

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COMMISSION
CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

Regular Meeting Held December 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, Wessely and Mayor Favale.

Absent: None.

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

2024-205. Motion was made by Commissioner Groff-Blaszak and supported by Commissioner Hunter to table Item 7 on the agenda.

Commissioner Groff-Blaszak stated that creating a Brownfield is a big policy and there should be meetings to discuss the item without the pressure of voting.

Commissioner Schwartz thinks things are being seen differently and that this is only setting policies for a Brownfield and not creating one.

Commissioner Hunter referenced Act 381 regarding the creation of Brownfields.

City Manager Charles noted that this is a notice of intent that we are thinking about it and if the resolution is not adopted then there is no Brownfield.

Commissioner Wessely said that a Brownfield is the next step with EGR being landlocked. Affordable housing can be created through the Brownfield and said that it is the right move.

Commissioner Skaggs stated that moving forward gives the opportunity for discussion.

Commissioner Burdick would like to dive into it more during the public hearing.

Yeas: Groff-Blaszak and Hunter – 2

Nays: Burdick, Schwartz, Skaggs, Wessely and Mayor Favale – 5

Motion failed.

2024-206. Public comment: None.

2024-207. Mayor and City Commission comments, including committee liaison reports.

Commissioner Burdick noted the Parks and Recreation Master Plan public hearing was held and that there is open comment through January 10, 2025.

Commissioner Wessely reminded everyone that with it getting darker earlier and being darker later in the mornings to turn on headlights and as he saw on social media, please be considerate and pick up your doggy poop bags.

Commissioner Schwartz stated that the Planning Commission held a work session on the Master Plan.

Mayor Favale reminded everyone of the next recycling event on January 11th from 10:00am – 12:00pm in the Public Works parking lot and that they are looking for volunteers. She wished everyone Happy Holidays.

City Manager Charles gave kudos to Public Works for their work with the on and off snow and let the Commission know that we are still working on setting up Strategic Planning.

2024-208. Audit presentation by Vredeveld Haefner, LLC regarding the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024.

Mike Vredeveld with Vredeveld Haefner, LLC reviewed the audit.

2024-0208-A. Hunter-Schwartz. To accept and place on file the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024.

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

Nays: None.

2024-209. Consider approving a Resolution of Intent to Create a Brownfield Authority and set a public hearing for Monday, January 6, 2024, at 6:00 pm.

City Manager Charles reviewed the request and the process. He also noted that there would be additional information on our website.

Commissioner Groff-Blaszak wondered when in the process will we as a legislative body have an opportunity to discuss this and how do we define affordable housing. She also stated that we should define what we want before doing this.

City Manager Charles noted that anything from the Authority would come to the Commission for approval.

**Commissioner Schwartz left at 6:39 pm.

Jim Bruinsma, 1748 Alexander, questioned the timing of the public hearing.

Skaggs-Wessely. To approve a Resolution of Intent to Create a Brownfield Authority and set a public hearing for Monday, January 6, 2025, at 6:00 pm.

Commissioner Burdick pointed out where the steps were discussed.

Commissioner Wessely reviewed the steps.

Mayor Favale noted that everyone is back to school by January 6th.

Yeas: Burdick, Skaggs, Wessely and Mayor Favale – 4

Nays: Groff-Blaszak and Hunter – 2

- 2024-210. Consider an agreement with Consumers Energy to purchase 100% of remaining electric utility consumption for facilities and operations with Consumers Energy.

Deputy City Manager La Fave reviewed the request.

- 2024-0210-A. Wessely-Burdick. To approve an agreement with Consumers Energy to purchase 100% of remaining electric utility consumption for facilities and operations with Consumers Energy via Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) for 2025-2028 and from the Consumers Energy Renewable Energy Program (REP) for a dedicated source of renewable energy with a 20-year commitment from 2028-2048 as noted in the proposed agreement.

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

Nays: None - 0

- 2024-211. Burdick-Wessely. To approve the consent agenda as follows:

2024-0211-A. Minutes of the regular meeting held December 2, 2024.

2024-0211-B. Disbursement of funds: payroll disbursements of \$277,916.03; county and school disbursements of \$115,244.00, and total remaining disbursements of \$330,198.80.

2024-0211-C. Consider change to fee schedule to reflect the increased cost of returned checks.

2024-0211-D. Consider approval of increasing the part-time Public Safety Clerk to a full-time position.

2024-0211-E. Consider approval of the purchase of a Dell PowerEdge R360 server from Dell Technologies to be used as file storage for the Public Safety Department.

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

Nays: None.

The meeting adjourned at 7:16 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until January 6, 2025.

Lori A Parmenter, City Clerk