Pachla, Walters and Favale – 6

Nays: -0-

2021-130. Mayor Favale reopened the meeting for public comment.

Matt Ludeman, 2258 Englewood, complimented City Manager Charles on his performance in the job so far.

The meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until July 6, 2021.

Karen K. Brower, City Clerk

Attachments: A – Resolution Approving Budget Amendments

Attachments listed above are available for inspection at the office of the City Clerk.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COMMISSION
CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

Regular Meeting Held July 6, 2021

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 in Person: Commissioners Duncan, Hamrick, Hecksel, Pachla, Walters and Mayor Favale

Absent: Commissioner Arendshorst

Also Present: City Attorney Huff; City Manager Charles; Deputy City Manager LaFave; City Clerk Brower; Finance Director Seath; Interim Parks & Recreation Director Fasbender; Zoning Administrator Gianotti; Public Safety Director Herald, Account Clerk Ritzke, Planning Consultant LeBlanc

2021-131. The agenda was approved as published.

2021-132. No public comment was received.

2021-133. Commissioner Walters thanked staff for holding three input sessions for the parks millage to give people an opportunity to give feedback on the proposal.

Commissioner Hamrick reported the Trail Blazer 5K event went well on Sunday and thanked all those who put on the race. She noted it was good to see so many people enjoying organized events again.

Commissioner Pachla thanked the Parks & Recreation and Public Safety Departments for all their work on the Reeds Lake Run on June 26 and the 4th of July events.

City Manager Charles commended the employees of all the departments that have worked to put on events in the last two weeks, including Public Safety, Public Works and Parks & Recreation.

Mr. Charles introduced Derek Melville, the new Parks & Recreation Director that would be starting employment next week. Mr. Melville thanked everyone for the warm welcome and stated he was excited to begin his new position.

2021-134. Election of President for FY 2021-22.

2021-0134-A. Duncan-Pachla. That Commissioner Hamrick be elected President of the East Grand Rapids City Commission to assume leadership duties in the absence of the Mayor for FY 2021-22.

Yeas: Duncan, Hamrick, Hecksel, Pachla, Walters and Favale – 6

Nays: -0-

2021-135. Parks Improvement Debt Millage.

City Manager Charles reported there had been two additional public input sessions for residents to hear about the proposal and ask questions. He presented a joint resolution with the EGR School District spelling out the parameters for placing city-owned playground equipment on school property and a resolution setting the ballot language for November 2 for consideration by the commission. Mr. Charles noted the ballot language had been modified slightly from the last version to add “parks within Gaslight Village” to the description of possible uses for the bond proceeds.

Commissioner Pachla questioned how the proposed list of projects would move forward if approved by voters. Mr. Charles noted projects would be reviewed individually by staff, consultants and resident groups prior to final design and bidding. In the case of the school playgrounds, the city will work with school staff and parent groups to plan each location.

2021-0135-A. Pachla-Hecksel. That a resolution setting preliminary expectations and understandings relating to the November 2021 Parks Improvement Debt Millage proposal be adopted as attached in Exhibit "A."

Yeas: Duncan, Hamrick, Hecksel, Pachla, Walters and Favale – 6
Nays: -0-

2021-0135-B. Pachla-Hecksel. That the updated resolution authorizing ballot proposal language for park improvement bonds be adopted as attached in Exhibit "B."

Commissioner Walters supported this proposal that would let the residents decide on the parks and playground improvements. He noted the city's discretionary funding for these types of projects was limited due to millage rollbacks, meaning it would take many years to implement this list of projects without additional funding. He felt this proposal would allow residents to support improvements important to them. Mr. Walters stated he would have preferred to seek an amount lower than \$7 million, but noted the full amount may not be needed and projects would be carefully reviewed and subject to public input before using the bond funding.

Commissioner Pachla gave his strong support to the parks improvement millage. He noted the Parks & Recreation Master Plan set the vision for improvements, but these projects would cost more than the city will have available for several years. He felt this millage was an opportunity to invest in the community and looked forward to working on the projects if approved by voters.

Commissioner Duncan also supported this opportunity to let the voters decide on improvements.

Yeas: Duncan, Hamrick, Hecksel, Pachla, Walters and Favale – 6
Nays: -0-

2021-136. Duncan-Hamrick. To approve the consent agenda as follows:

2021-0136-A. Minutes of the regular meeting held June 21, 2021.

2021-0136-B. Payroll disbursements of \$248,242.84; county and school disbursements of \$152.00, and total remaining disbursements of \$568,147.75.

2021-0136-C. Purchase and installation of security system upgrades from Engineered Protection Systems of Grand Rapids in the amount of \$9,546.00.

2021-0136-D. Preliminary minutes of the Parks & Recreation Commission meeting held June 14, 2021.

Yeas: Duncan, Hamrick, Hecksel, Pachla, Walters and Favale – 6
Nays: -0-

2021-137. Walters-Pachla. Motion to enter into an executive session to discuss the acquisition of real estate and to discuss an attorney's opinion in accordance with Sections 8(d) and 8(h) of the Open Meetings Act. A roll call vote was taken.

Yeas: Duncan, Hamrick, Hecksel, Pachla, Walters and Favale – 6
Nays: -0-

The meeting adjourned at 6:29 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until July 19, 2021.

Karen K. Brower, City Clerk

Attachments: A – Joint Resolution with EGR Schools regarding playground equipment replacement
B – Resolution Setting Ballot Language for Parks Improvement Millage

Attachments listed above are available for inspection at the office of the City Clerk.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COMMISSION
CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

Regular Meeting Held July 19, 2021

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 in Person: Commissioners Arendshorst, Duncan, Hecksel, Walters and Mayor Favale

Absent: Commissioners Hamrick and Pachla

Also Present: City Manager Charles; Deputy City Manager LaFave; City Clerk Brower; Parks & Recreation Director Melville; Public Safety Director Herald; Assistant City Attorney Roth; Captain Buikema

2021-138. The agenda was approved as published.

2021-139. No public comment was received.

2021-140. City Manager Charles noted the Hall Street reconstruction project was going well and reminded everyone that weekly updates were available on the city's website. He further noted the parks improvement millage ballot language had been submitted to the county election office for the November election.

2021-141. Final Reading of an ordinance to amend Section 7.124 of Chapter 79B of Title VII of the City Code pertaining to the placement of telecommunication pedestals.

Deputy City Manager LaFave explained a few minor changes had been made to clarify the language that would require communication equipment be located below the surface in areas where the right-of-way was already crowded with equipment.

2021-0141-A. Walters-Duncan. That an ordinance to amend Section 7.124 of Chapter 79B of Title VII of the City Code pertaining to the placement of telecommunication pedestals be adopted as attached in Exhibit "A."

Yeas: Arendshorst, Duncan, Hecksel, Walters and Favale – 5

Nays: -0-

2021-142. Public Safety quarterly report for the period ending June 30, 2021.

Public Director Herald highlighted the de-escalation training and implementation of 800mgz radios within the last few months. He reviewed the data that had been collected for traffic stops and traffic crashes during the first six months of 2021 and noted staff had been talking with several experts about assistance in analyzing the data once a year of information is available.

Commissioner Walters questioned when the RFP for consulting services to interpret the data would be complete. He asked that this be completed, and a consultant hired by the end of the year to analyze the data as soon as the full year of data was available. City Manager Charles stated the staff had some examples they were reviewing in anticipation of seeking a consultant in the fall.

Chief Herald reviewed the statistics for the remainder of the report and answered questions from the commission.

2021-143. Designation of representative to Michigan Municipal League Annual Meeting.

