

Roll Call

A regular meeting of the Kalamazoo City Commission was held on Tuesday, June 21, 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 Deputy City Manager Laura Lam, City Attorney Clyde Robinson, and Deputy City Clerk Shelby Moss.

Invocation

The invocation, given by Rabbi Simone Schicker of the Temple B'nai Israel, was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Adoption of the Agenda

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

Vice Mayor Cooney requested a discussion item be added under New Business – next steps to stop violence in the community.

Deputy City Manager Lam requested the Issuance of the 2022 Capital Improvement Bonds be added to the Regular Agenda as Item H4.

A member of the public requested Item G12 (approval of the purchase of 827 & 833 Walter Street) be moved to the Regular Agenda.

Communications

Deputy City Manager Lam and Public Safety Chief Vernon Coakley introduced Emergency Preparedness & Resource Manager Brandi Janes. Ms. Janes introduction presentation was published with the paperwork for this meeting.

Public Comments

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

In-Person Comments

Sharon Dever, City resident, spoke about the efforts of the Rank MI Vote initiative.

The following people expressed concerns regarding the removal of on-street parking at the end of Winchell Avenue near an access point to the Asylum Lake Preserve and proposed the on-street parking be returned to end of Winchell Avenue:

Jane Fisher-Laing, City resident
Mark Hoffman, City resident
John Kreuzer, City resident
Lauri Holmes, City resident
Richard Voorman, City resident and Complete Streets Advisory Committee member

Wendy Denning, City resident
Tom Homes, City resident

Public Comments
(cont'd)

The following people encouraged the City to enforce its housing equity ordinance and the ban on source of income (SOI) discrimination:

Pat Vinge, Deacon at St. Martin of Tours Episcopal Church and Member of the ISSAC THRT Housing Task Force
Cathy Phason, non-resident, and ISSAC Housing Task Force and Advocacy employee
Charlae Davis, ISAAC Executive Director
Tobi, Hanna-Davies, City resident and Member of the ISSAC THRT Housing Task Force (call-in)

The following people expressed support for the City Commission adopting a Medicare for All resolution and spoke about the benefits healthcare for all could provide:

Ryan Smith, City resident, and member of Southwest Michigan Democratic Socialist
Evan Simpson, City resident
Bill Farmer, Non-resident
Joe Byers, City resident (call-in)

Ian Magnuson, City resident and Environmental Concerns Committee (ECC) Vice Chairperson, expressed support for returning the on-street parking to the end of Winchell Avenue and the Community Sustainability Plan with the addition of a director level position to implement the plan.

Aaron Wright, City resident and ECC Chairperson, expressed support for the Community Sustainability Plan with the additions of: 1) a director level staff position to implement the Plan; 2) mandatory reporting to ECC; 3) the use of the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives data collection to track progress; 4) for the City to exercise regional leadership and coordination; and 5) to surpass the goal of having zero emissions by 2050.

Susan Schneider, City resident and a member of the Coordinating Committee of the Kalamazoo Climate Crisis Coalition, expressed support for the Community Sustainability Plan with the additions described by ECC Chairman Wright and the Winchell Neighborhood Plan, which included bike lanes on Winchell Avenue.

Peter Kushner, City resident and Winchell Neighborhood Association President, expressed support for the Winchell Neighborhood Plan and provided information regarding the development of the Plan.

Steve Glista, City resident, expressed support for City bike lanes and a connected safe City but asked if there could be a compromise between on-street parking on Winchell Avenue and the need for bike lanes.

Ben Stanley, City resident, proposed banning all vehicles in the City of Kalamazoo and implementing the use of electrical bicycles for mobility. Mr. Stanley expressed concerns regarding the implementation of a community garden and a citation he received for having a garden in his front yard.

Public Comments
(cont'd)

Jeff Messer, City resident, spoke about the efforts of the Rank MI Vote initiative and gave instructions on how residents could sign the petition.

Call-In Comments

Dustin Black, Non-resident, expressed support for the bike lanes on Winchell Avenue and the Community Sustainability Plan.

Tina McClinton, City resident, expressed concerns regarding the removal of parking on Broadway Avenue and the outdated stormwater system in the Southtown Neighborhood.

