

Roll Call

A regular meeting of the Kalamazoo City Commission was held on Monday, June 6, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Commission Chambers at City Hall.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

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

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

None

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

Invocation

The invocation, given by Sister Betsy Meagher from the Congregation of Saint Joseph, was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Introduction of Guests

Mayor Anderson recognized the presence of Kalamazoo County Commissioner Tami Rey.

Proclamations
2022-00

Commissioner Hess proclaimed June 2022 *National Fatherhood Recognition Awareness Month* in Kalamazoo. Kevin Lavender, Jr. and other representatives from the Fatherhood Network of Kalamazoo received the proclamation. Prior to the presentation of the proclamation, Pastor Kevin Lavender, Sr. offered a special prayer.

2022-00

Commissioner Praedel proclaimed June 2022 *Justice Against Bullying @ School (JABS) Awareness Month* in Kalamazoo. Gwendolyn Hooker and JABS Club members and staff received 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 requested that Items G4 (contract with Balkema Construction, Inc. for improvements to the Milham Park Playground), G11 (a resolution recommending approval of a Social District and Commons Area permit for Factory Coffee LLC, located at 205 W Lovell Street), and G13 (a request from the LIFT Foundation to increase their loan for the renovation of the Knights Inn by an additional \$175,000) be moved to the Regular Agenda.

2022-00

Communications:
Presentation on the
Draft Community
Sustainability Plan

When an opportunity was given for communications, City Manager Ritsema introduced Sustainable Development Coordinator Jamie McCarthy, who delivered a presentation entitled *Kalamazoo Community Sustainability Plan (CSP): City Commission Business Meeting, June 6, 2022*. A copy of the slides from this presentation was filed with the papers for this meeting.

In response to questions and comments from Commissioners, Sustainable Development Coordinator McCarthy provided the following information:

- staff would bring forward the CSP for City Commission approval at the next meeting.

- the CSP had so many elements it deserved to stand on its own and not be merged with the Imagine Kalamazoo 2025 (IK2025) Master Plan.
- the City would need an additional position to organize and facilitate the implementation of the CSP. This person would be a planner whose responsibilities could also include facilitating collaboration with other jurisdictions.

Mayor Anderson thanked staff for their work on the CSP and noted the Kalamazoo Climate Crisis Coalition and the City's Environmental Concerns Committee (ECC) supported the plan.

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

In Person Comments

Melissa Ray, non-resident, asked the City to make accommodations for service animals in the City Commission Chambers. The speaker offered comments about corruption in the City and about having Post Traumatic Stress (PTS) from being bullied and abused. The speaker stated she was terminated from her job for not being able to handle being bullied.

Emma Baidy, City resident, stated the Commission needed to listen to people and indicated she was insulted that City staff did not know about a home repair program that had been discussed at the City Commissioner retreat in February. Ms. Baidy commented on the lack of lighting near Woodward Elementary School and the fact that the Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety (KDPS) sent only one officer to investigate a report of shots fired.

Maggie Adams, City resident and a member of the ISAAC Anti-Racism Task Force, spoke about City Manager Ritsema declining a recent appeal recommendation by the Citizen Public Safety Review and Appeal Board (CPSRAB). Ms. Adams requested that CPSRAB decisions stand alone or that the board report directly to the City Commission.

Anthony Hill, City resident, spoke about the need to help parents be better parents, and he described his experience doing this work.

Tobi Hanna-Davies, City resident and a member of the ISAAC Housing Task Force, encouraged the City to enforce its housing equity ordinance and the ban on source of income (SOI) discrimination. Ms. Hanna-Davies cited multiple cities that enforced local ordinances against SOI discrimination.

Shante Stafford, City resident, described how KDPS made assumptions and treated her son like an adult because he looked like an adult, even though he was only 14 years old.

Bill Farmer, a non-resident and representative of the Democratic Socialists of America, spoke about the federal Medicare for All Act. Mr. Farmer requested individual meetings with City Commissioners.

