

Roll Call

The Kalamazoo City Commission met as a Committee of the Whole on Monday, December 20, 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 Don Cooney
Qianna Decker
Jeanne Hess
Stephanie Hoffman
Esteven Juarez
Chris Praedel

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

None

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.

Public Comments

Next, an opportunity was given for general public comments, but no comments were offered.

Review of Business Meeting Agenda

Deputy City Manager Chamberlain reviewed items on the agenda for the 7:00 business meeting.

City Attorney Robinson announced he would be asking that an item be added to the business meeting agenda to authorize the City's participation in the National Opioid Settlement. City Attorney Robinson reviewed the case leading to the settlement and explained how the settlement would work.

In response to a question from Commissioner Praedel, City Attorney Robinson stated he was not sure if there were restrictions on how the settlement funds could be used.

2021-00

Presentation re: IK 2025
4-Year Update

City Planner Christina Anderson, Community Planning and Economic Development Director Rebekah Kik, Assistant Public Services Director Anthony Ladd, Community Planner Nolan Bergstrom, and Public Safety Chief Vernon Coakley delivered a presentation entitled *Imagine Kalamazoo Acts: Celebrating 4 Years of Progress*. A copy of the slides from this presentation was filed with the papers for this meeting.

In response to questions from Commissioners, City staff provided the following information:

- traffic calming projects were identified based on the Neighborhood Plans and resident requests and complaints. The City was working on a process to have resident comments reviewed for potential action, and staff would be putting information on the City's website regarding the submission of comments.
- tree planting initiatives were large projects, and the City reached out to property owners with postcards and door hangers to see if they wanted trees planted at their properties. Staff received feedback from property owners from

these engagement efforts and when the planting flags were placed. Staff also received proactive requests for trees.

- radar units provided traffic counts and speeds, but traffic calming on one street could affect speeds on other streets. More time was needed to get a full view of the data. Public Services did traffic counts across the City every three years, and CPED had done non-motorized counts. Public Services, Public Safety, and CPED all played a role in traffic calming, and there were speed reduction solutions that could be implemented without having complete data.
- right-of-way space should be for all transportation users – motorized, non-motorized, and pedestrian. Options for encouraging a pedestrian friendly culture included building up pedestrian infrastructure and adopting regulations like the crosswalk ordinance that was put in place before the COVID-19 pandemic.
- having data from the citywide tree inventory would help staff make decisions. There was some evidence of trees in poor condition, but they were spread throughout the City. The City only dealt with trees in public rights-of-way; there were opportunities for trees planted by property owners.

Commissioner Juarez stated there was a perception that traffic calming efforts were only taking place in affluent areas and not in the City's core neighborhoods. Commissioner Juarez stated he was encouraged to hear about a process for turning resident requests into action.

Commissioner Hess announced there would be Styrofoam recycling events on January 1st and January 29th.

Commissioner Praedel stated the City needed to double down on the resources it devoted to communication, and he urged staff to be creative and go beyond the internet and social media.

Mayor Anderson remarked on the effectiveness of speed bumps and noted the City began installing them as the result of resident input. Mayor Anderson observed that it would take 25 years, planting 500 trees per year, to fill the open spaces.

Next an opportunity was given for comments from City Commissioners.

Commissioner Praedel thanked the City for actually using the IK 2025 Plan.

The meeting adjourned at 6:31 p.m.

Scott A. Borling
City Clerk

Approved by the City Commission on: _____

2021-00

Presentation re: IK 2025
4-Year Update (cont'd)

Commissioner
Comments

Adjournment