

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COMMISSION
CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

Regular Meeting Held March 4, 2024

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 Burdick, Groff-Blaszak, Hunter, Wessely and Mayor Favale.

Absent: Commissioner Schulz and Schwartz.

Also Present: City Manager Charles; Assistant Attorney Roth; Public Safety Captain Ric Buikema; City Clerk Parmenter.

2024-41. The agenda was approved.

2024-42. Public comment: None.

2024-43. Mayor and City Commission comments, including committee liaison reports.

Commissioner Hunter congratulated the boys basketball team on a great season and noted that residents had no issues in early voting or with the process.

City Manager Charles stated that we are in the midst of budget season and thanked election inspectors and staff for the work during the election.

2024-44. Public Safety quarterly report for period ending December 31, 2023.

Public Safety Captain Buikema reviewed the report.

Commissioner Wessely questioned if there was a charge for FOIA requests. City Manager Charles stated that there was.

Commissioner Groff-Blaszak questioned when there would be enough data collected with traffic stops to be able to utilize the data and is interested in seeing what can be done with the current data to look for disparity. City Manager Charles noted that the experts say that we don't have enough data.

Commissioner Wessely questioned when an officer knows the race of the driver and if there have been any complaints over race. City Manager Charles said that there have been no complaints regarding race in the last 15 years and that East Grand Rapids is not on the NAACP's radar for any complaints.

Public Safety Captain noted that the internal review process would show race complaints and the officer has to answer if they knew the race before the stop was made. City Manager Charles encouraged the Commission to do a ride along.

Commissioner Groff-Blaszak stated that she sees disparity in the date and wondered what area was being patrolled.

Commissioner Hunter wondered if there was ongoing training. Public Safety Captain noted that there was ongoing training.

There was discussion regarding the demographics of East and the surrounding areas.

City Manager Charles noted that the traveling through demographics is different than residential. He also noted that this would come back to the Commission in the near future for a bigger discussion.

2024-45. Street millage discussion.

City Manager Charles reviewed the information on the previously passed millage and noted that if renewed at the current rate, it would equal 17.5 million.

Mayor Favale said that she is comfortable with millage at current rate with adding lead line replacements.

Deputy City Manager La Fave explained that they are still investigating and expect to find a total of between 1,000 and 1,600 services. He said the 180-200 per year replacement schedule is way above requirements and does not feel a millage is the way to go.

City Manager Charles said that a millage for lead line replacement could muddy the water with water and sewer rates.

There was a lot of discussion regarding lead line replacement and funding.

The consensus was to go with the millage at 2.0 in August. City Manager Charles will have the ballot language drafted and bring it back to the Commission.

2024-46. Review and consider approving the Strategic Planning Session Summary from the February 10th session.

City Manager Charles reviewed the information.

2024-046-A. Wessley-Burdick. To approve the Strategic Planning Session Summary as presented.

Yeas: Burdick, Groff-Blaszak, Hunter, Wessely and Favale – 5
Nays: None.

2024-47. Hunter-Groff-Blaszak. To approve the consent agenda as follows:

- 2024-047-A. Minutes of the regular meeting held February 19, 2024.
- 2024-047-B. Disbursement of funds: payroll disbursements of \$287,591.04; county and school disbursements of \$602,172.48, and total remaining disbursements of \$1,129,811.27.
- 2024-047-C. Minutes of the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting held January 29, 2024.
- 2024-047-D. Consider approval of a proposal in the amount of \$5,105.00 to replace an existing projector screen at the Community Center.

Yeas: Burdick, Groff-Blaszak, Hunter, Wessely and Favale – 5
Nays: None.

The meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until March 18, 2024.

Lori A Parmenter, City Clerk