2021-0143-A. Arendshorst-Walters. That Commissioner Kris Pachla be designated as the city's representative and that Mayor Katie Favale be named as the alternate representative for the Michigan Municipal League Annual Meeting on September 22, 2021.

Yeas: Arendshorst, Duncan, Hecksel, Walters and Favale – 5
Nays: -0-

2021-144. Duncan-Arendshorst. To approve the consent agenda as follows:

2021-0144-A. Minutes of the regular meeting held July 6, 2021.

2021-0144-B. Payroll disbursements of \$243,822.20; county and school disbursements of \$904.64; and total remaining disbursements of \$144,055.17.

2021-0144-C. Blodget Hospital quarterly neighborhood report for the period ending June 30, 201.

Yeas: Arendshorst, Duncan, Hecksel, Walters and Favale – 5
Nays: -0-

The meeting adjourned at 6:34 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until August 2, 2021.

Karen K. Brower, City Clerk

Attachments: A – Ordinance Amendment to Section 7.124 of Chapter 79B

Attachments listed above are available for inspection at the office of the City Clerk.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COMMISSION
CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

Regular Meeting Held August 2, 2021

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 in Person: Commissioners Arendshorst, Duncan, Pachla, Walters and Mayor Favale

Absent: Commissioners Hamrick and Hecksel

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

2021-145. The agenda was approved as published.

2021-146. No public comment was received.

2021-147. City Manager Charles reported the Hall Street construction project was continuing and many other local road projects and pavement preservation treatments were happening this week.

2021-148. Strategic Planning Proposal.

City Manager Charles reviewed the proposal to facilitate a new strategic plan for East Grand Rapids over the next several months. The city commission discussed the proposal and gave feedback on various options to include public input in the planning process. Mr. Charles will bring a final proposal to the commission at the next meeting for approval.

2021-149. Pachla-Arendshorst. To approve the consent agenda as follows:

2021-0149-A. Minutes of the regular meeting held July 19, 2021.

2021-0149-B. Payroll disbursements of \$251,187.62; county and school disbursements of \$2,561,707.63; and total remaining disbursements of \$318,808.21.

2021-0149-C. Repairs to Truck 139 in the amount of \$13,000 plus 20% contingencies with West Michigan International of Wyoming.

2021-0149-D. Contract with Superior Groundcover in the amount of \$8,755.00 for 425 yards of playground mulch for grounds maintenance operations.

2021-0149-E. Preliminary minutes of the Parks & Recreation Commission meeting held July 12, 2021.

Yeas: Arendshorst, Duncan, Pachla, Walters and Favale – 5

Nays: -0-

2021-0149-F. Duncan-Arendshorst. Motion to enter into an executive session to discuss the acquisition of real estate in accordance with Section 8(d) of the Open Meetings Act. A roll call vote was taken.

Yeas: Arendshorst, Duncan, Pachla, Walters and Favale – 5

Nays: -0-

The meeting adjourned at 6:17 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until August 16, 2021.

Karen K. Brower, City Clerk

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COMMISSION
CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

Regular Meeting Held August 16, 2021

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, Hecksel, Pachla, Walters and Mayor Favale

Absent: Commissioner Duncan

Also Present: City Manager Charles, Deputy City Manager LaFave, Finance Director Seath, Zoning Administrator Gianotti, City Attorney Huff, Communications Specialist Licari and Recording Secretary Taylor

2021-150. The agenda was approved as published.

2021-151. No public comment was received.

2021-152. Commissioner Hecksel expressed concern about bike safety and the increased use of personal electric vehicles as there are no specific guidelines in place for safety requirements. Citizens should be diligent in educating their children about traffic safety and making sure that their helmets are DOT approved.

Commissioner Pachla stated that the East Grand Rapids vaccination rate for those eligible is at 95%. It is important that the community is following CDC guidelines and that the schools had adopted those guidelines. He said that he is appreciative for the community being a great steward of public health.

Commissioner Arendshorst echoed Commissioner Hecksel's comment on electric vehicle safety on sidewalks. Not all states allow adults to ride bikes on sidewalks; Michigan does, but cyclists must always yield right of way to pedestrians and signal when they are passing pedestrians. This becomes more difficult the faster you are moving which leads to the concern that was brought up. He looks forward to discussing the subject at some point in the future.

Commissioner Hamrick would like to see a clear and understandable policy on electric bikes and scooters. She stated she was relieved and appreciated the school's adoption of the CDC policy today and the community being so diligent about getting their vaccines.

Mayor Favale welcomed Chris Wessely, the next 2nd ward commissioner, who was in the audience.

City Manager Charles reported that Hall Street paving will start tomorrow. Electric vehicle regulations are being looked at by staff and the findings will be reported back to the Commission. The Planning Commission discussed multi-family residential district focusing on what might be a future draft ordinance.

2021-153 Introduction of an ordinance to amend Section 8.24 and 8.25 of Chapter 81 of Title VIII of the City Code pertaining to sign variance procedures.

City Manager Charles reported that at the August 10, 2021, Planning Commission meeting, the Commissioners voted to approve recommendation and approval of the amendment by the City Commission. Mr. Charles noted that sign and fence variances would be assigned to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

2021-153A Walters-Pachla. That an ordinance to amend Sections 8.24 and 8.25 of Chapter 81 of Title VIII of the City Code pertaining to sign variance procedures be introduced as attached in Exhibit "A"

Yeas: Arendshorst, Hamrick, Hecksel, Pachla, Walters and Favale – 6
Nays: -0-

- 2021-154 Introduction of an ordinance to amend Sections 8.61(L), 8.62(A) and 8.62(B) of Article I of Chapter 83 of Title VIII of the City Code pertaining to fence variance procedures.

City Manager Charles reported that at the August 10, 2021 Planning Commission meeting, the Commissioners voted to approve recommendation of approval of the amendment by the City Commission.

- 2021-154-A. Pachla/Hamrick. That an ordinance to amend Sections 8.61(L), 8.62(A) and 8.62(B) of Article I of Chapter 83 of Title VIII of the City Code pertaining to fence variance procedures be introduced as attached in Exhibit "B".

Yeas: Arendshorst, Hamrick, Hecksel, Pachla, Walters and Favale – 6
Nays: -0-

- 2021-155 Appointment to Grand Valley Metro Council Board of Directors

- 2021-155-A Hamrick-Arendshorst. That the City Manager Shea Charles be appointed as the City's representative to the Grand Valley Metro Council Board of Directors.

Yeas: Arendshorst, Hamrick, Hecksel, Pachla, Walters and Favale – 6
Nays: -0-

- 2021-156. Walters-Arendshorst. To approve the consent agenda as follows:

2021-156-A. Minutes of the regular meeting held August 2, 2021

2021-156-B. Payroll disbursements of \$253,036.87; county and school disbursements of \$12,074,759.72, and total remaining disbursements of \$722,720.10.

2021-156-C. Contracts for pavement marking services with M&M Pavement Marking Inc. of Grand Blanc, Michigan and P.K. Contracting Inc. of Troy, Michigan up to the approved budgeted or amended budgeted amounts through December 31, 2023.

2021-156D. A contract for winter maintenance road salt through the Kent County Road Commission contract for FY2021-22 and optional renewal for FY22-23 with Compass Minerals of Overland Park, Kansas at \$68.04 per ton up to budgeted or amended budgeted amounts.