Tina McClinton, City resident, asked that the City fix the storm drains and chronic flooding in the Southtown Neighborhood. Ms. McClinton asked when

2022-00

Communications:
Presentation on the
Draft Community
Sustainability Plan
(cont'd)

Public Comments

Public Comments
(cont'd)

the City would recognize the Southtown Neighborhood as an official neighborhood.

Cathy Phason, non-resident and an intern with the ISAAC Housing Task Force, stated the City's decision to not enforce the ban on source of income discrimination was systemic racism, as this form of discrimination directly impacted the Black, Indigenous, People-of-Color (BIPOC) community.

Sadie Paul spoke about facing a court date for trespassing at the Radisson hotel and various other issues.

Charlae Davis, Executive Director for ISAAC, spoke about community violence and asked the City Commission to act according to the 2021 resolution declaring gun violence a public health crisis. Ms. Davis stated resources were needed in all impacted neighborhoods, and she urged the City to give funds to local non-profit organizations.

Andrew Chaponda expressed opposition to the City Attorney's opinion that the City could not enforce the housing equity ordinance, and he questioned where people with housing vouchers could go to use them.

Gwendolyn Hooker, City resident, asked the City Commission to act in accordance with the 2021 gun violence resolution and requested that the \$1 million the City and County allocated be distributed to local non-profits already doing the work of addressing gun violence.

An anonymous speaker encouraged Commissioners to get involved in community gardens. The speaker expressed appreciation to Commissioner Tami Rey and Gwendolyn Hooker for the gun violence resolution. The speaker expressed support for Ranked Choice Voting and spoke about bike-friendly infrastructure in surrounding communities.

2022-00

Jeff Messer, City resident, updated the City Commission on the Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) petition drive and stated some petition sheets were declared invalid, which meant those people needed to re-sign the petition. Mr. Messer encouraged people to inform themselves about RCV and sign the petition. A copy of Mr. Messer's written remarks was filed with the papers for this meeting.

Call-In Comments

Kate expressed disappointment with the City regarding how homeless people were treated by KDPS. The caller also spoke about the City Attorney and City Administration not enforcing the housing equity ordinance, and she asked the City Commission to address these issues.

Remi Harrington, City resident, stated she felt ignored during meetings about the CSP and indicated there was no discussion of environmental racism during the development of the Plan. Ms. Harrington spoke about urban farming and remarked that the City needed to support people in the community who were working on sustainability rather than hire a new person.

Ellen Nelson, City resident, expressed support for the source of income protections in the City's housing equity ordinance.

Nick Grisham spoke about his son being shot by the Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety and about his Freedom of Information Requests regarding the incident.

Public Comments
(cont'd)

Dick Shiltz, non-resident and a member of ISAAC's leadership board and Anti-Racism Task Force, expressed excitement about the continued work to build a relationship and trust legitimacy between the community and law enforcement. Mr. Shiltz asked about ongoing opportunities for ERACE training for City employees and the impact of completed training.

Ashante Collin questioned how the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) work at the City would continue after the retirement of former DEI Director Dorla Bonner.

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 contract supplemental with Rathco Safety and Supply, Inc. for traffic control rental and placement in the amount of \$124,000. **2022-00**
- approval a contract with Wightman for engineering services extending the hydraulic model of sanitary system interceptors, trunk lines and watersheds: Smart Sewer Shed - Phase II - in the amount of \$144,100. **2022-00**
- approval of a contract with Treeworks, Inc. for the removal of designated hazardous trees throughout the City and its cemeteries as outlined in the Hazardous Tree Removal Project in the amount of \$156,300. **2022-00**
- approval of a one-year term contract extension with Kalamazoo Oil, Inc. for biodiesel fuel for an amount not to exceed \$250,000. **2022-00**
- approval of a three-month contract with Alexander Chemical Corporation for the purchase of 12.5% sodium hypochlorite in the amount of \$257,075. **2022-00**
- approval of a contract supplemental and new purchase order with SWT Excavating, Inc. for the Random Material Inventory Project, in the amount of \$1,719,566.15. **2022-00**
- approval of a construction contract supplemental and change order with Davis Construction, Inc. for the procurement of the pre-engineered metal building for the Kalamazoo Water Reclamation Plant's Tertiary Disc Filtration Process Facility in the amount of \$1,805,988.99. **2022-00**
- approval of a one-year contract with Waste Management for loading, hauling, and disposal of belt press solids in the amount of \$8,924,018; and approval of a budget adjustment in the amount of \$2,289,010 to cover the contract amount. **2022-00**
- approval of a Memorandum of Understanding with Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency / Youth Opportunities Unlimited for the summer youth employment and training program in the amount of \$825,000. **2022-00**

