

Roll Call

A regular meeting of the Kalamazoo City Commission was held on Monday, October 4, 2021 at 7:00 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
Eric Cunningham
Jeanne Hess
Erin Knott
Chris Praedel
Jack Urban

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

None

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

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

Invocation

The invocation was given by Pastor Mark Morris from Centerpoint Church.

Adoption of the Agenda

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

Public Comments

Next, when an opportunity was given for general public comments, the following people addressed the City Commission:

Karen McDonald, non-resident and a member of ISAAC's Anti-Racism Task Force, spoke about white privilege and the need for transparency and accountability on the part of Commissioners and City Commission appointees.

Meg Adams, City resident and a member of ISAAC's Anti-Racism Task Force, spoke about white privilege and the need for transparency and accountability on the part of Commissioners and City Commission appointees.

Brandi Crawford-Johnson, non-resident, questioned Mayor Anderson about studies of the air quality around Graphic Packaging from 2009.

Karri Porco, non-resident and Clinic Manager for Athletico Physical Therapy, invited Commissioners to the grand opening of the new clinic at 4602 West Main Street on October 29th.

Wendy Fields, City resident and President of the Kalamazoo NAACP, spoke about the use of buzz words by Commissioners and urged them to do the right thing. Ms. Fields questioned why the Commission was having so many closed-door meetings and spoke about the need for transparency.

Consent Agenda

Consent Agenda items were presented as follows with a recommendation to approve the items and authorize the City Manager to sign all documents on behalf of the city:

- approval of a contract with Corby Energy Services, Inc. for Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation by Lining through Cooperative Purchase National IPA in the amount of \$645,310.50.
- approval of a two-year contract extension with Wightman for professional surveying services in the amount of \$185,580.
- approval of the purchase of a compact excavator from Michigan CAT through the MIDEAL cooperative purchasing program in the amount of \$120,181.24.
- approval of a contract with Owen-Ames-Kimball Company for the purpose of building a new Public Safety Station #2 in the amount of \$9,460,470.

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Commissioner Cunningham, seconded by Commissioner Hess, 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 unanimously.

AYES: Commissioners Cunningham, Hess, Knott, Praedel, Urban, Vice Mayor Griffin, Mayor Anderson

NAYS: None

City Clerk Borling noted the agenda packet contained a request for action from Mr. Chris Wahmhoff for the creation of new City Commission policies regarding meeting agendas and procedures.

2021-00

City Clerk's Report

Deputy City Manager Chamberlain offered remarks on the construction of the new Public Safety Station #2 and noted this building would be LEED certified.

City Manager's Report

Finally, an opportunity was given for miscellaneous comments from City Commissioners.

Commissioner
Comments

Commissioner Urban remarked that the closed-door meetings were not negotiating sessions but were closed sessions permitted by law to give the City Commission and management team the opportunity to develop a negotiation strategy.

Commissioner Urban, seconded by Commissioner Cunningham, moved that the City Commission go into closed session to discuss labor negotiation strategy.

Closed Session

Prior to a vote on the motion, Mayor Anderson announced the City Commission would not return to open session following the closed session.

With a roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

AYES: Commissioners Cunningham, Hess, Knott, Praedel, Urban, Vice Mayor Griffin, Mayor Anderson

NAYS: None

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Scott A. Borling
City Clerk

For City Commission approval on October 18, 2021

Approved by: _____
David F. Anderson, Mayor
Dated: October 18, 2021

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