

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COMMISSION  
CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

**Regular Meeting Held August 5, 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: Commissioner Skaggs.

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.

2024-124. The agenda was approved as presented.

2024-125. Public comment: None.

2024-126. Mayor and City Commission comments, including committee liaison reports.

Commissioner Groff-Blaszak welcomed Commissioner Skaggs and thanked City staff for the work on the election.

Mayor Favale thanked City staff for the work on the election and read a communication from Commissioner Skaggs regarding an apology for not being able to be present for the meeting.

City Manager Charles thanked City staff for the work on the election and reminded everyone that Taste of East is August 15<sup>th</sup>.

2024-127. Consider the Liquor License application for Pauly's Wine Café & Cellar.

City Manager Charles reviewed the information.

Commissioner Wessely asked how many licenses EGR has. City Manager Charles stated seven.

Commissioner Groff-Blaszak questioned if the ordinance would have to be amended. City Manager Charles stated that it would.

Commissioner Hunter questioned the applicant regarding the sales ratio. The applicant, Paul Faba, reviewed the services that will be offered, wine tasting, food, event space, etc.

2024-0127-A. Wessely-Burdick. To approve the Liquor License application for Pauly’s Wine Café & Cellar.

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

2024-128. Consider authorizing the purchase and installation of RRFB devices for uncontrolled school crosswalks at Breton Road and Elinor Lane, Lakeside Drive and Reeds Lake Boulevard, Reeds Lake Boulevard and El Centro, and Reeds Lake Boulevard and Manhattan Road with additional stock for future crosswalk enhancements and stock for replacements in an amount not to exceed \$52,946.16.

Deputy City Manager La Fave highlighted the request.

Commissioner Groff-Blaszak questioned why the Breton and Berwyck intersection was not on the list. Deputy City Manager La Fave reviewed the traffic/pedestrian study process and noted that a study was scheduled for that area.

There was more discussion about this topic.

Kyle Brinks, 1721 Whitfield, asked the Commission to consider the Breton and Berwyck intersection for a beacon.

Mandy Sharp Eizinger, 1643 Whitfield, appreciated the action on pedestrian safety and would also like the Commission to consider the Breton and Berwyck intersection.

There was more discussion from the City Commission.

2024-0128-A. Hunter-Wessely. To authorize the purchase and installation of RRFB devices for uncontrolled school crosswalks at Breton Road and Elinor Lane, Lakeside Drive and Reeds Lake Boulevard, Reeds Lake Boulevard and El Centro, and Reeds Lake Boulevard and Manhattan Road with additional stock for future crosswalk enhancements and stock for replacements in an amount not to exceed \$52,946.16.

There was more discussion from the City Commission.

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

2024-129. Consider awarding the 50/50 Right-of-Way Tree Planting Program contract for fiscal years 24/25 through 26/27 with noted pricing for each tree/year in the bid tab.

Deputy City Manager La Fave highlighted the request.

2024-0129-A. Burdick-Schwartz. To approve awarding the 50/50 Right-of-Way Tree Planting Program contract to Horrocks Nursery Farm for fiscal years 24/25 through 26/27 with noted pricing for each tree/year in the bid tab.

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

2024-130. Consider participation with the EMS Consortium to conduct an evaluation of the current contract with ambulance agencies for a cost of \$8,600.

City Manager Charles reviewed the request.

Commissioner Groff-Blaszak asked if she could receive a copy of the RFP. City Manager Charles said that she could.

2024-0130-A. Groff-Blaszak-Schwartz. To approve participation with the EMS Consortium to conduct an evaluation of the current contract with ambulance agencies for a cost of \$8,600.

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

2024-131. Consider approval of extending the agreement with Plummer’s Disposal Service for a one-time 5% increase with a new annual cost of \$11,758.95 for the supply and maintenance of porta-johns for a three-year period.

Parks and Recreation Director Melville reviewed the request.

2024-0131-A. Schwartz-Groff-Blaszak. To approve extending the agreement with Plummer’s Disposal Service for a one-time 5% increase with a new annual cost of \$11,758.95 for the supply and maintenance of porta-johns for a three-year period.

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

2024-132. Consider authorizing the purchase of a scoreboard and components in the amount of \$9,847.43 for placement on Manhattan Field #5.

Parks and Recreation Director Melville reviewed the request.

2024-0132-A. Wessely-Burdick. To authorize the purchase of a scoreboard and components from Nevo Sports in the amount of \$9,847.43 for placement on Manhattan Field #5.

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

2024-133. Consider designating a delegate and alternate for the Annual Michigan Municipal League Business meeting held during the annual convention.

City Manager Charles highlighted the request.

2024-0133-A. Schwartz-Wessely. To designate City Manager Charles as the delegate and Mayor Favale as the alternate for the Annual Michigan Municipal League Business meeting held during the annual convention.

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

2024-134. Wessely-Burdick. To approve the consent agenda as follows:

2024-0134-A. Minutes of the regular meeting held July 15, 2024.

2024-0134-B. Disbursement of funds: payroll disbursements of \$305,770.92; county and school disbursements of \$2,938,164.44, and total remaining disbursements of \$519,924.35.

2024-135. Minutes of the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting held on May 30, 2024.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until August 19, 2024.

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Lori A Parmenter, City Clerk