

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COMMISSION
CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

Regular Meeting Held November 20, 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; Zoning Administrator Gianotti, City Clerk Parmenter.

2023-239. The agenda was approved as submitted.

2023-240. Public comment: None.

2023-241. Mayor and City Commission comments, including committee liaison reports.

Commissioner Schulz congratulated the EGR Girls Swim Team on winning the championship. He also noted the Tree Lighting event on Friday and reminded everyone about the social district.

Mayor Favale spoke about the tree lighting and reminded everyone about the work session on November 28th at 6:00 p.m. for the Manhattan Park project.

City Manager Charles let everyone know he would not be at the work session due to a prior engagement. He reminded everyone that leaf pickup continues through the week of December 4th and noted that Jose Babushkas and Carolina's now have their social district licenses.

2023-242. Consider a final reading and vote on the rezoning of 30 properties on Lovett Avenue, Wealthy Street and Barnard Street from R-3 Single Family Residential to MFR Multi-Family Residential.

Zoning Administrator Gianotti reviewed the request and noted that if was approved it would be effective December 1st.

Attorney Huff pointed out that the ordinance was amending the City's zoning map.

Deanna Eckert, 537 Greenwood Ave., reviewed the information that was sent out to residents and is concerned about parking, property values and property setbacks. She would like a more conservative approach to this.

Mary-Margaret Munski, 2121 & 2115 Wealthy, supports the rezoning.

2023-0242-A. Arendshorst-Schulz. To approve a final reading and vote on the rezoning of 30 properties on Lovett Avenue, Wealthy Street and Barnard Street from R-3 Single Family Residential to MFR Multi-Family Residential.

Commissioner Arendshorst stated that this was an opportunity to increase density and was comfortable in doing so.

Commissioner Hamrick asked Doug La Fave to address parking and noted that this would be helpful for property values in the area.

Deputy City Manager La Fave stated that additional requirements for parking were based on the development and that a traffic study can be done if needed down the road.

Commissioner Wessely echoes what Commissioner Hamrick said and noted that this would make properties more conforming.

Mayor Favale noted that this has been talked about since 2018 and creates more housing opportunities.

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

Nays: -0-

2023-243. Consider approval of a cost share agreement with the City of Grand Rapids for rotomill and resurfacing a portion of Robinson Road in the amount of \$105,450 plus 20% contingency.

Deputy City Manager LaFave highlighted the request.

2023-0243-A. Burdick-Schulz. To approve a cost share agreement with the City of Grand Rapids for rotomill and resurfacing a portion of Robinson Road in the amount of \$105,450 plus 20% contingency.

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

Nays: -0-

2023-244. Consider awarding the Water Distribution System Reliability Study and General Plan Update in an amount of \$19,860 plus 10% contingency.

Deputy City Manager LaFave highlighted the request.

2023-0244-A. Schulz-Hamrick. To award the Water Distribution System Reliability Study and General Plan Update to Prein & Newhof in an amount of \$19,860 plus 10% contingency.

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

Nays: -0-

2023-245. Consider adopting the attached resolution approving the proposed Election Ward/Precinct Consolidation Plan.

City Manager Charles highlighted the request.

2023-0245-A. Wessely-Schwartz. To adopt the attached resolution approving the proposed Election Ward/Precinct Consolidation Plan.

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

2023-246. Consider authorizing the purchase of replacement furniture for city facilities in an amount not to exceed \$22,676.88 plus 5% contingency.

Deputy City Manager La Fave highlighted the request.

Commissioner Wessely questioned the cost of the chairs.

Deputy City Manager La Fave stated that they were more of a commercial product versus personal use and had a much longer warranty period.

2023-0246-A. Schwartz-Burdick. To authorize the purchase of replacement furniture from Custer for city facilities in an amount not to exceed \$22,676.88 plus 5% contingency.

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

2023-247. Arendshorst-Hamrick. To approve the consent agenda as follows:

2023-0247-A. Minutes of the regular and special meetings held November 6, 2023.

2023-0247-B. Disbursement of funds: payroll disbursements of \$304,976.89; county and school disbursements of \$25,257.81 and total remaining disbursements of \$783,630.51.

2023-0247-C. November 7, 2023, election results.

2023-0247-D. Minutes of the Planning Commission meeting held on October 10, 2023.

2023-0247-E. Consider amending the professional services agreement to increase the not to exceed amount by \$72,920.00 for consulting, pre-engineering services, design services and construction administration supervision related to the renovation of the playground areas at East Grand Rapids Public School sites.

2023-0247-F. Consider approving the amended escrow fund requirements for certain zoning applications and developments.

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

Mayor Favale gave one last reminder about the work session next Tuesday.

The meeting adjourned at 6:47 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until December 4, 2023.

Lori A Parmenter, City Clerk