

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COMMISSION
CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

Regular Meeting Held September 5, 2023

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

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

Absent: Commissioner Burdick.

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

2023-170. The agenda was approved as submitted.

2023-171. Public comment: None.

2023-172. Mayor and City Commission comments, including committee liaison reports.

Commissioner Schulz gave a hats off to EGreen for a successful recycling event and reminded everyone that the Reeds Lake Triathlon is this Saturday.

Commissioner Wessely reminded everyone to be mindful of kids walking to school. He also noted that he was present for the recycling event and commented on how smoothly it ran.

Commissioner Hamrick reminded everyone to watch for kids and motor bikes.

Mayor Favale noted that Sunday is the Mayor's Reeds Lake Cleanup and bags and gloves will be provided. Saturday is the Grand River Clean up.

City Manager Charles noted that the Social District was approved by the State, park rule amendments would be coming to the Commission in the near future, repaving projects will be next week and the Climate Action RFP is due next week.

2023-173. Consider the final reading and vote on an 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. Final reading 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.

2023-0173-A. Wessely-Arendshorst. To approve 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, Hamrick, Schulz, Schwartz, Wessely and Favale – 6
Nays: -0-

B. Final reading 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.

2023-0173-B. Wessely-Schwartz. To approve 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, Hamrick, Schulz, Schwartz, Wessely and Favale – 6
Nays: -0-

C. Final reading 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.

2023-0173-C. Wessely-Arendshorst. To approve 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, Hamrick, Schulz, Schwartz, Wessely and Favale – 6
Nays: -0-

2023-174. Discussion of whether to begin the process of rezoning 30 properties on Lovett Avenue, Wealthy Street, and Barnard Street from R-3 Single-Family Residential to MFR Multi-Family Residential.

City Manager Charles gave some clarification regarding this item based on what was being stated on Facebook.

Zoning Administrator Gianotti highlighted the request for guidance.

Commissioner Schulz asked what the current zoning was for the properties. Zoning Administrator Gianotti responded that it was R3.

Commissioner Schwartz asked about the current timeline and if affected residents would be notified. Zoning Administrator Gianotti responded that it would go to the Planning Commission on October 10th and yes, residents would be notified.

Commissioner Wessely asked about height restrictions and if they had to be rentals or could be owner occupied. Zoning Administrator Gianotti responded that the height restriction was 35 feet or 2.5 stories tall, and they could be rentals or owner occupied.

Commissioner Schwartz asked about parking restrictions. Zoning Administrator Gianotti responded that parking on site was required.

Deputy City Manager LaFave noted that storm water is regulated throughout the City. An analysis is done to make sure the system can handle it.

Paul McCarthy, 554 Lovett Ave., encourages the Master Plan and suggested to proceed with rezoning of the properties.

Linda Najjar, 530 Lovett Ave., has owned her home since 1996 and wonders why the need to go from R3 to MFR? She is against the rezoning and stated that there is no need for multi-family housing.

Dan Talbet, 604 Greenwood Ave, stated that Mr. Gianotti was a pleasure to work with and he supports the Master Plan.

Bob Kirchgessner, 1900 Eldorado, is in full support of rezoning and feels a shift in attitudes for rezoning.

Gerald Najjar, 530 Lovett Ave, stated that we should be harder on landlords for maintenance and upkeep of properties and clean up the neighborhood.

2023-0174-A. Arendshorst-Hamrick. To direct staff to begin the process of investigating rezoning 30 properties on Lovett Avenue, Wealthy Street, and Barnard Street from R-3 Single-Family Residential to MFR Multi-Family Residential.

Commissioner Arendshorst mentioned that this was one of the most robust discussions during the Master Planning sessions and the time is right to discuss it. He also noted not to get information from Facebook. He would love to have discussions and receiving feedback is welcome.

Commissioner Hamrick noted that social media was not an official channel, and it is not closely monitored. She also clarified that R3 zone is a single family residential and MFR is for multi-family and the rezoning makes sense.

Commissioner Schwartz is in favor of learning more.

Commissioner Schulz stated that it was a good time to learn more.

City Manager Charles stated for residents to reach out to Doug or Jay with questions and there were packets of FAQ's on the sign-in table.

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

- 2023-175. Consider authorizing sanitary sewer-lift station monitoring system improvements in an amount of \$83,250 plus 15% contingency.

Deputy City Manager La Fave highlighted the request.

- 2023-0175-A. Schulz-Wessely. To authorize sanitary sewer-lift station monitoring system improvements with Kennedy Industries in an amount of \$83,250 plus 15% contingency.

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

- 2023-176. Consider awarding the Sidewalk Rehabilitation and Replacement Program contract in an amount not to exceed \$150,000 for FY 23/24 and FY 24/25.

Deputy City Manager La Fave highlighted the request.

- 2023-0176-A. Wessely-Schwartz. To award the Sidewalk Rehabilitation and Replacement Program contract to Groundhawk Excavating and Landscaping, LLC in an amount not to exceed \$150,000 for FY 23/24 and FY 24/25.

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

- 2023-177. Consider authorizing the amendment to the agreement with East Pride Lacrosse to include girls' lacrosse programming with the addition of the requirement of background checks.

Parks and Recreation Director Melville highlighted the request.

- 2023-0177-A. Schwartz-Schulz. To authorize the amendment to the agreement with East Pride Lacrosse to include girls' lacrosse programming with the addition of the requirement for background checks.

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

2023-178. Consider authorizing the renewal of the agreement with East Grand Rapids Aquatics (WAVES).

Parks and Recreation Director Melville highlighted the request.

2023-0178-A. Schulz-Arendshorst. To authorize the renewal of the agreement with East Grand Rapids Aquatics (WAVES).

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

Nays: -0-

2023-179. Wessely-Schulz. To approve the consent agenda as follows:

2023-0179-A. Minutes of the regular meeting held August 21, 2023.

2023-0179-B. Disbursement of funds: payroll disbursements of \$306,845.88; county and school disbursements of \$21,372,137.49 and total remaining disbursements of \$1,499,463.02.

2023-0179-C. Minutes from the July 24, 2023 Parks & Recreation Commission meeting.

2023-0179-D. Review of new Accounts Payable Policy for the City of East Grand Rapids. (no hearing required; approval requested)

2023-0179-E. Review of the updated Credit Card policy for the City of East Grand Rapids. (no hearing required; approval requested)

2023-0179-F. Review of the updated Record Retention Policy for the City of East Grand Rapids. (no hearing required; approval requested)

2023-0179-G. Consider awarding a contract for the installation of holiday lighting on street trees within Gaslight Village Business District in the amount of \$10,758. (no hearing required; approval requested)

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

Nays: -0-

2023-180. Consider entering into an executive session to receive updates on collective bargaining in accordance with Section 8(c) of the Open Meetings Act.

City Manager Charles highlighted the request.

2023-0180-A. Arendshorst-Schulz. To authorize the commission to enter into an executive session under 15.268(c) of the open meetings act. A roll call vote was taken.

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

Nays: -0-

2023-181. The meeting recessed at 7:08 p.m. to conduct the executive session. The meeting resumed at 7:14 p.m.

2023-182. Approval of a collective bargaining agreement with Sergeants.

2023-111-A. Arendshorst-Schulz. That a three-year contract with the Public Safety Sergeants retroactive back to July 1, 2023, be approved as presented.

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

Nays: -0-

The meeting adjourned at 7:16 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until September 18, 2023.

Lori A Parmenter, City Clerk