

Roll Call

A regular meeting of the Kalamazoo City Commission was held on Monday, March 21, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Commission Chambers at City Hall.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Mayor David Anderson
Vice Mayor Don Cooney
Jeanne Hess
Stephanie Hoffman
Esteven Juarez
Chris Praedel

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Qianna Decker

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

Commissioner Excused

Commissioner Juarez, seconded by Vice Mayor Cooney, moved to excuse the absence of Commissioner Decker. With a voice vote the motion passed.

Invocation

The invocation, given by Pastor Moise Ratsara from Kalamazoo Seventh Day Adventist Church, was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Proclamation

Commissioner Hess read a proclamation entitled *March for Meals – Kalamazoo, March 2022*. Taylor Rossi from Milestone Senior Services accepted the proclamation.

Adoption of the Agenda

By unanimous consent the City Commission adopted its meeting agenda with the following change:

A member of the public asked that Item G-18, appointments and nominations to the Foundation for Excellence Board of Directors, be moved to the Regular Agenda.

Public Comments

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

In Person Comments

Nehemiah Scudder, City resident, offered comments on Meals for Wheels.

Ray Sweeney, City resident, expressed support for the appointment of Stephanie Hoffman as a City Commission representative on the Foundation for Excellence Board. Mr. Sweeney described efforts by First United Methodist Church to become an anti-racism congregation and expressed support for City Commissioners in their work to support affordable housing, living wages, home weatherization, and equity in healthcare and education.

Reverend William Stein, Chairman of the Kalamazoo Black History Museum, requested a \$2.5 million grant from the Foundation for Excellence to secure a building in downtown Kalamazoo for a black history museum. Correspondence from Reverend Stein was filed with the papers for this meeting.

Call-In Comments

An unnamed caller spoke about the ability of boards to live-stream their meetings from the Community Room, and he remarked on different public comment practices among the various boards. The caller also remarked on the lack of meeting minutes and live streaming for Board of Review meetings.

Public Comments
(cont'd)

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:

Consent Agenda

- approval of a professional services agreement with Hubbell, Roth & Clark, Inc. for construction engineering services related to the Miller Road (Emerald to Sprinkle) improvement project in the amount of \$108,600. **2022-00**
- approval of the purchase of a John Deere 310SL HL backhoe from AIS Construction Equipment through the MiDeal cooperative purchasing program in the amount of \$131,324. **2022-00**
- approval of a contract supplemental with Xylem Vue Inc. for the real-time sanitary sewer level and hydrogen sulfide monitoring devices support system in the amount of \$164,145.14. **2022-00**
- approval of a professional services agreement with Prein & Newhof for construction engineering services related to the 2022 Northside #1 Non-Copper Service Replacement Project in the amount of \$198,600. **2022-00**
- approval of a three-month contract extension with Alexander Chemical Corporation for the purchase of 12.5% sodium hypochlorite, by volume, in the amount of \$215,556.25. **2022-00**
- approval of a contract extension with Unique Paving Materials, Corp. for asphalt patching materials for the 2022 season, in the amount of \$221,100. **2022-00**
- approval of the purchase of seven (7) Public Safety fleet vehicles from Gorno Ford through the MiDeal cooperative purchasing program in the amount of \$247,863. **2022-00**
- approval of a contract with Pavement Maintenance Systems, LLC for Burdick Street Cape Seal in the amount of \$268,044.90. **2022-00**
- approval of a contract supplemental with InForm Architecture for architectural services related to the Farmers' Market improvements in the amount of \$289,128. **2022-00**
- approval of a contract and purchase order with Mulder Waterproofing & Sealants, Inc. for masonry restoration at Wastewater Building 5 in the amount of \$322,560. **2022-00**
- approval of a contract with Pavement Maintenance Systems, LLC for the 2022 Local Streets Chip & Cape Seal Project in the amount of \$363,242.40. **2022-00**

2022-00
Resolution 22-16

- approval of the following actions related to the Miller Road (Emerald to Sprinkle) improvement project: approval of a contract with Rieth-Riley Construction Co., Inc. in the amount of \$719,035.79; adoption of a **RESOLUTION** approving MDOT Contract No. 21-5462; and acceptance of a grant from the Michigan Transportation Economic Development (TED) Fund in the amount of \$345,137.18.

2022-00

- approval of a three-year contract with Monoform, LLC for sanitary sewer manhole rehabilitation-by-lining in the amount of \$929,580.

2022-00

- approval of a contract extension with Rieth-Riley Construction Co., Inc for asphalt paving materials in the amount of \$1,188,100.

2022-00
Resolution 22-17

- adoption of a **RESOLUTION** extending the period for Kalamazoo College to file an updated Institutional Master Plan.

2022-00

- approval and acceptance of an easement from Westview Capital, LLC for water main installed as part of the Gilmore Farms No. 2 Phase 3 Development in Richland Township.

2022-00

- approval of a lease agreement with Mr. Christopher Gallup of Timberline Farms, LLC to permit the farming of 22 of the existing 28 acres of City-owned property at the southeast corner of G Avenue and North 6th Street in Oshtemo Township.

2022-00

- approval of the Mayor's reappointments to the Planning Commission:
 - the reappointment of Greg Milliken for a term expiring on March 31, 2025
 - the reappointment of Shardae Chambers for a term expiring on March 31, 2025

2022-00

- approval of the following reappointments to the Zoning Board of Appeals:
 - the reappointment of Beth Van den Hombergh for a term expiring on March 31, 2025
 - the reappointment of Remi Harrington for a term expiring on March 31, 2025
 - the reappointment of Jeremy Terpening for a partial term expiring on March 31, 2023

Commissioner Juarez, seconded by Vice Mayor Cooney, 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 Hess*, Hoffman, Juarez, Praedel, Vice Mayor Cooney, Mayor Anderson

NAYS: None

* At the time of the vote, Commissioner Hess abstained from voting on Item G-15, a resolution extending the period for Kalamazoo College to file an updated Institutional Master Plan, due to her relationship with Kalamazoo College.

