

Roll Call

A regular meeting of the Kalamazoo City Commission was held on Monday, October 2, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Commission Chambers at City Hall.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Mayor Bobby J. Hopewell
Vice Mayor Don Cooney
David Anderson
Erin Knott
Matt Milcarek
Shannon Sykes
Jack Urban

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

None

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

Invocation

The invocation, given by Pastor Jimmy McKee, New Day Community Church, was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Oath of Office Ceremony

Mayor Hopewell offered remarks to the following new Public Safety Officers (PSO's), after which the City Clerk administered the Oath of Office:

Ellen Arnold
Nicole Corstange
Joe Dusenbery
Sean Gilmour
Andrew Groenveld
Matthew Harris
Alan Klein
Gustavo Iram Pop Monroy
Scott Tenney
Jeffrey Townsend
Shelby Walterhouse

Public Safety Chief Jeff Hadley provided biographical information on the PSO's, who were pinned with their badges by family and friends. Chief Hadley offered welcoming and encouraging remarks to the new officers.

Communications

City Manager Ritsema introduced Nick Christy, the new Human Resources Director.

Adoption of the Agenda

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

Public Hearing re: a Tax Abatement for Newell Rubbermaid

At 7:29 p.m. Mayor Hopewell opened a public hearing to receive comments on a resolution approving an application from Newell Rubbermaid, Inc. for a PA 198 Industrial Facilities Tax Exemption Certificate for 12 years for real property valued at \$6.68 million in existing Industrial Development District No. 128 located at 3300 Research Way.

Wyatt Klein, non-resident and a representative of Newell Rubbermaid, spoke in favor of the tax exemption certificate.

Joe Agostinelli, non-resident and a representative of Southwest Michigan First (SWMF), expressed support for the resolution.

Robert Miller, City resident and Associate Vice President for Western Michigan University (WMU), expressed support for the resolution.

At 7:36 p.m. Mayor Hopewell closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Knott, seconded by Commissioner Anderson, moved to adopt a **RESOLUTION** approving an application from Newell Rubbermaid, Inc. for a PA 198 Industrial Facilities Tax Exemption Certificate for 12 years for real property valued at \$6.68 million in existing Industrial Development District No. 128 located at 3300 Research Way, with an abatement of approximately \$20,040 in city property taxes beginning the year after construction is complete.

Prior to a vote on the motion, Commissioner Anderson thanked Mr. Agostinelli and Mr. Miller for speaking and representing the community partners. Commissioner Anderson noted there were positive, social benefits to the community when the City supported businesses and encouraged job creation.

Mayor Hopewell remarked it was great to have Newell in the community, and he acknowledged the City needed to do better with housing for urban professionals.

With a roll call vote this motion passed unanimously.

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

NAYS: None

At 7:39 p.m. Mayor Hopewell opened a public hearing to receive comments on a resolution approving the application from Zoetis, LLC for a PA 198 Industrial Facilities Tax Exemption Certificate for 12 years for real property valued at \$20,189,000 in existing Industrial Development District No. 39 and Plant Rehabilitation District No. 32 located at 2605 East Kilgore Road.

Keith Lewandowski, non-resident and project manager for the Zoetis project, expressed support for the proposed resolution.

Jill Bland, non-resident and a representative of SWMF, spoke in favor of the proposed resolution.

Chris Wahmhoff, City resident, expressed opposition to the proposed resolution.

Mark Callahan, non-resident and a representative from Zoetis, expressed support for the proposed resolution.

At 7:46 p.m. Mayor Hopewell closed the public hearing.

Public Hearing re: a
Tax Abatement for
Newell Rubbermaid
(cont'd)

Resolution 17-55
Approving a Tax
Abatement for Newell
Rubbermaid

Public Hearing re: a
Tax Abatement for
Zoetis, LLC

Resolution 17-56
Approving a Tax
Abatement for Zoetis,
LLC

Vice Mayor Cooney, seconded by Commissioner Urban, moved to adopt a **RESOLUTION** approving the application from Zoetis, LLC for a PA 198 Industrial Facilities Tax Exemption Certificate for 12 years for real property valued at \$20,189,000 in existing Industrial Development District No. 39 and Plant Rehabilitation District No. 32 located at 2605 East Kilgore Road.

Prior to a vote on the motion, Commissioner Anderson thanked SWMF and Zoetis for investing in the community.

With a roll call vote this motion passed unanimously.

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

NAYS: None

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 the purchase of two fire apparatus from Spartan ERV in the amount of \$1,013,503.

Resolution 17-57

- adoption of a **RESOLUTION** approving a revision to the City of Kalamazoo's Brownfield Plan, implemented and recommended for approval by the City of Kalamazoo Brownfield Redevelopment Authority.

Resolution 17-58

- adoption of a **RESOLUTION** to dissolve the City of Kalamazoo Local Development Finance Authority and to distribute the remaining assets.

- approval of a Michigan Economic Development Corporation SmartZone "Non-TIF" Agreement.

- approval of a buy/sell agreement with Kalvan Realty/James A. Cash regarding the purchase of 628 Lake Street and authorization for the City Manager or his designee to sign all related documents to complete the closing of this purchase.