2021-156-E. Preliminary minutes of the Planning Commission meeting held July 13, 2021

Yeas: Arendshorst, Hamrick, Hecksel, Pachla, Walters and Favale – 6
Nays: -0-

- 2021-157. Review of Chapter 79C – Marijuana Establishment Ordinance

City Manager Charles reported the Michigan Regulation and Taxation of Marihuana Act (MRTMA) approved by statewide referendum in 2018. The City of East Grand Rapids had chosen to opt out in 2019. In April of 2020 the Commission requested an update from staff in the summer of 2021. Since the last discussion, the State has released its first revenue sharing under the MRTMA. The Federal Drug Free zone of 1,000 feet has not changed. The City of Grand Rapids has added nine operations in the last year and the City of Lowell continues to add facilities. In some communities the operations have been very successful in bringing some vibrancy to their commercial areas.

Commissioner Arendshorst suggested monitoring potential changes to the law and potential changes to East Grand Rapids itself. He noted that it seems overall legalization in the Michigan communities that have opted in seems to be going well with no significant effects on crime, traffic safety or any other things that people may have been worried about. He suggested revisiting this when there is more information on the East Grand Rapids' city plans even if there have been no changes to Federal law.

Commissioner Hecksel asked if there are any municipalities that had reduced the buffer zone. Mr. Charles responded that he had not seen anything in Michigan. Mayor Favale added that nationally there were a handful of communities that had reduced the buffer zone, the lowest being 600 feet.

Commissioner Arendshorst said he would be interested to see if other communities have taken a different approach in defining the 1000-foot buffer zone. City Attorney Huff responded that it was decided on several different factors they were going to look at and they have a number of different measurements whether it's a church, a community center or a school. They kept the schools at 1000 feet, but they did lesser distance for some of the other facilities.

Commissioner Hamrick asked for clarity of the Federal drug-free zone law and how it works with respect to the municipality opting in and what could happen at the federal level if there was a problem. Attorney Huff responded that it is still illegal at the federal level, however, it has never been enforced anywhere in any state in the union. It's been clear that it is not a priority item. He added that the 1000-foot radius on drug-free zone from schools has been universally respected and accepted as appropriately researched and developed.

Commissioner Arendshorst asked if there was any federal guidance similar to the school zone radius that would apply to parks and churches. Attorney Huff was not aware of any.

Commissioner Hecksel suggested a tiered system where other options would be available for facility locations. He added that the drug-free zone law was written in 1986 with an intent to increase penalties for drug related activities in the school zones to deter illegal drug sales near schools and to reduce violence. He expressed concern about alcohol sales next to school property and added that facilities selling cannabis are much more secure than the bars that are selling alcohol on the same street. He said he would support looking at all options.

Commissioner Arendshorst stated the reasoning behind the required 1000-foot distance should be addressed.

Commissioner Pachla asked if there were any commercial entities that had expressed interest. Mr. Charles responded that no serious inquiries had been received.

The Commission decided not to make any changes and will revisit this ordinance again next year in late summer.

The meeting adjourned at 6:43 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until September 7, 2021.

Lynda S. Taylor, Recording Secretary

Attachments: A – Ordinance Amendment to Chapter 81 regarding sign variances.
B – Ordinance Amendment to Chapter 83 regarding fence variances.

Attachments listed above are available for inspection at the office of the City Clerk.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COMMISSION
CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

Regular Meeting Held September 7, 2021

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 in Person: Commissioners Arendshorst, Duncan, Hamrick, Hecksel, Pachla, Walters and Mayor Favale

Absent: None

Also Present: City Manager Charles; Deputy City Manager LaFave; City Attorney Huff; Finance Director Seath; Parks & Recreation Director Melville; City Clerk Brower; Zoning Administrator Gianotti

2021-158. The agenda was approved as published.

2021-159. No public comment was received.

2021-160. Commissioner Hecksel announced there would be a fundraiser for the Fred Bunn Trails at Manhattan Park on September 8 from 4-7 pm.

Commissioner Pachla reminded everyone to drive carefully and pay special attention to kids on bikes now that school is back in session for the semester.

Mayor Favale invited everyone to participate in the Mayor's Grand River Cleanup events taking place this weekend around the area.

City Manager Charles noted the first of the education sessions for the parks millage proposal would take place next week. He further noted the strategic plan proposal and a review of the city manager's first six months would be on the next agenda. Mr. Charles also noted the Reeds Lake Triathlon would take place on Saturday, September 11 and volunteers were still needed.

2021-161. Mayor Favale presented a plaque to the EGR High School Art Club and thanked the student artists involved in repainting the Lakeside Drive Mural earlier this year. The students worked with officials and staff on the approval of a new design, budget and logistics to replace the fading mural originally painted in 2003. Everyone thanked the students for their work and complimented the finished mural's historical design.

2021-162. Zoning variance hearing on the request of Ron & Ginger Springer of 1750 Robinson to allow the installation of a driveway increasing lot coverage by impervious surfaces to 55.9% instead of the 40% allowed.

Zoning Administrator Gianotti explained the Springers have submitted a drainage analysis on their proposed circular driveway as requested by the commission in May and are again requesting approval of the original circular design. Mr. Gianotti noted the city's consulting engineer suggested a T-shape turnaround to reduce the amount of non-porous surfacing and to avoid a second driveway exiting onto Robinson Road. Mr. Gianotti suggested two conditions be added to any approval requiring the exact specifications of a driveway and requiring a post-construction inspection. He also noted that even a smaller T-shape turnaround would require a lot-coverage variance since this property was already over the percentage allowed by ordinance.

Commissioner Walters questioned whether the commission could grant a smaller variance for a T-shape turnaround at this meeting or if the original request would have to be tabled to allow time for the applicant to revise their request. City Attorney Huff stated the commission could grant a less intrusive variance request than what was proposed.

Commissioner Walters asked if the end of the construction at Blodgett Hospital would mean less traffic in this area when the hospital was no longer using the parking lot across the street for employee shuttles. Deputy City Manager LaFave stated the hospital's original goal was to provide enough spaces on site that off-site shuttles would no longer be needed once all the construction work wrapped up.

Commissioner Hamrick questioned whether staff felt that Standard A regarding special conditions existed in this situation. Mr. Gianotti responded that the existing driveway seems sufficient for vehicles to be able to turn around and there are no major safety concerns in the area, even being on a busier road.

Ron Springer, 1750 Robinson, stated the new portion of the driveway would have a sand/aggregate base to absorb all of the runoff from the new driveway. He felt a T-shape turnaround would be only slightly less pavement and would not meet their needs as well. He requested the full circular driveway be approved. He noted there were other circular driveways in the area due to the busy streets.

Commissioner Walters stated that for him it was less about the amount of paving and more about avoiding a second driveway from this property onto Robinson Road adding to the potential for accidents on the street.

Mayor Favale opened a public hearing. The following communications were received at City Hall concerning this variance request:

- Susan Jones, 251 Plymouth In Favor.

No other public comment was received. Mayor Favale closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Walters noted he struggled with the variance condition about not being a detriment to the neighborhood as he remained concerned about adding another driveway on Robinson. He felt other options existed to avoid the second driveway and suggested tabling the variance request or approving a smaller T-shape turnaround.

Commissioner Arendshorst stated that while the circular driveway may not be the smallest variance possible, it would have the advantage of allowing vehicles to exit onto the street driving forward instead of backing out, which would be more beneficial than the detriment of a second driveway.

Commissioner Pachla was concerned about approving lot coverage of 55.9% when the normal allowance is 40%. He would like to see a less impactful solution with a smaller lot coverage, such as using permeable pavers in a small T-shape turnaround to allow room for vehicles to turn around safely while keeping the lot coverage variance to the minimum possible.

Commissioner Hamrick agreed there are other less impactful options and shared the concern about lot coverage of nearly 56%. She understood the desire for a circular driveway, but felt there should be more effort to minimize the lot coverage and limit non-conformity. Mayor Favale agreed.