When an opportunity was given for public comments on the appointment of members to the Foundation for Excellence (FFE) Board of Directors, the following people addressed the City Commission:

Jeff Messer, City resident, asked the City Commission to reconsider the nomination of Mary Balkema as a Housing Director on the FFE Board due to alleged unethical behavior while she was Kalamazoo County Treasurer.

Vice Mayor Cooney, seconded by Commissioner Juarez, moved to approve the following appointments and nominations to the Foundation for Excellence Board of Directors:

- the appointment of Stephanie Hoffman as a City Commission Director for a term not to exceed her current term of office
- the appointment of Michael Harrison as the At-Large Director for a term expiring on May 31, 2024
- the nomination of Ida Salas for appointment as Business/Banking Director for a term expiring on May 31, 2023
- the nomination of Dr. Andrea Bostrom for appointment as Healthcare Director for a term expiring on May 31, 2024
- the nomination of Mary Balkema for appointment as Housing Director for a term expiring on May 31, 2025
- the nomination of Sandra Calderon-Huezo for reappointment as Neighborhood Director for a term expiring on May 31, 2025
- the nomination of Reverend Rachel Lonberg for reappointment as Faith-based Director for a term expiring on May 31, 2025

Prior to a vote on the motion, Vice Mayor Cooney stated Mary Balkema had done great work in the community as County Treasurer, especially with the zero tax foreclosures program.

Commissioner Praedel stated Mary Balkema was very qualified as a housing sector specialist.

Mayor Anderson explained that stakeholder directors were selected for their lived experience in the various areas of specialization, and Mary Balkema ranked at the top in her area of expertise.

Commissioner Juarez questioned how FFE Board positions and the application process were publicized to the community.

In response to Commissioner Juarez, Steve Brown, FFE Manager, stated information about open board positions and the application process was advertised through a media release; direct outreach emails to community partners; the FFE

2022-00

Appointments and
Nominations to the FFE
Board of Directors

2022-00

Appointments and
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Board of Directors
(cont'd)

Annual Newsletter mailed to each residence in the City; and multiple social media posts. Mr. Brown also noted City Commissioners had been sent information on the board vacancies and application process to share with their personal networks.

Commissioner Hoffman remarked on the length and thoroughness of the application process for stakeholder positions and stated many people, including sector experts, were involved in the evaluation and selection of applicants.

Mayor Anderson stated he saw some of the applications and review process and observed there were people he did not know and had never seen before in terms of civic involvement. Mayor Anderson stated there were efforts to create a general awareness in the community of the FFE Board, its work, and the need for members.

With a roll call vote this motion passed 5-0 with one abstention.

AYES: Commissioners Hess, Hoffman, Praedel, Vice Mayor Cooney,
Mayor Anderson

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Juarez

City Attorney's Report

City Attorney Robinson stated he had just marked his 14th year of service with the City of Kalamazoo and would complete 42 years of municipal service in June. City Attorney Robinson announced he would retire from the position of City Attorney on or after July 1st but was willing to continue serving until a successor was appointed.

Commissioner
Comments

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

Commissioner Juarez prayed for City Attorney Robinson.

Commissioner Praedel asked for help finding Jayvion Henry, a man who was missing. Commissioner Praedel recognized the presence of Chad Hoke, President of the Milwood Neighborhood Watch Association, and encouraged people to check out the meetings and events on the Association's website. Commissioner Praedel expressed appreciation for City Attorney Robinson and his service.

Commissioner Hess wished everyone "Happy Oberon Day." Commissioner Hess remarked on recent and upcoming events, including a CEO Summit sponsored by KC Ready 4's on early childhood education, a Leadership Kalamazoo event at City Hall, and a Kalamazoo Public Library book discussion on *The Best We Could Do*. Commissioner Hess noted April was Earth Month, and she encouraged everyone to be aware of the trash and litter happening around them. Commissioner Hess expressed gratitude to the members of the Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety for their commitment to keeping the community safe.

Commissioner Hoffman stated she, Commissioner Praedel, and Vice Mayor Cooney held a listening session at the Northside Association for Community Development on Friday, March 18th. Commissioner Hoffman reported the youth development, traffic control on the Northside, and mental health were recurring topics raised by participants. Commissioner Hoffman expressed appreciation to Public Safety Chief Vernon Coakley for the compassion officers showed to

residents in the area where an officer-involved shooting took place on Sunday morning.

Vice Mayor Cooney expressed appreciation to City Attorney Robinson and stated he exemplified expertise, fairness, respect, kindness. Vice Mayor Cooney honored Carol Heflin, a community activist who died recently.

Mayor Anderson noted the 150th Arbor Day would be observed in April. Mayor Anderson encouraged people to read the Public Services Department's newsletter, *A View from the Curb*, which provided a lot of information about tree planting. Mayor Anderson expressed condolences to the family of the young man who was shot and killed by a Public Safety Officer on Sunday morning. Mayor Anderson noted the officers involved were protecting the community, but they would be affected forever by participating in this event. Mayor Anderson noted the impacts of a shooting like this rippled out into the community. Mayor Anderson stated City leaders wanted to make a difference and were working on proposals to address gun violence.

The meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

Scott A. Borling
City Clerk

Approved by the City Commission on: _____

Commissioner
Comments (cont'd)

Adjournment