

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COMMISSION
CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

Regular Meeting Held December 4, 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.

2023-250. The agenda was approved as submitted.

2023-251. Public comment:

Kris Pachla, 3012 Hall St., congratulated the new commissioners being sworn in and thanked the outgoing commissioners for their service.

2023-252. Mayor and City Commission comments, including committee liaison reports.

Commissioner Wessely gave a report on the Community Foundation. He stated that any input from the public on direction they would like to see the foundation go would be appreciated. The foundation is bringing back the Trail Blazer and he is excited about the direction they are going.

Commissioner Schulz reminded everyone to visit Gaslight during the holidays and to support local businesses.

Commissioner Schwartz noted an interesting discussion at the ZBA meeting and thanked outgoing commissioners for their work and mentorship.

Commissioner Arendshorst stated that it has been a pleasure working with the city staff and fellow commissioners, and he knows he is leaving the City in really good hands.

Commissioner Hamrick thanked everyone for being at the meeting and wished everyone happy holidays.

City Manager Charles noted that it was the last week of yard waste pickup, the state approved the precinct consolidation and staff is working on communications with citizens. Viridis is working on preliminary drawings with the changes that would get the cost where needed and noted the tree lighting went off without a hitch. He thanked Commissioners Hamrick and Arendshorst for their service.

2023-253. Recognition of outgoing City Commissioners.

Mayor Favale presented proclamation and gifts to outgoing commissioners Karey Hamrick and John Arendshorst.

Commissioner Hamrick stated that eight years was a long time and there have been a lot of changes since she began. It has been a wonderful experience, and she loves East Grand Rapids and stated it is a special place to live and work. City Manager Charles has been a fantastic City Manager and thanked the Mayor for everything.

Mayor Favale is grateful for both for their service and noted that Karey has become a good friend and confidant.

Commissioner Schulz thanked both for their mentorship and their understanding of local government.

Commissioner Burdick said that they were the two easiest commissioners to go to.

Commissioner Wessely thanked both and it has been fantastic serving with them both.

2023-254. City Clerk Parmenter administered the oath of office to Second Ward Commissioner Brad Hunter, Third Ward Commissioner Abbie Groff-Blaszak, First Ward Commissioner Burdick and Mayor Favale. The new commissioners took their seats on the City Commission.

2023-255. Audit presentation by Vredeveld Haefner, LLC regarding the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023.

Finance Director introduced Doug Vredeveld from Vredeveld Haefner, LLC who presented the report.

2023-0255-A. Schulz-Wessely. To accept and place on file the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023.

Yeas: Burdick, Groff-Blaszak, Hunter, Schulz, Schwartz, Wessely and Favale – 7

Nays: -0-

2023-256. Consider reappointment of Mayor Favale to the Rapid Board of Directors.

City Manager Charles highlighted the request.

2023-0256-A. Schulz-Wessely. To reappointment of Mayor Favale to the Rapid Board of Directors with a term expiring December 31, 2025.

Yeas: Burdick, Groff-Blaszak, Hunter, Schulz, Schwartz, Wessely and Favale – 7

Nays: -0-

2023-257. Consider approving the Mayor's recommended City Commission committee, commission, and board appointments.

City Manager Charles highlighted the request.

2023-0257-A. Schulz-Wessely. To approve the Mayor's recommended City Commission committee, commission, and board appointments.

Yeas: Burdick, Groff-Blaszak, Hunter, Schulz, Schwartz, Wessely and Favale – 7

Nays: -0-

2023-258. ARPA funds discussion.

City Manager Charles highlighted the request and said that there was an incentive of 1% in state revenue sharing if the funds are obligated by December 2023. He stated that residents have started asking about lead services and replacement. The City is allocating \$1 million per year for this.

Commissioner Schwartz said that the Finance Committee leaned toward lead line replacement and thought that the funds could work as a bridge, so rates don't have to be increased to cover the costs.

Commissioner Schulz said that it was a way to make good use of the money.

Commissioner Wessely said that dumping the money and lead lines were both good ideas.

Mayor Favale said that it was fiscal responsible to fund lead service lines.

Commissioner Hunter asked if the water lines were from the main source to homes. City Manager Charles gave a recap of the new requirements pertaining to lead line replacement and how it is replacing all the lines to the home.

Commissioner Schulz reminded that we are trying to get as much done as we can.

Commissioner Wessely also reminded that the EPA is about to reduce the acceptable amount of lead. We will still be in compliance, but this could lead to higher costs with more municipalities pushing to replace lead lines.

Commissioner Groff-Blaszak asked if 200 was the most a contractor could do in a year. City Manager Charles stated that it was.

Commissioner Burdick supports using the funds for lead line replacement.

2023-0258-A. Schulz-Burdick. To approve committing ARPA funds for lead line replacements.

Yeas: Burdick, Groff-Blaszak, Hunter, Schulz, Schwartz, Wessely and Favale – 7

Nays: -0-

2023-259. Consider approval of the fifth contract agreement extension with the City of Grand Rapids, extending the water and sewer agreement by five years through December 31, 2053.

Deputy City Manager La Fave highlighted the request.

2023-0259-A. Burdick-Groff-Blaszak. To approve the fifth contract agreement extension with the City of Grand Rapids, extending the water and sewer agreement by five years through December 31, 2053.

Yeas: Burdick, Groff-Blaszak, Hunter, Schulz, Schwartz, Wessely and Favale – 7

Nays: -0-

2023-260. Schwartz-Burdick. To approve the consent agenda as follows:

2023-0260-A. Minutes of the regular meeting held November 20, 2023.

2023-0260-B. Disbursement of funds: payroll disbursements of \$286,530.26; county and school disbursements of \$34,177.62 and total remaining disbursements of \$676,250.47.

2023-0260-C. Minutes of the Parks and Recreation meeting held on October 2, 2023.

2023-0260-D. Review the updated Information Technology Policy for the City of East Grand Rapids.

2023-0260-E. Resolution electing to comply with the provision of Public Act 152 of 2011 by exercising the city's right to exempt itself from the requirements of the Act.

2023-0260-F. Consider approving the Commercial Use of John Collins Park Policy as an amendment to the City of East Grand Rapids Park Rules.

2023-0260-G. Consider awarding carpet and vinyl tile flooring improvements via State of Michigan MiDeal Contract #071B7700149 in an amount of \$64,581.66 plus 5% for contingency.

Yeas: Burdick, Groff-Blaszak, Hunter, Schulz, Schwartz, Wessely and Favale – 7

Nays: -0-

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until December 18, 2023.

Lori A Parmenter, City Clerk