

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COMMISSION
CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

Regular Meeting Held April 23, 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, Schwartz, Wessely and Mayor Favale.

Absent: None.

Also Present: City Manager Charles; Deputy City Manager La Fave; City Attorney Huff; Parks and Recreation Director Melville; Public Safety Captain Ric Buikema; City Clerk Parmenter.

The agenda was amended by a motion by Schwartz and supported by Wessely to add Item 5A, considering the resignation of Marc Schulz from the City Commission with an effective date of April 23, 2024.

Roll call vote was taken.

Yeas: Burdick, Groff-Blaszak, Hunter, Schwartz, Wessely and Favale – 6

Nays: None.

2024-68. Public comment:

Brent Becker, 1123 Kenesaw Dr., is concerned about the school purchasing property to move the track. He stated that it would be inaccessible to the middle school students and would like alternatives looked at.

Greg Workman, 1130 Breton Rd., would like community dialog regarding moving the track and stated that it is a community treasure, and we have to find a way to preserve it.

Allie Schellhammer, 529 Gladstone Dr., is part of a women's group that meets at the library at 5:30am. The track is a safe place and a great asset to the community.

Ryck Morales, SBA Disaster Assistance, gave a presentation regarding their services to small businesses that have faced weather related disasters in the last year.

2024-69. Mayor and City Commission comments, including committee liaison reports.

Commissioner Hunter thanked the public for their comments.

Mayor Favale noted that EGreen will be doing a mustard garlic pull this Saturday and they are looking for volunteers and May 11 and 18 they will be hosting a gas leaf blower buyback. August 24, there will be an e-waste and foam packaging recycle event and reminded everyone about the Mayor's Reeds Lake Cleanup.

City Manager Charles thanked the residents for coming out to speak and stated that the City would continue to work with the schools, but noted that we are not obligated to partner with them regarding the land purchase. He reminded everyone that this is not a done deal, and it would be years down the road. He did note that there had already been discussions regarding transportation. He also suggested that residents should be directed to the Board of Education or Dr. Katula if they have questions regarding this. Construction is wrapping up on the playgrounds.

Mayor Favale asked about the Fred Bunn Trails. Parks and Recreation Director Melville stated that the trails are a few weeks away from being completed.

2024-69A Consider accepting the resignation of Marc Schulz from the City Commission effective April 23, 2024 with regrets.

2024-69A Wessely-Schwartz. To accept the resignation of Marc Schulz from the City Commission effective April 23, 2024.

Mayor Favale thanked Commissioner Schulz and his family for their service.

Yeas: Burdick, Groff-Blaszak, Hunter, Schwartz, Wessely and Favale - 6
Nays: None.

2024-70. Consider approving a resolution placing the street & sidewalk millage renewal on the August 6, 2024, ballot at 2.0 mills for a ten-year period.

City Manager Charles reviewed the information.

Commissioner Groff-Blaszak wondered if the first paragraph could be made to read clearer.

Commissioner Schwartz asked if there was a way to educate residents in the first paragraph.

City Manager Charles noted that a press release was going out in the morning that would have educational points.

Commissioner Wessely wondered about putting the second paragraph first and make it simpler with stating what happens if it does not pass.

City Manager Charles stated that part of the education piece is what happens if it does not pass and to please send him the language that you would like for the proposal.

2024-070-A. Wessely-Burdick. To approve a resolution placing the street & sidewalk millage renewal on the August 6, 2024, ballot at 2.0 mills for a ten-year period.

Yeas: Burdick, Groff-Blaszak, Hunter, Schwartz, Wessely and Favale – 6
Nays: None.

2024-71. Consider approval of a four-year contract (2024-2028) for yard waste transportation and composting services at \$6.25 per cubic yard with subsequent increases tied to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics-Consumers Price Index (CPI) relative to the associated 12-month contract periods.

Deputy City Manager La Fave reviewed the request.

Commissioner Groff-Blaszak questioned why there was such a difference in cost. Deputy City Manager La Fave stated that it was related to subcontractors and locations of facilities.

2024-071-A. Groff-Blaszak-Hunter. To approve a four-year contract (2024-2028) for yard waste transportation and composting services with Cannonsburg Wood Products at \$6.25 per cubic yard with subsequent increases tied to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics-Consumers Price Index (CPI) relative to the associated 12-month contract periods.

Yeas: Burdick, Groff-Blaszak, Hunter, Schwartz, Wessely and Favale – 6
Nays: None.

2024-72. Consider approving a permit agreement with DTE Energy for their natural gas renewal program.

City Manager Charles reviewed the request.

2024-072-A. Burdick-Schwartz. To approve a permit agreement with DTE Energy for their natural gas renewal program.

Yeas: Burdick, Groff-Blaszak, Hunter, Schwartz, Wessely and Favale – 6
Nays: None.

2024-73. Consider approval of a Performance Resolution, as required by MDOT, for issuance of an “Individual Permit for Use of State Highway Right of Way”.

Deputy City Manager La Fave reviewed the request and stated that this is more of a formality.

2024-073-A. Hunter-Groff-Blaszak. To approve a Performance Resolution, as required by MDOT, for issuance of an “Individual Permit for Use of State Highway Right of Way”.

Yeas: Burdick, Groff-Blaszak, Hunter, Schwartz, Wessely and Favale – 6
Nays: None.

2024-74. Consider authorization of funding for the Manhattan Park improvement project for the base contract amount of \$2,871,000 with a 5% project contingency of \$143,550 for a total of \$3,014,550.

Parks and Recreation Director Melville reviewed the information for the request.

Commissioner Schwartz wanted to look at general fund balance to make up for some of the inflation costs.

City Manager Charles said that if they were comfortable with the scope of the project, they could approve the contract with possible funding shifts.

Commissioner Hunter questioned parking. Parks and Recreation Director Melville noted that there was no parking lost or gained in the project.

2024-074-A. Schwartz-Wessely. To authorize funding for the Manhattan Park improvement project and award the bid to Katerberg VerHage for the base contract amount of \$2,871,000 with a 5% project contingency of \$143,550 for a total of \$3,014,550 with looking at different funding possibilities.

Yeas: Burdick, Groff-Blaszak, Hunter, Schwartz, Wessely and Favale – 6
Nays: None.

2024-75. Burdick-Wessely. To approve the consent agenda as follows:

2024-075-A. Minutes of the regular meeting held April 8, 2024.

2024-075-B. Disbursement of funds: payroll disbursements of \$ 272,521.08; county and school disbursements of \$0, and total remaining disbursements of \$481,528.58.

2024-075-C. Quarterly financials and budget adjustments.

2024-075-D. Consider adopting an updated procedure for handling grievances filed by community members under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

2024-075-E. Consider adopting an updated policy for the solicitation of legal advice from the City Attorney’s office.

2024-075-F. Consider approval of the renewal of the City’s membership with the Michigan Municipal League along with the Legal Defense Fund.

Yeas: Burdick, Groff-Blaszak, Hunter, Schwartz, Wessely and Favale – 6
Nays: None.

2024-76 Budget Overview.

City Manager Charles reviewed the information in the proposed budget.

The meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until May 6, 2024.

Lori A Parmenter, City Clerk