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| 2022-00 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - approval of 2021 and 2022 budget amendments and acceptance of informational reporting on capital project carryforwards and grant acceptances. |
| 2022-00 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - acceptance of an Ending Community Violence Grant in the amount of \$50,000 from the State of Michigan Department of Health and Human Services; and approval of the allocation of these funds to Urban Alliance (\$45,000) and Western Michigan University (\$5,000). |
| 2022-00 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - approval of a request from Randy Martinez on behalf of Party Sparks, Inc. to publicly display fireworks indoors at the Wings Event Center, 3600 Vanrick Drive, on June 17, 2022 with an alternate date of June 18, 2022. |
| 2022-00 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - approval of the Mayor's appointment of Matt Hollander to the Downtown Development Authority and Downtown Economic Growth Authority Boards of Directors for concurrent terms expiring on March 31, 2024. |
| 2022-00 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - approval of the following appointments and reappointments to the Building Board of Appeals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the reappointment of Benjamin Bierlein for a term expiring on March 31, 2025. - the appointment of Jillian Hocking for a term expiring on March 31, 2025. - the appointment of Ryan Long for a term expiring on March 31, 2024. - the appointment of Matthew Maycroft for a term expiring on March 31, 2024. - the reappointment of Andrew Van Lente for a term expiring on March 31, 2025. |
| 2022-00 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - approval of the appointments of Jeff Chamberlain, Deputy City Manager, and Steve Vicenzi, Management Services Director / CFO, to the Utility Policy Committee as city alternate members. |
| 2022-00 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - approval of a recommendation to postpone until June 21, 2022 consideration of the purchase of 827 & 833 Walter Street from Kalamazoo County Mental Health Authority, dba Integrated Services of Kalamazoo, for a purchase price of \$10,700. |

Vice Mayor Cooney, seconded by Commissioner Hess, moved to approve the consent agenda requests and authorize the City Manager to sign all related documents on behalf of the City.

With a roll call vote this motion passed unanimously.

AYES: Commissioners Decker, Hess, Hoffman, Juarez, Praedel, Vice Mayor Cooney, Mayor Anderson*

NAYS: None

*At the time of the vote, Mayor Anderson abstained from voting on Item G-19, the purchase of 827 & 833 Walter Street from Kalamazoo County Mental Health Authority, dba Integrated Services of Kalamazoo, due to a conflict of interest, as Integrated Services of Kalamazoo was his employer.

Regular Agenda items were considered next.

City Manager Ritsema provided brief remarks on a proposed agreement with Kalamazoo Youth Development Network (KYDNet) to manage summertime youth development programs.

In response to questions and comments from Commissioners, Meg Blinkiewicz, Executive Director of KYDNet, provided the following information:

- KYDNet initially received 58 applications in response to the request for proposal (RFP). When applicants had to reapply, KYDNet received 39 applications, and 31 were selected for funding. The applications requested \$1.5 million in funding, but only \$875,000 was available.
- some of the applicants thought the process was complicated and too much work.
- KYDNet was ready to get to work as soon as the City provided the subrecipient agreement template.
- the groups that dropped out when applicants need to reapply were a mix of larger and small organizations and programs. KYDNet would give the City Commission a report at the end of the summer with data on the application process.
- some smaller organizations that did not have 501(c)(3) status were able to come into the process with a fiscal agent that satisfied this requirement.
- KYDNet used a rubric with criteria to evaluate the applications.
- regarding the loss of applicants from the first application process to the second, time was a factor, as was the frequent crashing of a federal computer system that provided information required for the application. Organizations had 10 days to reapply, which included the Memorial Day weekend. Organizations had to reapply because of compliance issues with the first application process and the American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) funding requirements. There were a lot of barriers that came with using federal funds.
- there were four or five organizations that had never received City funding. The amount of funding requested was an indicator of the need for youth development programs.