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:

2022-00

- approval of a sole source purchase with Dean Boiler to rebuild and upgrade the number one boiler for the snowmelt system in the amount of \$181,423.

2022-00

- approval of a contract with Balkema Excavating, Inc. for the 2022 Miscellaneous Water Work.

2022-00

- approval of a one-year contract with Ferguson Waterworks for the purchase of 2022 miscellaneous water inventory in the amount of \$796,338.73.

2022-00

Resolution 22-29

- adoption of a **RESOLUTION** approving a request from the Downtown Development Authority to levy a tax rate of 1.9638 mills.

2022-00

Resolution 22-30

- adoption of a **RESOLUTION** confirming the 2022 Assessment Roll.

2022-00

Resolution 22-31

- adoption of a **RESOLUTION** adopting the Tenth Amendment to the City's Revised Brownfield Plan.

2022-00

Resolution 22-32

- adoption of a **RESOLUTION** approving and adopting an Act 81 Brownfield Plan for a redevelopment project located at 315 E. Frank Street.

2022-00

- adoption of a Housing Development Fund "Housing For All" loan in the amount of \$400,000 for gap financing to construct affordable housing units at 315 East Frank Street.

2022-00

- approval of a Housing Development Fund loan in the amount of \$750,000 for gap financing to construct senior affordable housing units at 530 S. Rose Street.

2022-00

- approval of the following appointments to boards and commissions:
 - the appointment of Nathan Browning to the Community Development Act Advisory Committee as an At-Large Member for a term expiring on March 31, 2025.

- the appointment of Megan Campanile to the Community Development Act Advisory Committee as the Stuart Neighborhood Representative for a term expiring on March 31, 2025.
- the appointment of Joseph Hawver to the Community Development Act Advisory Committee as an At-Large Member for a term expiring on March 31, 2024.
- the appointment of Stephanie Vallar to the Community Development Act Advisory Committee as the Northside Neighborhood Representative for a term expiring on March 31, 2025.
- the appointment of Tiyanna Williams to the Community Development Act Advisory Committee as the Edison Neighborhood Representative for a term expiring on March 31, 2025.
- the appointment of Jerrid Burdue to the Zoning Board of Appeals as an alternate member for a term expiring on March 31, 2025.
- approval and acceptance of an easement with Texas Township for water main installed as part of the 6th Street South Tank and Water Main Extension Project.
- approval of the minutes from the City Commission meetings on April 4, April 18, May 2, May 16, and June 6, 2022
- approval of a recommendation to postpone until July 5, 2022 consideration of the sale of 3408 Hoover to Kalamazoo Neighborhood Housing Services for the price of \$500.

Consent Agenda
(cont'd)

2022-00

2022-00

2022-00

Commissioner Decker, 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 Decker, Hess, Hoffman, Juarez, Praedel*, Vice Mayor Cooney, Mayor Anderson

NAYS: None

*At the time of the vote, Commissioner Praedel abstained from voting on Item G6, a resolution adopting the tenth amendment to the City's revised Brownfield Plan, Item G7, a resolution approving and adopting an Act 381 Brownfield Plan for a redevelopment project located at 315 E. Frank Street, and Item G8, a Housing Development Fund "Housing For All" loan in the amount of \$400,000 for gap financing to construct affordable housing units at 315 East Frank Street, due to a conflict of interest.

Regular Agenda items were considered next.

Regular Agenda

2022-00

Ordinance 2050
Permitting Fishing at
Milham Park and
Blanch Hull Preserve

Commissioner Hoffman, seconded by Commissioner Praedel, moved to adopt an **ORDINANCE** to amend Section 33-24 of the Kalamazoo City Code to permit fishing at Milham Park and Blanche Hull Preserve.

An opportunity was given for public comments on the proposed ordinance, but no comments were offered.

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

Budget Amendment
to Fund the
Kalamazoo Police
Athletic League

Chief Coakley and Parks and Recreation Director Patrick McVerry gave a presentation entitled *2022 Kalamazoo PAL Program Overview*. A copy of the presentation has been filed with the paperwork for this meeting.

