

Roll Call

A regular meeting of the Kalamazoo City Commission was held on Tuesday, January 3, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Commission Chambers at City Hall.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Vice Mayor Don Cooney
David Anderson
Erin Knott
Matt Milcarek
Shannon Sykes
Jack Urban

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Mayor Bobby J. Hopewell

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

Commissioner Sykes, seconded by Commissioner Milcarek, moved to excuse the absence of Mayor Hopewell. With a voice vote this motion passed.

Invocation

The invocation, given by Chaplain Mike Kemple, Lighthouse on Eleventh, was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Adoption of the Agenda

By unanimous consent the City Commission adopted its meeting agenda as presented.

Communications

When an opportunity was given for general communications, City Manager Ritsema announced there would be a City Commission work session on January 23rd to discuss methods for identifying projects to be funded with the Foundation for Excellence.

Public Hearing on the Proposed FY2017 Budget

At 7:04 p.m. Vice Mayor Cooney opened a public hearing on the Proposed Fiscal Year 2017 Budget for the City of Kalamazoo.

Deputy City Manager Patsy Moore provided a brief overview of the Proposed FY2017 Budget and noted the proposed budget featured a reduction in the City's operating millage rate from 19.2705 to 12 mills.

An opportunity was given for citizens to comment on the Proposed FY2017 Budget, but no comments were offered.

At 7:06 p.m. Vice Mayor Cooney closed the public hearing.

City Manager Ritsema indicated the Proposed FY2017 Budget would be presented to the City Commission for adoption at the January 17th business meeting.

Consent Agenda

Consent Agenda items were presented as follows with a recommendation to approve the items with authorization for the City Manager to sign on behalf of the city:

- approval of a one-year term contract with Lyden Oil for the purchase of various types of lubricants for an amount not to exceed \$154,549.57.

- approval of the purchase of a Volvo PF4410 paver from Alta Equipment Company for a total cost of \$332,027.
- first reading of an ordinance to 1) rezone 45 parcels from Zones M-1, M-2, and Zone CCBBD (Commercial, Central Business District) to Zone CMU (Commercial, Mixed-Use District); 2) add the new Subarea 9 of the Riverfront Overlay District; and 3) amend the Riverfront Overlay District to add Subarea 9 and apply it to the parcels; and schedule a public hearing for January 17, 2017.
- approval of amended bylaws for the Community Development Act Advisory Committee.

Commissioner Knott, seconded by Commissioner Urban, moved to approve the consent agenda requests and authorize the City Manager to sign all documents on behalf of the City.

With a roll call vote this motion passed.

AYES: Commissioners Anderson, Knott, Milcarek, Sykes, Urban, Vice Mayor Cooney

NAYS: None

When an opportunity was given for general citizen comments, the following people addressed the City Commission:

Nehemiah Scudder, City resident, spoke about community resources and medications available for people with mental illnesses.

James Kavanaugh, City resident, expressed frustration with the street widening project being planned for Vine Street and reported City crews had already begun removing trees.

Anthony Roth, City resident, expressed concerns about the Vine Street widening project and the lack of outreach to residents. Mr. Ross asked the City Commission to keep the project from happening.

Greg Taylor, City resident, thanked the City Commission and City Manager Ritsema for supporting the Exchange Place project.

Next, an opportunity was given for miscellaneous comments and concerns of City Commissioners.

Commissioner Milcarek expressed concerns about the Vine Street widening project and discrepancies between citizen reports from the City's information meetings and the reports from City staff to Commissioners about those same meetings. Commissioner Milcarek indicated he was surprised the City had started to cut down trees, and he asked for more citizen engagement on this project before the beginning of summer. Commissioner Milcarek noted that he had participated in the

Consent Agenda
(cont'd)

Citizen Comments

City Commissioner
Comments

City Commissioner
Comments (cont'd)

development of the Safe Routes to School plan, and he clarified that street widening and bump-outs were never part of that plan.

Commissioner Urban offered comments on the lack of community engagement by City staff regarding significant street projects. Commissioner Urban noted the operating millage reduction in the proposed budget was the first real change associated with the Foundation for Excellence.

Commissioner Knott requested information about the Vine Street project and an update on the City's leaf removal efforts.

In response to Commissioner Knott, Public Services Director James Baker reported crews were one-quarter of the way through the sections of the City that had missed the second leaf pick-up. Director Baker stated the Vine Street project had been in the pipeline for over five years. Director Baker explained the street would be widened seven feet on the north side to accommodate vehicle and bike traffic, and the trees that were removed would be one-for-one. Director Baker offered that City engineers were looking to work more closely with neighborhoods and the Community Planning and Development Department on future project to shrink the planning time. Director Baker noted that street projects frequently required decisions and compromises because they were attempting to address multiple goals.

Commissioner Sykes requested a public presentation on the Vine Street project at the next City Commission meeting and requested that the presentation address questions about the City's notification to residents and the timeline for the project moving forward. Commissioner Sykes remarked on her aunt's struggle with mental illness.

Commissioner Anderson remarked on City's local preference purchasing policy vis-à-vis the contract for lubricants that was approved on the consent agenda. Commissioner Anderson highlighted an article in the Detroit News regarding low staffing levels at local law enforcement agencies and the difficulties in recruiting new officers.

Vice Mayor Cooney expressed support for Commissioner Sykes' request for a presentation on the Vine Street project. Vice Mayor Cooney remarked on the successes of the Western Michigan University football team and the commitment of the players.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott A. Borling
City Clerk

For City Commission approval on February 6, 2017

Approved by: _____
Bobby J. Hopewell, Mayor
Dated: February 6, 2017