Commissioners thanked Ms. Blinkiewicz for her work.

When an opportunity was given for public comments on an agreement with the Kalamazoo Youth Development Network to be the subrecipient under the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds in the amount of \$1,000,000, the following people addressed the City Commission:

Consent Agenda
(cont'd)

Regular Agenda

2022-00

Contract with KYDNet
for Youth Development
Program Services

2022-00

Contract with KYDNet
for Youth Development
Program Services
(cont'd)

Gwendolyn Hooker, City resident, questioned what happened to the City Commission's request to not require 501(c)(3) status. Ms. Hooker stated she was not notified that she had to reapply for funding, which was an inequity. Ms. Hooker indicated there were too many barriers to get funding, she spoke of the need to streamline the process in an equitable way. Ms. Hooker questioned why organizations were not informed about a second application process.

An anonymous speaker commented on the need for better communication and expressed support for Ms. Hooker's comments. The speaker expressed appreciation for the City's new website, and especially the calendar tool.

Vice Mayor Cooney, seconded by Commissioner Hess, moved to approve an agreement with the Kalamazoo Youth Development Network to be the subrecipient under the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds in the amount of \$1,000,000.

Prior to a vote on the motion, Commissioner Decker questioned how information was sent out for the second application process.

Prior to a vote on the motion and in response to a question from Commissioner Decker, Ms. Blinkiewicz stated the second application process was the City's decision, not KYDNet's, because the RFP had to include a Notice of Funds Available (NOFA) to meet ARPA requirements. Ms. Blinkiewicz stated emails were sent to all the applicants regarding the need to reapply, and the information was also put out on the KYDNet website. Ms. Blinkiewicz explained the 10-day turnaround time was required in order to get the funds to organizations in time for summer.

At the invitation of Commissioner Juarez, Ms. Hooker offered remarks on Ms. Blinkiewicz's comments and reasserted she was not informed about the need to reapply for the youth development funding. Ms. Hooker spoke about the need for the City to distribute federal funds equitably.

City Manager Ritsema explained the City found out after the fact there were more ARPA compliance hoops to jump through than originally anticipated.

Commissioner Praedel suggested the City might be able to educate others who were considering the use of federal funds. Commissioner Praedel apologized to Ms. Blinkiewicz for the criticism she had received, and he noted the City needed to get the funds into the community quickly. Commissioner Praedel spoke about his experience as the director of a non-profit organization and stated federal funding was both a blessing and a curse. Commissioner Praedel indicated federal funding did not work well with tight timeframes and the regulations could be very burdensome for small non-profits.

Mayor Anderson pointed out the funding needed to be allowed to do its work; the City would be more educated next time.

With a roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

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

NAYS: None

City Manager Ritsema introduced an ordinance to amend Section 33-24 of the Kalamazoo City Code to permit fishing at Milham Park and indicated staff were present to answer Commissioners' questions.

Commissioner Praedel noted the proximity of Blanch Hull Preserve to Milham Park and observed that people frequently fished on the Blanch Hull portion of Portage Creek. Commissioner Praedel asked if Blanch Hull could be added to the ordinance to allow fishing there.

From a procedural standpoint, City Attorney Robinson recommended incorporating the additional language in the ordinance at the time it was offered for first reading, if that is what Commissioners wanted to do.

When an opportunity was given for public comments on an ordinance to amend Section 33-24 of the Kalamazoo City Code to permit fishing at Milham Park, the following people addressed the City Commission:

An anonymous speaker questioned whether someone fishing in the middle of the river could face enforcement action, as rivers were owned by the state.