2021-0162-A. Walters-Hamrick. That the request of Ron & Ginger Springer of 1750 Robinson to allow the installation of a driveway increasing lot coverage by impervious surfaces to 55.9% instead of the 40% allowed be tabled to allow the applicant to explore a smaller turnaround area.

Commissioner Arendshorst favored continued discussion as he supported the request. He felt the additional surface and second driveway were not significant and would not raise the lot coverage much above what a smaller turnaround would.

Commissioner Hecksel also supported the original request as he felt the new sand sub-base would do a better job with drainage than the current situation and that the traffic situation made this property unique. He did not support tabling the motion and making the applicant revise their design.

Yeas: Duncan, Hamrick, Pachla, Walters and Favale – 5

Nays: Arendshorst and Hecksel – 2

- 2021-163. Introduction of an ordinance to amend Sections 5.100, 5.101(A), and 5.103 of Chapter 50 of Title V of the City Code establishing a separate Zoning Board of Appeals.

City Manager Charles reported the Planning Commission had reviewed this amendment and recommends approval. The ordinance effective date will be January 1, 2022 to allow the appointment and training of the new members of the Zoning Board of Appeals.

- 2021-0163-A. Hamrick-Arendshorst. That an ordinance to amend Sections 5.100, 5.101(A), and 5.103 of Chapter 50 of Title V of the City Code establishing a separate Zoning Board of Appeals be introduced as attached in Exhibit "A."

Yeas: Arendshorst, Duncan, Hamrick, Hecksel, Pachla, Walters and Favale – 7
Nays: -0-

- 2021-164. Introduction of an ordinance to amend Section 5.37 of Chapter 50 of Title V of the City Code pertaining to area, height and placement requirements in the C-1 Commercial District.

Zoning Administrator Gianotti outlined the amendment that would eliminate area, height and placement requirements in Gaslight Village to eliminate current nonconformities and allow flexibility for businesses in smaller spaces.

- 2021-0164-A. Pachla-Hamrick. That an ordinance to amend Section 5.37 of Chapter 50 of Title V of the City Code pertaining to area, height and placement requirements in the C-1 Commercial District be introduced as attached in Exhibit "B."

Yeas: Arendshorst, Duncan, Hamrick, Hecksel, Pachla, Walters and Favale – 7
Nays: -0-

- 2021-165. Duncan-Pachla. To approve the consent agenda as follows:

- 2021-0165-A. Minutes of the regular meeting held August 16, 2021.
2021-0165-B. Payroll disbursements of \$235,177.10; county and school disbursements of \$7,696,123.09, and total remaining disbursements of \$872,134.92.
2021-0165-C. A contract with American Athletix in the amount of \$15,660.00 for the repair of bleachers at Memorial Field, Mehney Field and Remington Field from the Joint Facilities Fund.
2021-0165-D. Payment of invoices totaling \$12,741.38 from Rieth-Riley Construction Co of Wyoming for asphalt materials for street maintenance projects throughout East Grand Rapids.
2021-0165-E. Preliminary minutes of the Parks & Recreation Commission meeting held August 9, 2021.

Yeas: Arendshorst, Duncan, Hamrick, Hecksel, Pachla, Walters and Favale – 7
Nays: -0-

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until September 20, 2021.

Karen K. Brower, City Clerk

Attachments: A – Ordinance Amendment to Sections 5.100, 5.101 and 5.103 establishing a Zoning Board of Appeals
B – Ordinance Amendment to Section 5.37 regarding the C-1 Commercial District

Attachments listed above are available for inspection at the office of the City Clerk.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COMMISSION
CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

Regular Meeting Held September 20, 2021

Mayor Favale called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. in the City Commission Chambers at the East Grand Rapids Community Center and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present in Person: Commissioners Arendshorst, Duncan, Hamrick, Hecksel, Pachla, Walters and Mayor Favale

Absent: None

Also Present: City Manager Charles; Deputy City Manager LaFave; City Attorney Huff; Finance Director Seath; Public Safety Director Herald; City Clerk Brower; Zoning Administrator Gianotti

2021-166. Approval of Agenda.

2021-0166-A. Pachla-Hecksel. That a letter from Commissioner Walters be added to the agenda for consideration. A roll call vote was taken.

Yeas: Arendshorst, Duncan, Hamrick, Hecksel, Pachla, Walters and Favale – 7

Nays: -0-

2021-167. John Chronowski, E-Green Sustainability Initiative, announced a Styrofoam recycling event would take place October 2 and expressed the group's desire to work closer with the city on various initiatives.

2021-168. Commissioner Hecksel reported the fundraising campaign for the Fred Bunn Trails at Manhattan Park is underway.

Commissioner Walters announced he would be resigning his seat on the City Commission effective tomorrow because he was moving out of East Grand Rapids. Commissioner Walters stated he was honored to have served as commissioner for four years and thanked many of the city staff for their assistance and his fellow commissioners for the great working relationships. Mr. Walters noted he was very proud of the work accomplished during his tenure on the commission.

City Manager Charles noted the staff is working on several education sessions for the Parks Improvement Millage, including attending several school PTO meetings.

2021-169. Final Reading of an ordinance to amend Section 5.37 of Chapter 50 of Title V of the City Code pertaining to area, height and placement requirements in the C-1 Commercial District.

Zoning Administrator Gianotti explained the amendment would eliminate lot width and area requirements for Gaslight Village but other building and zoning codes would remain in place.

2021-0169-A. Arendshorst-Pachla. That an ordinance to amend Section 5.37 of Chapter 50 of Title V of the City Code pertaining to area, height and placement requirements in the C-1 Commercial District be adopted as attached in Exhibit "B."

Yeas: Arendshorst, Duncan, Hamrick, Hecksel, Pachla, Walters and Favale – 7

Nays: -0-

- 2021-170. Final Reading of an ordinance to amend Sections 5.100, 5.101(A), and 5.103 of Chapter 50 of Title V of the City Code establishing a separate Zoning Board of Appeals.

City Manager Charles noted the amendment would be effective January 1, 2022 to allow time to appoint and train the new Zoning Board of Appeals members.

- 2021-0170-A. Duncan-Walters. That an ordinance to amend Sections 5.100, 5.101(A), and 5.103 of Chapter 50 of Title V of the City Code establishing a separate Zoning Board of Appeals be adopted as attached in Exhibit "A."

Yeas: Arendshorst, Duncan, Hamrick, Hecksel, Pachla, Walters and Favale – 7
Nays: -0-

- 2021-171. Final Reading of an ordinance to amend Sections 8.24 and 8.25 of Chapter 81 of Title VIII of the City Code pertaining to sign variance procedures.

Zoning Administrator Gianotti stated the Chapter 81 and the Chapter 83 amendments would also be effective January 1 to match the earlier amendment.

- 2021-0171-A. Pachla-Arendshorst. That an ordinance to amend Sections 8.24 and 8.25 of Chapter 81 of Title VIII of the City Code pertaining to sign variance procedures be adopted as attached in Exhibit "C."

Yeas: Arendshorst, Duncan, Hamrick, Hecksel, Pachla, Walters and Favale – 7
Nays: -0-

- 2021-172. Final Reading of an ordinance to amend Sections 8.61(L), 8.62(A) and 8.62(B) of Article I of Chapter 83 of Title VIII of the City Code pertaining to fence variance procedures.

- 2021-0172-A. Duncan-Pachla. That an ordinance to amend Sections 8.61(L), 8.62(A) and 8.62(B) of Article I of Chapter 83 of Title VIII of the City Code pertaining to fence variance procedures be adopted as attached in Exhibit "D."