- approve of the minutes from the City Commission meetings on August 28, September 18, and September 25, 2017.

Commissioner Knott, 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 unanimously.

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

NAYS: None

Regular Agenda items were considered next.

An opportunity was given for citizens to comment on the City of Kalamazoo's Marketing Strategy and Public Participation Plan as the final two pieces of the City's Redevelopment Ready Communities application, but no comments were offered.

Commissioner Urban, seconded by Commissioner Milcarek, moved to endorse the City of Kalamazoo Marketing Strategy and Public Participation Plan as the final two pieces of the City's Redevelopment Ready Communities application.

With a roll call vote this motion passed unanimously.

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

NAYS: None

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

Nehemiah Scudder, City resident, expressed support for a 10% flat income tax.

Frank Warren, City resident, spoke about the Honor Flight and the need to find housing for homeless veterans.

John Bradshaw, City resident, provided a report on the 2017 successes of the City's golf courses.

Eugene Strong, non-resident, expressed opposition to the observance of Columbus Day and the destruction of a Native American burial mound in Kalamazoo.

Zach Lassiter, City resident, noted the Grand Rapids City Council had stopped the practice of having secret meetings, and he urged the City Commission to do the same.

Mattie Jordan-Woods, City resident, invited people to attend a "meet the candidates" event on October 5th at the Northside Association for Community Development and the grand opening of the Northside Pocket Park on October 6th.

Linda Cypret-Kilbourne, non-resident, expressed opposition to the observance of Columbus Day and asked that the City Commission declare it "Indigenous Day."

Reverend William Stein, City resident, invited people to have free meals at God's Kitchen. Reverend Stein asked for donations to fund a mobile soup kitchen.

Chris Wahmhoff, City resident, expressed opposition to the observance of Columbus Day.

Regular Agenda

Endorsement of a
Marketing Strategy and
Public Participation Plan
for Redevelopment
Ready Community
Certification

Citizen Comments

Citizen Comments
(cont'd)

Ed Tarkowski, City resident, spoke about the City's fees for rental property inspections and expressed opposition to rent regulations. Mr. Tarkowski stated his rents were below market rates, but it was difficult to find tenants who took care of their homes.

City Commissioner
Comments

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

Commissioner Milcarek stated Christopher Columbus was bad and asked that the City give "Columbus Day" a local designation after-the-fact. Commissioner Milcarek remarked on the bad reputation of the City's rental registration program and indicated he could share many anecdotes that would back up Mr. Tarkowski's comments.

Commissioner Urban expressed support for giving Columbus Day a local designation that would celebrate something positive, such as the heritage of indigenous people. Commissioner Urban suggested the Commission discuss this idea in the coming months and possibly form a task force to transform Columbus Day into a day that has significance and meaning.

Commissioner Sykes also expressed support for renaming Columbus Day in Kalamazoo, and she asked to see this on a City Commission agenda within the next month or month and a half. Commissioner Sykes suggested the City plan something special to mark and celebrate the renamed holiday in 2018. Commissioner Sykes noted there were people in the Edison Neighborhood who cared for their homes. Commissioner Sykes expressed condolences and support for the victims of the Las Vegas shootings on October 1st.

Vice Mayor Cooney expressed support for renaming Columbus Day "Indigenous Peoples Day." Vice Mayor Cooney expressed condolences for the victims of the Las Vegas shootings on October 1st and urged state and federal officials to enact sensible gun control measures.

Mayor Hopewell acknowledged that a majority of Commissioners had requested the City look into creating a local designation for Columbus Day, and he recommended the day be used to celebrate those things the City loved and cared about, like the indigenous people of the area. Mayor Hopewell suggested there be a conversation on how to move forward with this. Mayor Hopewell stated he was speechless in the aftermath of the shootings in Las Vegas. Mayor Hopewell thanked Public Safety Officers and officers from surrounding jurisdictions for their service on September 30th when there were two fires in the City at the same time.

Closed Session

Commissioner Milcarek, seconded by Commissioner Sykes, moved that the City Commission go into closed session to discuss pending litigation.

Prior to a vote on the motion, Mayor Hopewell indicated the Commission would be returning to open session following the closed session.

With a roll call vote this motion passed unanimously.

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

Closed Session
(cont'd)

NAYS: None

The City Commission went into closed session at 8:32 p.m.
The City Commission returned to open session at 8:42 p.m.

Commissioner Knott, seconded by Commissioner Sykes, moved to authorize the City Attorney to enter a settlement agreement to resolve the claim by Kelly James v The City of Kalamazoo, et al. in the amount of \$42,000.

Lawsuit Settlement:
Kelly James v City
of Kalamazoo et al.

An opportunity was given for citizens to comment on this item, but no comments were offered.

With a roll call vote this motion passed unanimously.

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

NAYS: None

The meeting adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Scott A. Borling
City Clerk

For City Commission approval on October 16, 2017

Approved by: _____
Bobby J. Hopewell, Mayor
Dated: October 16, 2017