Jeff Messer, City resident, expressed support for the proposed ordinance, including Commissioner Praedel's amendment. Mr. Messer encouraged Commissioners to be very exact with their words and not leave to chance how staff would interpret and enforce an ordinance.

Commissioner Praedel, seconded by Commissioner Juarez, moved to offer for first reading an ordinance to amend Section 33-24 of the Kalamazoo City Code to permit fishing at Milham Park and Blanch Hull Preserve.

With a roll call vote this motion passed unanimously.

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

NAYS: None

City Planner Christina Anderson delivered a presentation entitled *Text Edits: Chapter 50 Zoning Code, June 6, 2022*. A copy of the slides from the presentation was filed with the papers for this meeting.

Commissioner Praedel referenced an email Commissioners received right before the meeting started from Allison Parker on behalf of Betty's RP Kalamazoo. Commissioner Praedel reported this marihuana business was asking that the Commission eliminate prohibition on drive-thru operations.

In response to questions and comments from City Commissioners, City Planner Anderson and City Attorney Robinson provided the following information:

- drive-thru windows were prohibited for cannabis businesses in Chapter 20B, the cannabis licensing and regulatory ordinance. Therefore, removing the prohibition from the proposed zoning ordinance would not eliminate the prohibition altogether. The options for dealing with the drive-thru issue were:
1) remove the drive-thru prohibition from the proposed zoning ordinance and then use the upcoming review of Chapter 20B to discuss how to address the

2022-00

First Reading of an Ordinance to Permit Fishing in Milham Park

2022-00

Ordinance 2049
Approving Amendments to Chapter 50, The Zoning Code

2022-00

Ordinance 2049

Approving Amendments
to Chapter 50, The
Zoning Code (cont'd)

drive-thru prohibition; or 2) adopt the proposed zoning ordinance as presented and then use the upcoming review of Chapter 20B and/or the upcoming comprehensive review of commercial zoning districts to address the drive-thru prohibition.

- the email from Ms. Parker also requested that the City expand the number of zoning districts where cannabis businesses were allowed and/or increase the number of businesses allowed. Staff were preparing to start a review of all commercial zoning districts in the City; part of this review could be a consideration of where marihuana businesses should be located. This would be especially relevant if the review resulted in new zoning districts.
- the decision to use zoning regulations rather than a hard cap to limit the number of cannabis businesses, and the decision to disperse rather than concentrate these businesses, was made after considerable public input process.
- Chapter 20B prohibited drive-thru operations but not curbside service, which was different.
- maintaining the status quo was never the end of the discussion. The Zoning Code was not static; it could be changed again.

Commissioner Praedel stated he was struggling with the thought of not addressing the prohibition on drive-thru operations. Commissioner Praedel remarked that Betty's RP Kalamazoo was a mom-and-pop shop, and a drive-thru window would make a real difference to them.

Mayor Anderson spoke about the community input process that resulted in the current regulations and expressed concern about rewriting the ordinance from the dais. Mayor Anderson noted the Planning Commission approved the proposed ordinance and stated he was inclined to move forward with the ordinance as presented.

When an opportunity was given for public comments on an ordinance to amend the text of "Chapter 50: Zoning" of the Kalamazoo City Code, the following people addressed the City Commission:

Tina McClinton asked where the zoning changes were being made and questioned whether the ordinance was creating a way to bypass the Zoning Board of Appeals to allow construction in a floodplain.

Jeff Messer, City resident, asked about the types of businesses that were permitted to have drive thru windows. Mr. Messer asked that the Commission amend the proposed ordinance to allow drive thru service for marihuana businesses and then amend Chapter 20B to do the same at a later date.

Commissioner Decker, seconded by Commissioner Hess, moved to adopt an **ORDINANCE** to amend the text of "Chapter 50: Zoning" of the Kalamazoo City Code.

