

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COMMISSION
CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

Regular Meeting Held September 18, 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; City Clerk Parmenter; former clerk Karen Brower.

2023-183. The agenda was approved as submitted.

2023-184. Public comment: None.

2023-185. Mayor and City Commission comments, including committee liaison reports.

Commissioner Schulz stated that Doug and Derek did a great job with the Dog Park.

Commissioner Schwartz echoed Commissioner Schulz's comment.

Commissioner Arendshorst stated that he would like to see an ordinance banning gas powered leaf blowers due to emissions and noise pollution.

Commissioner Hamrick echoes Commissioner Arendshorst with restrictions on gas leaf blowers and noted there would be a neighborhood meeting regarding rezoning properties to MFR on September 28th.

City Manager Charles noted that we received fourteen proposals for the Climate Action Plan RFP, there will be a ribbon cutting for the grand opening of the Dog Park September 26th at 4:30 p.m., GVBA Artisan Market is coming up, September 21st at 4:30 p.m. will be the historical monument dedication and the kayaks and rental unit have been delivered and are being set up.

2023-186. Social District update and next steps.

City Manager Charles gave an update and highlighted the next steps.

2023-187. Consider the introduction of an Ordinance to Amend Subsection I of Section 9.56 of Chapter 93 of Title IX of the Code of the City of East Grand Rapids.

City Manager Charles highlighted the proposed changes.

2023-0187-A. Arendshorst-Wessely. To accept the introduction of an Ordinance to Amend Subsection I of Section 9.56 of Chapter 93 of Title XI of the Code of the City of East Grand Rapids.

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

2023-188. Consider the approval of an amendment to the John Collins Park Rules to allow for the consumption of beverages purchased from the Social District and placed within the approved containers.

City Manager Charles highlighted the request.

2023-0188-A. Arendshorst-Burdick. To approve of an amendment to the John Collins Park Rules to allow for the consumption of beverages purchased from the Social District and placed within the approved containers.

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

2023-189. Consider approval of Social District Liquor License requests from various Gaslight Village restaurants.

City Manager Charles highlighted the request.

A. Low Country Ventures LLC, DBA Carolina Lowcountry Kitchen

2023-0189-A. Schulz-Schwartz. To approve a Liquor License request from Low Country Ventures LLC, DBA Carolina Lowcountry Kitchen.

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

B. K5 Restaurants LLC, DBA Jose Babushka's

2023-0189-B. Schulz-Schwartz. To approve a Liquor License request from K5 Restaurants LLC, DBA Jose Babushka's.

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

Nays: -0-

C. Small Mountain Ventures LLC, DBA Olives

2023-0189-C. Schulz-Burdick. To approve a Liquor License request from Small Mountain Ventures LLC, DBA Olives.

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

Nays: -0-

D. Labrador Partners, DBA Big Bobs Pizza

2023-0189-D. Hamrick-Wessely. To approve a Liquor License request from Labrador Partners, DBA Big Bobs Pizza.

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

Nays: -0-

2023-190. Consider approving the City Commission Handbook including approval of an Ethics & Public Participation Policy.

City Manager Charles highlighted the request.

A. City Commission Handbook

2023-0190-A. Burdick-Schwartz. To approve the City Commission Handbook as presented.

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

Nays: -0-

B. Ethics Policy

2023-0190-B. Arendshorst-Hamrick. To approve the Ethics Policy as presented.

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

Nays: -0-

C. Public Participation Policy

Commissioner Schwartz would like clarification regarding the “no hearing required” as she feels it is confusing to people.

2023-0190-C. Hamrick-Schulz. To approve the Public Participation Policy as presented.

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

2023-191. Consider authorizing the purchase of an athletic field painter in the amount of \$5,799.00.

Parks and Recreation Director Melville highlighted the request.

2023-0191-A. Schulz-Wessely. To authorize the purchase of an athletic field painter from Sherwin Williams in the amount of \$5,799.00.

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

2023-192. Consider authorizing staff to execute a contract in the amount of \$11,920 for maintenance work at the Rusty Swaney Baseball Field

Parks and Recreation Director Melville highlighted the request.

2023-0192-A. Wessely-Burdick. To authorize staff to execute a contract with West Michigan Sports Turf, LLC in the amount of \$11,920 for maintenance work at the Rusty Swaney Baseball Field

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

2023-193. Hamrick-Schulz. To approve the consent agenda as follows:

2023-0193-A. Minutes of the regular meeting held September 5, 2023.

2023-0193-B. Disbursement of funds: payroll disbursements of \$261,893.12; county and school disbursements of \$745,549.27 and total remaining disbursements of \$301,185.70.

2023-0193-C. Consider approval of the updated Grant Application Approval Policy.

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until October 2, 2023.

Lori A Parmenter, City Clerk