Yeas: Arendshorst, Duncan, Hamrick, Hecksel, Pachla, Walters and Favale – 7
Nays: -0-

- 2021-173. Acceptance of a resignation letter.

- 2021-0173-A. Pachla-Arendshorst. To accept, with regret, the resignation letter from Third Ward Commissioner Bryan Walters effective September 22, 2021.

Mayor Favale noted it has been a pleasure working with Commissioner Walters and wished him the best.

Commissioner Pachla thanked Mr. Walters for his forward-thinking approach, his ability to problem solve and his critical eye for detail when reviewing invoices on the Finance Committee.

Commissioner Arendshorst noted he has learned volumes from Commissioner Walters and thanked him for his four years on the commission.

Commissioner Hamrick also expressed appreciation for all his work over the last several years.

Yeas: Arendshorst, Duncan, Hamrick, Hecksel, Pachla, Walters and Favale – 7
Nays: -0-

2021-174. Pachla-Hamrick. To approve the consent agenda as follows:

2021-0174-A. Minutes of the regular meeting held September 7, 2021.

2021-0174-B. Payroll disbursements of \$234,614.67; county and school disbursements of \$2,677,683.15, and total remaining disbursements of \$461,133.92.

2021-0174-C. The purchase of notebook computers for public safety patrol vehicles from Dell Technologies in the amount of \$16,350.00.

2021-0174-D. Preliminary minutes of the Library Commission meeting held April 26, 2021.

Yeas: Arendshorst, Duncan, Hamrick, Hecksel, Pachla, Walters and Favale – 7
Nays: -0-

2021-175. Walters-Arendshorst. Motion to enter into an executive session to conduct a personnel evaluation for the City Manager in accordance with Section 8(a) of the Open Meetings Act. A roll call vote was taken.

Yeas: Arendshorst, Duncan, Hamrick, Hecksel, Pachla, Walters and Favale – 7
Nays: -0-

The meeting adjourned at 6:39 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until October 4, 2021.

Karen K. Brower, City Clerk

Attachments: A – Ordinance Amendment to Section 5.37 regarding the C-1 Commercial District
B – Ordinance Amendment to Chapter 50 establishing a Zoning Board of Appeals
C – Ordinance Amendment to Chapter 81 pertaining to sign variances
D – Ordinance Amendment to Chapter 83 regarding fence variances

Attachments listed above are available for inspection at the office of the City Clerk.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COMMISSION
CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

Regular Meeting Held October 4, 2021

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 in Person: Commissioners Arendshorst, Duncan, Hamrick, Hecksel, Pachla and Mayor Favale

Absent: None

Also Present: City Manager Charles; Deputy City Manager LaFave; City Attorney Huff; City Clerk Brower

2021-176. The agenda was approved as published.

2021-177. Mark Secchia, 2640 Reeds Lake Ct, spoke in opposition to the Parks Improvement Millage proposal on the November ballot as he felt there was too much bundled together for him to support. He opposed adding new trails and park amenities as the increase in traffic costs and the detriment to wildlife. He urged the commission to split the proposal into smaller items so residents could vote on the projects they wanted to approve instead of the entire package.

2021-178. Commissioner Hamrick reported she had attended the Michigan Municipal League conference last week and brought back a lot of new ideas.

Commissioner Pachla announced leaf pickup starts next week. He urged residents to adopt a storm drain on their street and keep the area around it clear of debris to avoid stormwater contamination and clogged pipes.

Mayor Favale noted the LGROW website has information and registration for the adopt-a-drain program. She announced another Styrofoam recycling event would take place in January at the Public Works complex.

City Manager Charles noted the heavy rain yesterday produced minor street flooding due to clogged drains. He reported the millage education meeting last week was attended by about 20 residents with various questions and input on the millage proposal. There are two more sessions planned before the November 2 election.

Mayor Favale thanked City Manager Charles and Parks & Recreation Director Melville for hosting the sessions and answering resident questions.

2021-179. Strategic Planning Proposal.

City Manager Charles presented a proposal to develop a new strategic plan in the coming months with a professional facilitator. He recommended scheduling a day-long retreat in December or January and adding annual funding to the budget to update the plan each year.

Commissioner Pachla suggested scheduling the session for January if it would not negatively impact the staff's budget planning process for FY 2022-23. Mr. Charles stated this would not be a problem, even if multiple sessions are needed to complete the development of the plan.

2021-0179-A. Pachla-Arendshorst. That a proposal from Marilyn Semonick to conduct a strategic planning session at a cost of \$3,000.00 plus expenses be approved.

Yeas: Arendshorst, Duncan, Hamrick, Hecksel, Pachla and Favale – 6

Nays: -0-

2021-180. Cascade Township Permit and Inspection Fees.

Deputy City Manager LaFave reviewed the proposed changes to Cascade Township's permit and inspection rate structure. He noted Cascade Township has been contracted as the city's building inspector for many years and has not increased their rates since 2009. Mr. LaFave noted his analysis showed it was still more cost effective to contract Cascade Township to perform these services than to hire our own inspection staff.

Commissioner Pachla expressed his appreciation of the services offered by Cascade Township and agreed the economies of scale made this an advantageous arrangement for the City. He noted the new rates are still lower than many comparable municipalities in the area.

Deputy City Manager LaFave will pass these comments on to Cascade Township.

2021-181. Duncan-Hecksel. To approve the consent agenda as follows:

2021-0181-A. Minutes of the regular meeting held September 7, 2021.

2021-0181-B. Payroll disbursements of \$234,614.67; county and school disbursements of \$2,677,683.15, and total remaining disbursements of \$461,133.92.

2021-0181-C. The purchase of notebook computers for public safety patrol vehicles from Dell Technologies in the amount of \$16,350.00.

2021-0181-D. Preliminary minutes of the Library Commission meeting held April 26, 2021.

Yeas: Arendshorst, Duncan, Hamrick, Hecksel, Pachla and Favale – 6

Nays: -0-

The meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until October 18, 2021.

Karen K. Brower, City Clerk

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COMMISSION
CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

Regular Meeting Held October 18, 2021

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 in Person: Commissioners Arendshorst, Duncan, Hamrick, Hecksel, Pachla and Mayor Favale

Absent: None

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

2021-182. The agenda was approved as published.

2021-183. Margaret O'Byrne, 2721 Reeds Lake Blvd, spoke in opposition to adding new trails around Reeds Lake. She shared her experiences with trash, unleashed dogs, trespassing, profanity and other issues from the Reeds Lake Trail which passes in front of her home. She feared adding additional trails would further increase these issues, increase traffic and parking problems, and cost the city too much money in maintenance and police patrols.

2021-184. Commissioner Hamrick reminded everyone of the last public education session for the Parks Improvement Millage proposal tomorrow evening at 7 p.m. She also invited everyone to the Public Safety Open House on Saturday, October 23 from 10 am until noon at the Public Safety Department.

Commissioner Pachla announced Public Safety would also be participating in the Prescription Drug Take Back Day on Saturday from 10 am to 2 pm.

Mayor Favale reported the Public Safety Department had collected almost 2,000 pounds of drugs since the dropbox was installed. She also noted citizens could use the box in the public safety lobby to drop off drugs any time during normal business hours, not just during the Saturday event. Mayor Favale invited residents to her next coffee talk on Wednesday at the new Bagel Kitchen in Gaslight Village.

City Manager Charles reported there would be a virtual option added for the public education meeting tomorrow afternoon for those who can't attend in person.

