

Roll Call

The Kalamazoo City Commission met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, July 6, 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, except Commissioner Hess who was physically located in the City of South Haven Michigan.

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

Commissioner Excuse

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

Public Comments

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

Kelsey Harness, City resident, requested a blinking stop or caution light be installed at the intersection of Kalamazoo Avenue and Elm Street due to the frequent accidents at the intersection.

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 meetings: at the July 19th Committee of the Whole (CoW) meeting, a presentation on the Business Development Fund and on the July 19th business meeting, a quarterly update on the odor remediation efforts by the City of Kalamazoo and Graphic Packaging.

2021-00

Follow-up Discussion re:
a School Resource
Officer Agreement with
KPS

City Manager Ritsema announced representatives from Kalamazoo Public Schools had met with Mayor Anderson and Vice Mayor Griffin to discuss the Memorandum of Agreement between Kalamazoo Public Schools (KPS) and the Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety (KDPS) to provide a School Resource Office (SRO) services for the 2021-2022 school year. City Manager Ritsema stated the presentation *KPS Partnership with Kalamazoo Township Police Department and Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety* was attached to the meeting agenda and available on the City's website. Kalamazoo Public Schools Superintendent Rita Raichoudhuri and Chief of Campus Safety Don Webster were available to answer questions from Commissioners. A copy of the presentation was filed with the paperwork for this meeting.

Superintendent Raichoudhuri reported Loy Norrix high school students had been surveyed regarding the value of having an SRO at school and over 80 percent of students surveyed said either "yes" or "no preference" to having a school resource officer. Superintendent Raichoudhuri noted the survey results were also broken

out by building, gender, race, IEP status, English learner status, and lunch status, and she stated overwhelmingly student and staff were supportive of the SRO program. Superintendent Raichoudhuri concluded by summarizing the specialized training SROs receive in addition to their required Public Safety training.

*Commissioner Cunningham arrived at 5:11 p.m.

Vice Mayor Griffin requested an annual report from KDPS with information the City maintained about the SRO program.

Chief Vernon Coakley confirmed KDPS could provide a year-end report to the Commission and community.

In response to questions from Commissioner Hess, Campus Safety Chief Webster expressed support for the SRO program at Kalamazoo Central and Loy Norrix High School. Campus Safety Chief Webster remarked on the positive relationships the SROs had built with students and the support KPS had received from the community.

Commissioner Hess stated the SRO program was another opportunity for the City's Public Safety Officers to be educators and be a positive influence for the KPS community.

In response to questions from Commissioners, Superintendent Raichoudhuri stated the MOA was the same for both Kalamazoo Township Police Department and KDPS and the agreement was drafted in collaboration between both departments and KPS. Superintendent Raichoudhuri reported the KPS Board had already received the approved MOA from Kalamazoo Township Police Department. Superintendent Raichoudhuri reviewed the slide entitled *The Do's and Don't of an SRO* and stated SROs do not provide discipline but will intervene if there is an eminent threat or they are asked to do so by the building principal. Superintendent Raichoudhuri explained students will seek guidance from the SROs or provide the SROs with information before they provide it to faculty and staff. Campus Safety Chief Webster concluded the SROs do not handle fights between students because that was campus safety's responsibility, and the SROs were only involved if someone needed to make a police report. Superintendent Raichoudhuri confirmed the KPS Board had already approved the MOA and approved the SRO program at Loy Norrix High School.

Commissioner Praedel stated the decision before the Commission was whether the City would provide an SRO for Loy Norrix High School. Commissioner Praedel stated KPS would seek another jurisdiction to provide an SRO if the City chose not to.

Commissioner Cunningham expressed support for the mentorship the SROs provided to students and the opportunity for KDPS officers to build relationships with youth. Commissioner Cunningham requested Chief Coakley be accessible and provide support to any KDPS officer serving as an SRO.

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

The meeting adjourned at 5:36 p.m.

2021-00

Follow-up Discussion re:
a School Resource
Officer Agreement with
KPS (cont'd)

Commissioner
Comments

Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Shelby Moss
Deputy City Clerk

For City Commission approval on October 18, 2021

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

This page was left blank intentionally.