Prior to a vote on the motion, Commissioner Praedel expressed support for allowing residential uses on the ground floor of commercial properties. Commissioner Praedel suggested City staff reach out to Betty's RP Kalamazoo to

find out how they wanted to use a drive thru, and to see if something could be done to accommodate a drive thru for them (a variance, etc.).

With a roll call vote this motion passed unanimously.

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

NAYS: None

When an opportunity was given for public comments on a contract with Balkema Construction, Inc. for improvements to the Milham Park Playground in the amount of \$178,000, the following people addressed the City Commission:

Jeff Messer, City resident, asked for an explanation of the local preference policy and the definition of “local.” Mr. Messer questioned the validity of the business address for Balkema Construction.

Parks and Recreation Director Patrick McVerry reported there were two bidders for the project: Balkema Construction and Riverworks Construction from Holland. Director McVerry explained that if a local bidder was within 2% of the of the low bid, the local bidder was given the opportunity to match the low bid.

City Attorney Robinson stated a business had to be located in Kalamazoo County in order to be considered “local” for the sake of the Local Preference Purchasing Policy.

Commissioner Juarez expressed appreciation to Mr. Messer for bringing details about agenda items to the Commission’s attention.

Vice Mayor Cooney, seconded by Commissioner Decker, moved to approve a contract with Balkema Construction, Inc. for improvements to the Milham Park Playground in the amount of \$178,000.

Commissioner Praedel spoke about the need for the City to take at face value the information people provided about the location or their businesses.

In response to Commissioner Praedel, City Attorney Robinson confirmed it would be a crime for a vendor to knowingly provide false information in their proposal.

Vice Mayor Cooney remarked that the equipment at the playground needed to be replaced.

With a roll call vote this motion passed unanimously.

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

NAYS: None

2022-00

Ordinance 2049
Approving Amendments
to Chapter 50, The
Zoning Code (cont’d)

2022-00

Contract for Milham
Park Playground
Improvements

2022-00

Resolution 22-28 re: a
Social District/Commons
Area Permit for Factor
Coffee

When an opportunity was given for public comments on a resolution recommending approval of a Social District and Commons Area permit for Factory Coffee LLC, located at 205 W Lovell Street, the following people addressed the City Commission:

Jeff Messer, City resident, suggested that the City Commission repeal the ordinance prohibiting the public consumption of alcohol rather than limiting public consumption to a specific area, out of specific cups, bought from specific businesses.

An anonymous speaker expressed support for making it easier to drink alcohol in public.

City Attorney Robinson explained Social District and Commons Area statutes. City Attorney Robinson stated the City would lose control of public alcohol consumption if the ordinance was repealed, which could be a bad thing in a college town. City Attorney Robinson pointed out the designation of Social Districts was something the City was choosing to do.

Commissioner Hoffman, seconded by Commissioner Praedel, moved to adopt a **RESOLUTION** recommending approval of a Social District and Commons Area permit for Factory Coffee LLC, located at 205 W Lovell Street.

Prior to a vote on the motion, Commissioner Praedel noted this action was approving one permit for one business.

With a roll call vote this motion passed unanimously.

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

NAYS: None

2022-00

LIFT Foundation Loan
Increase for the Knights
Inn Project

When an opportunity was given for public comments on a request from the LIFT Foundation to increase their loan for the renovation of the Knights Inn by an additional \$175,000, the following people addressed the City Commission:

Jeff Messer, City resident, requested that all items requiring abstentions by Commissioners due to a conflict of interest be placed on the Regular Agenda.

Commissioner Hess, seconded by Commissioner Hoffman, moved to approve a request from the LIFT Foundation to increase their loan for the renovation of the Knights Inn by an additional \$175,000, for a total loan amount of \$375,000.

With a roll call vote this motion passed 6-0 with one abstention.

AYES: Commissioners Decker, Hess, Hoffman, Juarez, Praedel, Vice Mayor Cooney

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Mayor Anderson*

*At the time of the vote, Mayor Anderson indicated he was abstaining due to a conflict of interest, as he was a volunteer member of the LIFT Foundation board.