2021-185. Update on Parks Improvement Millage public education meetings.

City Manager Charles reported good attendance at each meeting with residents expressing both support and opposition for various aspects of the proposal. Concerns include the projects bundled together without options and concern about additional trails. Several letters and emails were received and passed on to commissioners. Mr. Charles noted that if the millage request is passed by voters, additional meetings would be scheduled to go over individual projects and take feedback from residents. The city commission would determine the overall approach, priorities, timing and how to move forward if the proposal passes. If individual projects are moved forward after the public forums, the city will use its normal bidding and contract review processes.

Mayor Favale opened the meeting for public comment:

- Susan Allen, 670 Manhattan

Opposed to increased traffic on Manhattan if more trails and a splash pad are added at Manhattan Park. Didn't feel either was necessary and would detract from other features. Disappointed all the projects were put into one proposal with no options.

- Jennifer Clary, 337 Manhattan

Stated that 18 households had signed a petition a few years ago opposing the splash pad. Stated other locations for the splash pad were discussed then but now all materials were listing Manhattan Park. Expressed concern about the draft language for the new trails at Manhattan Park.

Mayor Favale closed the public comment.

City Manager Charles reiterated that all projects in the Parks Improvement Millage proposal were conceptual and, if passed by voters, would be reviewed individually with public meetings held to gather input before decisions are made about how to move forward. He also noted that the trail building agreement was still in draft form and city staff was working on the details before submitting it the commission for approval.

Mayor Favale thanked Mr. Charles, Mr. Melville and other staff members for attending and facilitating the education sessions.

2021-186. Contract for annual tree planting program.

Deputy City Manager LaFave explained residents are able to partner with the city for trees planted in the outlawn area of their property and split the cost with the city. This year, 41 trees were being planted through this program. Mr. LaFave also noted that the city's 7,200 right-of-way trees filter 15,000 tons of air pollutants and 10 million gallons of stormwater, improving air and water quality in the area.

2021-0186-A. Duncan-Pachla. To award a contract to Harder and Warner of Caledonia for the annual tree planting program as submitted in the bid materials contained in the agenda packet.

Yeas: Arendshorst, Duncan, Hamrick, Hecksel, Pachla and Favale – 6
Nays: -0-

2021-187. Contract for audit of annual financial statements.

Finance Director Seath explained the proposals received and the change to a comprehensive financial report format in the next year.

2021-0187-A. Duncan-Arendshorst. To award a five-year contract to Vredeveld Haefner LLC for annual audits in the amount of \$15,750 for 06/30/2022, \$16,100 for 06/30/2023, \$16,450 for 06/30/2024, \$16,800 for 06/30/2025 and \$17,150 for 06/30/2026.

Yeas: Arendshorst, Duncan, Hamrick, Hecksel, Pachla and Favale – 6
Nays: -0-

2021-188. Pachla-Hamrick. To approve the consent agenda as follows:

2021-0188-A. Minutes of the regular meeting held October 4, 2021.

2021-0188-B. Payroll disbursements of \$243,590.64; county and school disbursements of \$59,246.49, and total remaining disbursements of \$117,475.23.

2021-0188-C. A contract with Corby Energy Services of Belleville, Michigan for cured-in-place pipe work at unit prices outlined in the agenda materials up to budgeted expenditures for FY 2021-22, through FY 2023-24.

Yeas: Arendshorst, Duncan, Hamrick, Hecksel, Pachla and Favale – 6
Nays: -0-

2021-189. Duncan-Hamrick. Motion to enter into an executive session to discuss the acquisition of real estate in accordance with Section 8(d) of the Open Meetings Act. A roll call vote was taken.

Yeas: Arendshorst, Duncan, Hamrick, Hecksel, Pachla and Favale – 6
Nays: -0-

The meeting adjourned at 6:37 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until November 1, 2021.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COMMISSION
CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

Regular Meeting Held November 1, 2021

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 in Person: Commissioners Arendshorst, Hamrick, Hecksel, Wagenaar-Duncan and Mayor Favale

Absent: Commissioner Pachla

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

2021-190. Arendshorst-Hecksel. Motion to add to the agenda an executive session to discuss the acquisition of property in accordance with Section 8(d) of the Open Meetings Act. A roll call vote was taken.

Yeas: Arendshorst, Duncan, Hamrick, Hecksel and Favale – 5

Nays: -0-

2021-191. The agenda was approved as amended.

2021-192. No public comment was received.

2021-193. Commissioners Arendshorst, Hamrick, Hecksel and Duncan urged everyone to vote in tomorrow's election.

Mayor Favale thanked the office staff and election workers involved in preparing for and administering tomorrow's city election.

City Manager Charles noted curbside leaf pickup services will continue through the week of December 6.

2021-194. Presentation from MARCH and City of Grand Rapids regarding renaming Franklin Street.

Senita Lenear, Lupe Ramos-Montigney, Robert Womack and Josh Lunger from the MARCH Committee were present to provide information on the decision to rename Franklin Street to Martin Luther King, Jr Street within the City of Grand Rapids and to request that East Grand Rapids do the same to the section of Franklin from the city limits to Plymouth.

Mayor Favale opened this issue for public comment. The following people expressed their opinions:

- Phil Skaggs, 2615 Hall

Supported the renaming to demonstrate East Grand Rapids is a welcoming community.

No other public comment was received. Mayor Favale closed the public comment.

City Manager Charles stated that staff will begin putting together materials relating to the process for renaming the street and bring the issue back to the city commission.

2021-195. Doug Vredevelde of Vredevelde-Haefner presented the audited financial statements for FY 2020-21 and answered questions from the city commission. He noted the city finished the year in a very good financial position and earned an unqualified audit opinion.

2021-196. Duncan-Arendshorst. To approve the consent agenda as follows:

2021-0196-A. Minutes of the regular meeting held October 18, 2021.

2021-0196-B. Payroll disbursements of \$247,938.14; county and school disbursements of \$105,986.53, and total remaining disbursements of \$529,039.52.

2021-0196-C. Quarterly financial statements for the period ending September 30, 2021.

2021-0196-D. Resolution adopting budget amendments for the period ending September 30, 2021 as attached in Exhibit "A."

2021-0196-E. Payment to Waste Management of Michigan, Inc. in the amount of \$25,744.10 for disposal of street sweeping and storm sewer materials.

2021-0196-F. Preliminary minutes of the Library Commission meeting held September 27, 2021.

Yeas: Arendshorst, Duncan, Hamrick, Hecksel and Favale – 5

Nays: -0-

2021-197. Duncan-Hecksel. Motion to enter into an executive session to discuss the acquisition of property in accordance with Section 8(d) of the Open Meetings Act. A roll call vote was taken.

Yeas: Arendshorst, Duncan, Hamrick, Hecksel and Favale – 5

Nays: -0-

The meeting adjourned at 6:44 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until November 15, 2021.

Karen K. Brower, City Clerk

Attachments: A – Resolution approving budget amendments for period ending September 30, 2021

Attachments listed above are available for inspection at the office of the City Clerk.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COMMISSION
CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

Regular Meeting Held November 15, 2021

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 in Person: Commissioners Arendshorst, Hamrick, Hecksel, Pachla, Wagenaar-Duncan and Mayor Favale

Absent: None

Also Present: City Manager Charles; Deputy City Manager LaFave; City Attorney Huff; City Clerk Brower; Parks & Recreation Director Melville; Finance Director Seath; Public Safety Director Herald; Zoning Administrator Gianotti

2021-198. The agenda was approved as published.

2021-199. No public comment was received.

