

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COMMISSION
CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

Regular Meeting Held August 21, 2023

Mayor Favale called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the City Commission Chambers at the East Grand Rapids Community Center and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Commissioners Arendshorst, Burdick, Hamrick, Schulz, Schwartz, Wessely and Mayor Favale.

Absent: None.

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

Planning Commission Members Present: Mary Mapes, Matt Feyen, Tom Tilma, Greg Metz and Chris Rosmarin.

2023-161. The agenda was approved as submitted.

2023-162. Public comment:

Anna Moore Butzner, 2311 Wealthy St., spoke regarding the Social District.

Andrew Grashuis, 2126 Anderson Dr, thanked Parks and Recreation and Derek Melville for the help and support with the summer scrimmages. He noted that they had over 200 kids participating.

Brad Hunter, 2252 Hall St., spoke regarding the summer scrimmage and thanked Derek Melville for the opportunity.

2023-163. Mayor and City Commission comments, including committee liaison reports.

Commissioner Arendshorst commended multiple Public Safety officers for jobs well done this past week.

Commissioner Hamrick mentioned that the Planning Commission met and discussed accessory dwelling units again.

Commissioner Schulz noted the GVBA held two evening events recently, Taste of East and the Artisan Market. They are planning another Artisan Market for October. He also reminded everyone about the recycling event this Saturday and with school starting, to watch for kids as they travel to school.

Commissioner Burdick thanked the parents for the summer scrimmage and noted that his son participated and had nothing but good things to say about it. Wealthy school playground was given rave reviews from the kids also.

Commissioner Wessely asked residents to please adjust their sprinklers away from the sidewalks for the students walking to school in the morning. He noted that the Community Foundation is seeking input regarding future funding ideas and also noted that the parks are on track to be completed in the fall.

Mayor Favale also reminded everyone about the recycling event this Saturday from 10:00a.m. – 2:00p.m. and they will be taking foam packaging and e-waste.

2023-164. Consider final reading of an Ordinance Amendment to Section 5.406 of Chapter 54 of Title V of the City Code to amend the procedures for approving land division requests.

Zoning Administrator Gianotti reviewed the ordinance amendment and noted that this would be in alignment with the best practices.

2023-0164-A. Schulz-Schwartz. To approve the final reading and adoption of an Ordinance Amendment to Section 5.406 of Chapter 54 of Title V of the City Code to amend the procedures for approving land division requests.

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

2023-165. Consider the introduction of Ordinance Amendments revising the City’s Animal Control provisions.

Zoning Administrator Gianotti reviewed the sections of the ordinance to be amended. These sections are being moved from the city animal control ordinance at Kent County’s request.

a. Introduction of an Ordinance to Amend Subsection (A) of Section 9.14 Of Chapter 91 of Title IX of the Code of the City of East Grand Rapids.

2023-0165-A. Wessely-Schulz. To approve the introduction of an Ordinance to Amend Subsection (A) of Section 9.14 Of Chapter 91 of Title IX of the Code of the City of East Grand Rapids.

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

b. Introduction of an Ordinance to Amend Chapter 50 of Title V of the Code of the City of East Grand Rapids by adding sections 5.31 and 5.32 for animal control.

2023-0165-B. Burdick-Hamrick. To approve the introduction of an Ordinance to Amend Chapter 50 of Title V of the Code of the City of East Grand Rapids by adding sections 5.31 and 5.32 for animal control.

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

- c. Introduction of an Ordinance to repeal sections 9.35, 9.36, 9.37, 9.38, 9.39, 9.40, 9.41, and 9.42 of Chapter 92 of title IX of the Code of The City of East Grand Rapids.

2023-0165-C. Wessely-Schulz. To approve the introduction of an Ordinance to repeal sections 9.35, 9.36, 9.37, 9.38, 9.39, 9.40, 9.41, and 9.42 of Chapter 92 of title IX of the Code of The City of East Grand Rapids

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

- 2023-166. Consider approval of a Metro Act Right-of-Way Unilateral Permit Extension with Michigan Bell Telephone Company d/b/a AT&T for existing/future aerial and buried lines Through December 31, 2028.

Deputy City Manager La Fave highlighted the request.

2023-0166-A. Schulz-Schwartz. To approve the Metro Act Right-of-Way Unilateral Permit Extension with Michigan Bell Telephone Company d/b/a AT&T for existing/future aerial and buried lines Through December 31, 2028.

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

- 2023-167. Consider a Resolution of support and approval License Agreements for 1604 Wealthy Street SE and 1635 Hall Street SE for the installation of Residential Curb Cut Rain Gardens.

Deputy City Manager La Fave highlighted the request.

Commissioner Schulz asked what would happen if the resident moved.

Deputy City Manager La Fave stated that it is covered in the agreement and that it will be recorded with the Register of Deeds so the potential buyer would be aware of the rain garden agreement.

Commissioner Arendshorst asked if future residents wanting to do this would go to Public Works or the Commission.

Deputy City Manager La Fave stated that they would be working on streamlining the process and also noted that the City bears no cost.

Betty Kliever, Plaster Creek Stewards, spoke in favor of the rain gardens.

Tom Tilma, 1635 Hall St., noted that he has been following Plaster Creek Stewards for a long time and is excited to do this project.

2023-0167-A. Arendshorst-Schwartz. To approve a Resolution of support and approval License Agreements for 1604 Wealthy Street SE and 1635 Hall Street SE for the installation of Residential Curb Cut Rain Gardens.

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

2023-168. Consider authorizing a contract addendum for modifications to a pavement preservation cape seal project and advance construction of several mill and overlay street projects in the amount of \$108,000 plus 10%.

Deputy City Manager La Fave highlighted the request.

2023-0168-A. Schulz-Burdick. To approve authorizing a contract addendum for modifications to a pavement preservation cape seal project and advance construction of several mill and overlay street projects in the amount of \$108,000 plus 10%.

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

2023-169. Arendshorst-Hamrick. To approve the consent agenda as follows:

2023-0169-A. Minutes of the regular meeting held August 7, 2023.

2023-0169-B. Disbursement of funds: payroll disbursements of \$289,149.27; county and school disbursements of \$3,653,000.32 and total remaining disbursements of \$1,926,387.50.

2023-0169-C. Consider the approval of a revision to the City's ACH Policy.

2023-0169-D. Consider the approval of a revision to the City's Debt Policy.

2023-0169-E. Consider the approval of a revision to the City's Fund Balance Policy.

2023-0169-F. Consider a resolution to designate certain employee expenditures as a public purpose.

Zoning Administrator Gianotti began the Joint Workshop with the Planning Commission and City Commission by reviewing the previous Master Plan. He highlighted the completed projects and projects that are in process.

Paul LeBlanc, planner for the City, commended the City for all it has done in the Master Plan. He gave a background on Michigan Planning and Zoning laws and noted that a number of provisions are still relevant in the current plan and an amendment would be appropriate.

Consensus was to amend the Master Plan rather than create a new one.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until September 5, 2023.

Lori A Parmenter, City Clerk