City Manager Ritsema reported the Parks and Recreation/KDPS Summer Kickoff Carnival would take place on Friday at Upjohn Park.

Policy items were considered next.

Mayor Anderson stated the City Commission needed to hire a consultant to develop a profile for the City Attorney position and recruit applicants. Mayor Anderson reported that he, Commissioner Decker, and Commissioner Praedel had reviewed multiple proposals and were recommending the City utilize the services offered by the Michigan Municipal League (MML).

Commissioner Decker stated the MML would be more accessible to Commissioners and the community during the process, and there was a lot of diversity within the MML team. Commissioner Decker noted there was a great talent pool in Michigan.

Commissioner Praedel explained the MML had a group of people who did this work, and they would select the people who were the best fit to work with the City. Commissioner Praedel stated the MML would work with Commissioners and those at City Hall who worked closely with the City Attorney, and they would help the Commission create a community engagement strategy.

An opportunity was given for public comments on the approval of the Michigan Municipal League to conduct the City Attorney selection process, but no comments were offered.

Commissioner Juarez, seconded by Commissioner Hess, moved to approve the Michigan Municipal League to Conduct the City Attorney Selection Process and authorize the City Manager to sign all documents on behalf of the City.

Prior to a vote on the motion, Mayor Anderson remarked that the hiring process for City Commission appointees was a group process, the process to hire a City Attorney would take months to complete.

With a roll call vote this motion passed unanimously.

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

NAYS: None

City Attorney Robinson noted he completed 42 years of service as a municipal attorney on June 2nd.

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

Commissioner Juarez commented on the City's responsibility to distribute federal funds as smoothly as possible and stated the City needed to learn from its mistakes with the youth development funds. Commissioner Juarez noted that missing people in a process caused distrust. Commissioner Juarez spoke about gun violence and

City Manager's Report

Policy Items

2022-00

Selection of the Michigan Municipal League to Conduct the City Attorney Search Process

Commissioner Comments

Commissioner
Comments (cont'd)

the work of the Gun Violence Subcommittee. Commissioner Juarez distributed a flyer for Gun Violence Resource and Resilience Rallies. Commissioner Juarez expressed support for aligning the City's actions with the 2021 gun violence resolution.

Commissioner Decker reported she and Commissioner Hess participated in a golf fundraiser for the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) on Saturday. Commissioner Decker expressed excitement for the summer kick-off event on Friday and the City's new website.

Commissioner Praedel remarked on the City's recent communications efforts, including the new website and the hiring of a new Public Information Officer and Communications Manager. Commissioner Praedel noted the meeting agenda included the approval of \$875,000 for the Summer Youth Employment Program and \$875,000 for youth development programs. Commissioner Praedel stated the Community Sustainability Plan was a big deal, and he expressed support for a new staff position to expand the City's capacity to implement the plan.

Commissioner Hess expressed gratitude for Kevin Lavender and Gwendolyn Hooker. Commissioner Hess commended OutFront Kalamazoo and Tracy Hall for the Pride event on Saturday. Commissioner Hess announced there would be a Community Brunch for Young Black Males at the Radisson hotel on Saturday. Commissioner Hess read poem by Amanda Gorman entitled "Hymn for the Hurting" that was written after the shootings in Uvalde, Texas.

Vice Mayor Cooney stated there were steps that needed to be taken at the federal level to address gun violence, but there were also actions that could be taken in Kalamazoo. Vice Mayor Cooney stated the City needed to take serious action, and he expressed hope that the Gun Violence Subcommittee would put forward its recommendations soon.

Mayor Anderson noted most of the work in the City was done by staff. Mayor Anderson noted he had attended a gun violence event in Bronson Park earlier in the evening. Mayor Anderson thanked Commissioners for working on subcommittees, and he expressed hope that the City Commission could take some type of action regarding gun violence, even as soon as its next meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:54 p.m.

Scott A. Borling
City Clerk

Approved by the City Commission on: _____

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