2021-200. Commissioners Hecksel, Pachla, Duncan, Arendshorst and Hamrick noted the approval of the Parks Improvement Millage by voters on November 2 and thanked those who voted in favor of the millage. They also thanked the staff and workers involved in putting on the election.

City Manager Charles reported staff has begun working on an initial plan for the implementation of the millage proposal. He noted Lake Drive would be closed tomorrow for the repair of a water main leak. The new commissioners were at city hall today for an orientation with staff members. The annual tree lighting ceremony in Gaslight Village will be held Friday, November 26 beginning at 5 pm with a visit from Santa at 6:15 pm.

2021-201. Discussion of request to rename Franklin Street to Martin Luther King Jr. Street.

Deputy City Manager LaFave outlined a suggested process to begin seeking public input and research into renaming the street, including notification of property owners, an education meeting with residents, scheduling a formal public hearing and a list of follow-up tasks if the renaming is approved.

Mayor Favale opened this issue for public comment. The following people expressed their opinions:

- Ashley Young, 1661 Franklin

Questioned why San Lu Rae Drive was not included in the renaming proposal as it was an extension of Franklin after crossing Plymouth. City Manager Charles noted the original proposal only included the portion west of Plymouth, but that this suggestion could be added to the proposed public engagement session.

No other public comment was received. Mayor Favale closed the public comment.

City Commissioners had no changes to the plan outlined in the agenda materials, with the exception of exploring adding San Lu Rae for discussion.

2021-202. Zoning variance hearing on the request of Eric Graham of 2204 Argentina to allow the construction of a chimney creating a 6' encroachment into the required side yard setback instead of the 3' allowed.

Zoning Administrator Gianotti explained the home was a legal non-conforming structure that was already encroaching 3' into the required side yard setback. The proposed chimney would encroach an additional 3', requiring approval for a 6' encroachment.

Eric and Rita Graham of 2204 Argentina were present to answer questions.

Mayor Favale opened a public hearing. No other public comment was received. Mayor Favale closed the public hearing.

- 2021-0202-A. Arendshorst-Pachla. That the request of Eric Graham of 2204 Argentina to allow the construction of a chimney creating a 6' encroachment into the required side yard setback instead of the 3' allowed be approved as outlined in the Zoning Administrator memo contained in the agenda materials.

Commissioner Arendshorst felt the short, unimproved street right of way in the side yard made the situation unique and he had no problem approving this minimal encroachment.

Commissioner Pachla adopted Mr. Gianotti's analysis of the proposal as his reasoning for approving the variance. He noted that if Orchard were not a public right of way, no variance would be required.

Yeas: Arendshorst, Duncan, Hamrick, Hecksel, Pachla and Favale – 6
Nays: -0-

- 2021-203. Public Safety Director Herald reviewed the Public Safety Department's quarterly report for the period ending September 30, 2021. He highlighted the field-force and de-escalation training attended by the officers recently. He noted the collection of racial data for traffic stops and traffic crashes is ongoing and he was still working on ways to analyze the data.

Mayor Favale opened this issue for public comment. No other public comment was received. Mayor Favale closed the public comment.

- 2021-204. Appointments to the Library Commission.

- 2021-0204-A. Hamrick-Hecksel. To appoint Michelle Grinnell of 946 Ogden (term ending June 30, 2024) and Micki Benz of 817 Gladstone (term ending June 30, 2023) to the Library Commission to fill current vacancies.

Yeas: Arendshorst, Duncan, Hamrick, Hecksel, Pachla and Favale – 6
Nays: -0-

- 2021-205. Appointments to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

- 2021-0205-A. Pachla-Duncan. To appoint the following residents to the Zoning Board of Appeals:

George Davis, 2624 Elmwood Dr. (term ending June 30, 2025)
Thomas Tilma, 1635 Hall St. (term ending June 30, 2025)
Andrew Howard, 606 Greenwood Ave. (term ending June 30, 2025)
David Jackson, 2721 Albert Dr. (term ending June 30, 2024)
Brittany Carpenter, 965 Lakeside Dr. (term ending June 30, 2023)
Alternate - Robert Zylstra, 2915 Lake Dr. (term ending June 30, 2024)
Alternate - Stephen Rockwell, 840 Pinecrest Ave. (term ending June 30, 2023)

Yeas: Arendshorst, Duncan, Hamrick, Hecksel, Pachla and Favale – 6
Nays: -0-

- 2021-206. Purchase of lead water line replacement equipment.

Deputy City Manager LaFave requested approval to purchase a new piece of equipment that will make replacing lead water service lines faster, more efficient, safer and with less down time for residents. He explained the federal rules for replacing services and noted this machine would be part of the long-term plan to replace the remaining lead pipes in the city.

2021-0206-A. Arendshorst-Duncan. To approve the purchase of a KOBUS Pipe Puller 400 from KOBUS, Inc. of Galesburg, Michigan up to \$80,000 to be used for lead water line replacements.

Yeas: Arendshorst, Duncan, Hamrick, Hecksel, Pachla and Favale – 6
Nays: -0-

2021-207. Duncan-Pachla. To approve the consent agenda as follows:

2021-0207-A. Minutes of the regular meeting held November 1, 2021.

2021-0207-B. Payroll disbursements of \$270,754.45; county and school disbursements of \$48,513.98, and total remaining disbursements of \$89,406.36.

2021-0207-C. A three-year contract with Groundhawn Excavating and Landscaping LLC of Lowell not to exceed \$150,000 per year for sidewalk rehabilitation and replacements.

2021-0207-D. Preliminary minutes of the Parks & Recreation Commission meeting held October 11, 2021.

2021-0207-E. Preliminary minutes of the Planning Commission meeting held October 12, 2021.

Yeas: Arendshorst, Duncan, Hamrick, Hecksel, Pachla and Favale – 6
Nays: -0-

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until December 6, 2021.

Karen K. Brower, City Clerk

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COMMISSION
CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

Regular Meeting Held December 6, 2021

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, Hecksel, Pachla, Schulz, Schwartz, Wagenaar-Duncan, Wessely and Mayor Favale

Absent: None

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

2021-208. The agenda was approved as published.

2021-209. Linda Kristensen, 2958 Reeds Lake Blvd, asked whether the city was prepared to deal with a mass shooting in our city and suggested the city look at efforts in San Jose, California to prevent gun violence and mitigate the effects on the community.

2021-210. Commissioner Hecksel reported the Girl's Cross Country Team was being honored at the school board meeting tonight for their recent state championship.

Commissioner Pachla thanked the residents for their patience with the closure of Lake Drive near Breton for the water main repair.

Commissioner Wagenaar-Duncan thanked those she has served with in the last eight years and welcomed the incoming commissioners as they took their oaths and began their terms.

City Manager Charles reported Grand Rapids continues work to repair the 36" water main under Lake Drive and the road would remain closed until the work is complete. He noted that the fall leaf pickup service will end this week. He also wished Deputy City Manager LaFave a happy 40th birthday.

2021-211. Minutes of the regular meeting held November 15, 2021.

2021-0211-A. Pachla-Wagenaar-Duncan. To approve the minutes of the regular meeting held November 15, 2021 as submitted.

Yeas: Arendshorst, Wagenaar-Duncan, Hamrick, Hecksel, Pachla and Favale – 6

Nays: -0-

2021-212. Disbursement of funds.

2021-0212-A. Wagenaar-Duncan-Pachla. To approve payroll disbursements of \$493,018.57; county and school disbursements of \$17,668.92, and total remaining disbursements of \$395,740.28.

Yeas: Arendshorst, Wagenaar-Duncan, Hamrick, Hecksel, Pachla and Favale – 6

Nays: -0-

2021-213. Recognition of outgoing City Commissioners.

