

Roll Call

The Kalamazoo City Commission met as a Committee of the Whole on Monday, May 17, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. This meeting was held as an electronic meeting under the authority of the Michigan Open Meetings Act (PA 267 of 1976) as amended by PA 254 of 2020.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Mayor David Anderson
Vice Mayor Patrese Griffin
Jeanne Hess
Erin Knott
Chris Praedel
Jack Urban

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Eric Cunningham

All members present indicated they were physically located in the City of Kalamazoo.

Also present were City Manager Jim Ritsema, Deputy City Manager Jeff Chamberlain, City Attorney Clyde Robinson, and City Clerk Scott Borling.

Commissioner Excused

Commissioner Praedel, seconded by Commissioner Urban, moved to excuse the absence of Commissioner Cunningham. With a voice vote the motion was approved.

Public Comments

Next, an opportunity was given for general public comments.

Denise Keele, non-resident and faculty co-chair of WeVote, thanked the City Clerk's Office for working with WeVote at Western Michigan University (WMU) and asked the City to continue offering pre-paid postage on absentee ballot return envelopes and the satellite location at WMU.

Wendy Fields, City resident, expressed support for the new voting options that were available in 2020 and asked that they continue. Ms. Fields suggested the ballot drop box in the Eastside Neighborhood be moved to a more visible location like a library or grocery store. Ms. Fields suggested signage be placed at polling locations to mark the 100-foot boundary for campaigners.

Review of Items on
Upcoming City
Commission Agendas

Deputy City Manager Chamberlain reviewed items for upcoming City Commission meeting agendas, including items on the agenda for the 7:00 business meeting and the following topics for future Committee of the Whole meetings: a presentation and discussion about federal stimulus funds on June 7th.

2021-00

Presentation re: Inclusive
Election Services

City Clerk Borling delivered a presentation entitled *Inclusive Election Services*. A copy of the slides from this presentation was filed with the papers for this meeting.

In response to questions from Commissioner Praedel, City Clerk Borling stated his office would be looking for five new polling locations that would be put in place starting with the November election. City Clerk Borling explained there had been a trend towards moving polling locations out of public schools due to concerns about security. City Clerk Borling stated the City Commission would need to approve the new polling locations at least 60 days prior to the election. City Clerk Borling stated affected voters would be sent new voter ID cards, and signs would be posted at the old locations for several elections informing voters of the changes.

City Clerk Borling expressed his dislike for moving polling locations due to the potential for confusion and the ingrained nature of voting habits.

Mayor Anderson thanked City Clerk Borling for his focus on voter access. Mayor Anderson stated Kalamazoo was doing everything possible within the confines of the law to make sure people were able to vote.

Next an opportunity was given for comments from City Commissioners, but no comments were offered.

The meeting adjourned at 5:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott A. Borling
City Clerk

For City Commission approval on September 7, 2021

Approved by: _____

David F. Anderson, Mayor
Dated: September 7, 2021

2021-00

Presentation re: Inclusive
Election Services

Commissioner
Comments

Adjournment