

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COMMISSION
CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

Regular Meeting Held September 16, 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, Skaggs and Wessely.

Absent: Mayor Favale.

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

2024-154. Motion was made by Groff-Blaszak and supported by Hunter to move Consent Item 12 on the agenda to Item 9A of the regular Agenda.

Commissioner Groff-Blaszak stated that the decision requires deliberation and should allow residents the option to speak on the subject.

There was discussion on changing the agenda.

There was a roll call vote taken to move Consent Item 12 on the agenda to Item 9A of the regular Agenda.

Yeas: Groff-Blaszak – 1

Nays: Burdick, Skaggs, Wessely, Hunter, and Schwartz – 5

Motion failed.

2024-155. Public comment:

Daniel O’Hara, Caledonia, candidate for 63rd District Court Judge, gave a background on his qualifications for the position.

Katrina Peters, 2900 Reeds Lake, opposed the inaccuracies in the Safe Routes to School project report.

Linda Kristensen, 2958 Reeds Lake, opposed the project.

Carey Portzline, 2920 Reeds Lake, is opposed to the project, thinks the round-a-bout will help and wonders what the reason for the project is.

Kevin Loftis, 2936 Reeds Lake, is opposed to the project and is not sure what the reason for the project is.

Pat Miles, 2856 Reeds Lake, is opposed to the project and is not sure what the reason for the project is.

Mandy Sharp Eizenger, 1643 Whitfield Rd, stated that the Safe Routes to School project does not address the school crossing issue.

Jackie Educato, 2930 Reeds Lake, opposes only priority #1, but agrees with all other proposals.

2024-156. Mayor and City Commission comments, including committee liaison reports.

Commissioner Groff-Blaszak gave a shout out to residents for pushing the City to be more proactive and learned about Project Zero while in Ann Arbor.

Commissioner Hunter was at Manhattan Park to see the construction and gave a kudos to staff for the work on this.

Commissioner Skaggs spoke at the Mayor's Gand River cleanup and participated in the Reeds Lake clean up and thanked everyone who came out to help.

Commissioner Burdick thanked neighbors for coming out and speaking and noted that this is a long process, and we are early in it. He attended the MML Convention with City Manager Charles and Mayor Favale.

Commissioner Wessely gave a shout out to Doug and his team for the fortitude to start processes early and always being one step ahead.

Commissioner Schwartz appreciates everyone reaching out regarding Safe Routes to School.

City Manager Charles stated that there have been 399 responses on the Master Plan survey. There were multiple vehicles stolen over the weekend. The cars were unlocked with the keys in them. The Cascade/Robinson Pathway project will be going out to bid. There will be a crossing guard at MLK/Plymouth.

2024-157. Second reading and consider approving a rezoning request at 942 Bellclaire Ave. from R-1 Single Family Residential to R-2 Single Family Residential.

Zoning Administrator Gianotti reviewed the request.

Rob Sears, 1916 Lake Dr, stated he was the contractor and offered to answer any questions. There were no questions.

2024-0157-A. Burdick-Wessely. To approve the rezoning request at 942 Bellclaire Ave. from R-1 Single Family Residential to R-2 Single Family Residential.

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

2024-158. Consider the calculation of overtime/compensatory time changes for non-union employees.

City Manager Charles reviewed the request.

2024-0158-A. Hunter-Skaggs. To approve the calculation of overtime/compensatory time changes for non-union employees.

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

2024-159. Consider adopting the attached resolution approving changes to the Grand Valley Metro Council Articles of Incorporation.

City Manager Charles reviewed the information.

2024-0159-A. Groff-Blaszak-Hunter. To adopt the attached resolution approving changes to the Grand Valley Metro Council Articles of Incorporation.

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

2024-160. Consider authorizing the installation of RRFB devices for the uncontrolled crosswalk at Breton Road and Berwyck Road to enhance the existing crossing treatment of in-street school crosswalk sign.

Deputy City Manager La Fave reviewed the request.

Commissioner Schwartz thanked Deputy City Manager La Fave.

Commissioner Skaggs wondered what can be done to encourage use. Deputy City Manager La Fave stated that we could work with the school on education.

Commissioner Groff-Blaszak wondered about the timeline for the process for approving RRFB's. City Manager Charles stated that it would be in the fall.

Commissioner Burdick thanked Deputy City Manager La Fave and noted that the process is data driven and it is done without haste.

Commissioner Hunter thanked staff for pulling the data together.

Mandy Sharp Eizenger, 1643 Whitfield, asked for support from the Commission to approve this.

Elizabeth Winter, 1701 Breton, thanked Deputy City Manager La Fave for all of his work on this.

2024-0160-A. Wessely-Burdick. To authorize the installation of RRFB devices for the uncontrolled crosswalk at Breton Road and Berwyck Road to enhance the existing crossing treatment of in-street school crosswalk sign.

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

Nays: None.

2024-161. Wessely-Burdick. To approve the consent agenda as follows:

2024-0161-A. Minutes of the regular meeting held August 19, 2024.

2024-0161-B. Disbursement of funds: payroll disbursements of \$297,104.65; county and school disbursements of \$15,443,307.25, and total remaining disbursements of \$850,576.59.

2024-0161-C. Consider authorization of Doug La Fave, Deputy City Manager/Director of Public Works to act as an agent on behalf of the City to request Safe Routes to School funding, to act as the applicant's agent during the project development and to sign a project agreement upon receipt of a funding award and that if a project is funded and accepted by the city that the city is responsible for any cost over runs or non-participating items

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

Nays: None.

The meeting adjourned at 7:04 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until October 7, 2024.

Lori A Parmenter, City Clerk