Mayor Favale presented proclamations and gifts to outgoing commissioners Brad Hecksel, Claudine Wagenaar-Duncan and former city commissioner Bryan Walters.

- 2021-214. City Clerk Brower administered the oath of office to First Ward Commissioner Marc Schulz, Second Ward Commissioner Chris Wessely and Third Ward Commissioner Laura Schwartz. The new commissioners took their seats on the city commission.

Commissioners Wessely, Schulz and Schwartz thanked everyone for the warm welcome and looked forward to getting further involved.

Commissioner Hamrick thanked Commissioners Wagenaar-Duncan, Hecksel and Walters for their years of service and welcomed the new commissioners.

Mayor Favale noted it was bittersweet to say goodbye to those she's served with for so long and thanked them again for their work.

Commissioner Pachla thanked Commissioner Wagenaar-Duncan for her compassion and for sharing her wisdom. He thanked Commissioner Hecksel for bringing innovation and excitement in his approach to issues.

Commissioner Arendshorst noted he had learned so much from his fellow commissioners and he would miss those retiring from office.

- 2021-215. Arendshorst-Pachla. To approve the consent agenda as follows:

- 2021-0215-A. Resolution electing to comply with the provisions of Public Act 152 of 2011 by exercising the city's right to exempt itself from the requirements of the Act be adopted as attached in Exhibit "A."
- 2021-0215-B. An annually renewing contract with the Children's Advocacy Center of Kent County in the amount of \$4,120.00 per year for services rendered to child victims of sexual assault.
- 2021-0215-C. The service fee rate schedule for Cascade Township for building, plumbing, mechanical and electrical inspection services provided under contract to the City of East Grand Rapids.

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

Nays: -0-

The meeting adjourned at 6:22 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until December 20, 2021.

Karen K. Brower, City Clerk

Attachments: A – Resolution exempting city from PA 152

Attachments listed above are available for inspection at the office of the City Clerk.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COMMISSION
CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

Regular Meeting Held December 20, 2021

Commission President Hamrick 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, Pachla, Schwartz and Wessely

Absent: Commissioner Schulz and Mayor Favale

Also Present: City Manager Charles; Deputy City Manager LaFave; City Attorney Huff; City Clerk Brower; Parks & Recreation Director Melville; Finance Director Seath; Public Safety Director Herald; Zoning Administrator Gianotti; S.Sgt Schweitzer; PSO's Moore, Buter, Perez, Olney and Brown

2021-216. The agenda was approved as published.

2021-217. No public comment was received.

2021-218. Commissioner Pachla reminded everyone that Public Works crews would collect wire-free Christmas trees, wreaths and garland from January 3 through January 14.

Commissioner Wessely thanked those involved in getting the Lake Drive water main fixed and the road reopened. He also thanked the residents for their patience during the repair work.

City Manager Charles thanked the City of Grand Rapids and Wyoming Excavators for their quick response and diligent efforts to repair the water main while maintaining access to homes and keeping everyone informed during the repair process. He also thanked the Public Works Department for the extra week of leaf/debris pickup following the recent windstorm.

President Hamrick noted the Public Works Department did an excellent job cleaning up the downed trees and branches following two recent wind events.

2021-219. Chief Herald presented a unit citation award to Public Safety Officers Moore and Buter for their work in October to safely deliver a baby before the arrival of paramedics. The family of the new baby attended the meeting and offered their thanks to the officers for their assistance.

2021-220. City Clerk Brower administered the oath of office to new Public Safety Officer Antonio Perez. The Commissioners welcomed Officer Perez to East Grand Rapids.

2021-221. Introduction of an ordinance to amend Sections 5.103A, 5.103B and 5.104 of Chapter 50 of Title V of the City Code pertaining to procedures of the Zoning Board of Appeals.

City Attorney Huff explained the clarifications being added to assist the new Zoning Board of Appeals in their deliberations.

2021-0221-A. Arendshorst-Schwartz. That an ordinance to amend Sections 5.103A, 5.103B and 5.104 of Chapter 50 of Title V of the City Code pertaining to procedures of the Zoning Board of Appeals be introduced as attached in Exhibit "A."

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

Nays: -0-

2021-222. Advisory Board and Committee assignments.

2021-0222-A. Pachla-Wessely. That the assignment of commissioners to advisory boards, subcommittees and other community liaison positions be approved as submitted by the Mayor in the agenda materials.

Yeas: Arendshorst, Hamrick, Pachla, Schwartz and Wessely – 5
Nays: -0-

2021-223. Agreement with West Michigan Mountain Biking Alliance regarding multi-use trails at Manhattan Park.

Parks & Recreation Director Melville outlined the agreement to design, construct and maintain the new trails at Manhattan Park. The final trail design will be brought to the city commission following public input. The Parks & Recreation Commission has reviewed the agreement and recommended approval.

2021-0223-A. Wessely-Arendshorst. That the basic provisions and parameters of an agreement with West Michigan Mountain Biking Alliance for the design, construction and future maintenance of the multi-use trail system at Manhattan Park be approved as attached in Exhibit “B” with the understanding that the final trail design will be subject to approval by City Commission following meetings with residents and staff.

Yeas: Arendshorst, Hamrick, Pachla, Schwartz and Wessely – 5
Nays: -0-

2021-224. Authorization to participate in Kent County Low Income Household Water Assistance Program

City Manager Charles noted this Kent County program will offer assistance for those needing help paying water/sewer bills. By participating, East Grand Rapids can direct residents needing assistance to this program.

2021-0224-A. Schwartz-Pachla. That a Memo of Understanding outlining the City of East Grand Rapids participation in the Kent County Low Income Household Water Assistance Program be approved as attached in Exhibit “C.”

Yeas: Arendshorst, Hamrick, Pachla, Schwartz and Wessely – 5
Nays: -0-

2021-225. Authorization to participate in a settlement for opioid litigation.

City Manager Charles explained the city was eligible to participate in a settlement agreement with other local units of government to combat the effects of opioid drugs. East Grand Rapids can use the monies received for training or prevention programs, or work cooperatively with regional groups on education and treatment programs.

2021-0225-A. Arendshorst-Schwartz. To approve participation in the National Opioid Settlement Agreement and to authorize the City Manager to execute any documents necessary on behalf of the City of East Grand Rapids.

Yeas: Arendshorst, Hamrick, Pachla, Schwartz and Wessely – 5
Nays: -0-

2021-226. Pachla-Wessely. To approve the consent agenda as follows:

2021-0226-A. Minutes of the regular City Commission meeting held December 6, 2021.

2021-0226-B. Payroll disbursements of \$245,051.78; county and school disbursements of \$11,805.22, and total remaining disbursements of \$145,677.59.

2021-0226-C. The reappointment of Mayor Katie Favale to the Rapid/Interurban Transit Partnership Board of Directors for a two-year term ending December 31, 2023.

2021-0226-D. The purchase of six sets of firefighting turnout gear in the amount of \$13,375.00 from Apollo Fire Equipment of Romeo, Michigan.

2021-0226-E. Ratification of expenses totaling \$29,965 relating to a sanitary sewer backup at the Public Safety building, plus additional carpet replacement not to exceed \$5,800 be approved as requested.

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

Nays: -0-

The meeting adjourned at 6:42 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until January 3, 2022.

Karen K. Brower, City Clerk

Attachments: A – Ordinance amendment to Sections 5.103, 5.104
B – West Michigan Mountain Biking alliance agreement
C – Kent County Low Income Household Water Assistance Program agreement

Attachments listed above are available for inspection at the office of the City Clerk.