Chief Coakley announced Jeff Hood, Chief Executive Officer at the National Association of Police Athletic/Activities Leagues, Inc., would be present during the 3 on 3 Basketball event at Bronson Park on Saturday, July 23, 2022.

In response to questions and concerns from Commissioners, Chief Coakley stated the programs would support male and female athletes in nontraditional player roles and indicated the Midnight Basketball League was a nationally recognized organization giving young people an alternative to drugs and crime.

Commissioner Praedel recognized the efforts of former City Commissioner Eric Cunningham to bring these programs to the community.

When an opportunity was given for public comments on a proposed budget amendment to fund a Police Athletic League (PAL) in the City, the following people addressed the City Commission:

Reed Shilts, City resident, expressed concerns regarding the funding of the PAL programs and the vastly different dollar amounts given to each sport. Mr. Shilts proposed the City should send the money to Ukraine instead of funding the athletic programs.

Susan Schneider, City resident, expressed concerns regarding the funding of the PAL programs and warned of the dangers of concussions associated with athletics.

Becket Jones, candidate for Judge of 8th District Court, expressed support for the programs and stated it was a wonderful opportunity for youth in the community.

Commissioner Juarez, seconded by Commissioner Praedel, moved to approve a budget amendment of \$500,000 for the Kalamazoo Police Athletic League to administer the operation of the athletics and activities planned for 2022 from American Rescue Plan Act funds.

In response to questions and concerns from the public, Chief Coakley explained concussion prevention training would be provided for all coaches through the

SafeSport Training program, and the coaches would provide training to athletes on how to play the game safely. Chief Coakley stated 60 of the PAL participants were attending a workshop at Michigan State University on how to play Rocket Football safely. Chief Coakley explained the Rocket Football equipment would be reused from year to year, and the program was in response to community input for a local Rocket Football program.

Commissioner Juarez expressed support for the programs and the safety of all youth involved.

With a roll call vote this motion passed unanimously.

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

NAYS: None

In response to questions from Commissioner Praedel, City Planner Christina Anderson and Community Planner Nolan Bergstrom stated the Community Sustainability Plan included a new, non-director level position to implement the plan. Planner Anderson explained the role of the new Sustainability Planner and the supporting role they would provide to collect data, advance internal corporation between departments, and build relationships with community partners including Consumers Energy. Planner Bergstrom explained the City was collaborating with local jurisdictions to grow their sustainability programs and proposed the internal working group would review programs with the public to ensure they were being implemented in an equitable way.

Commissioner Hess requested the new Sustainability Planner provide an update to the City Commission once a quarter on the progress of the Community Sustainability Plan. Planner Anderson stated updates and reports would be provided to the Commission.

When an opportunity was given for public comments on the Community Sustainability Plan, the following people addressed the City Commission:

Sharon Dever, City resident and ECC member, expressed support for a director level staff member to implement the plan and that the position be supported immediately by the FY2022 budget.

Ian Magnuson, City resident and ECC Vice Chairperson, requested the City Commission approve the plan with a director level staff position and that the director level position be supported immediately by the FY2022 budget.

Commissioner Hess, seconded by Commissioner Decker, moved to adopt a **RESOLUTION** adopting a Community Sustainability Plan.

Prior to the vote, Vice Mayor Cooney, Commissioner Juarez, and Commissioner Praedel expressed support for the staff position in the Community Sustainability Plan being a director level position.

Commissioner Hoffman thanked those that spoke about the Community Sustainability Plan and stated the Commission had the best interests of all City residents at heart.

2022-00

Budget Amendment
to Fund the
Kalamazoo Police
Athletic League
(cont'd)

2022-00

Resolution 22-33
Adopting the Community
Sustainability Plan

2022-00

Resolution 22-33
Adopting the Community
Sustainability Plan
(cont'd)

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

Resolution 22-34 Notice
of Intent Resolution for
CIP Bonds

Deputy City Manager Lam introduced Item H4, adoption of a Notice of Intent resolution for the issuance of the 2022 Capital Improvement Bonds in the amount not to exceed eighteen million dollars (\$18,000,000). Deputy City Manager Lam explained the item was being added to the agenda due to a timing issue with the completion of legal paperwork, and the item was not included with the published agenda packet by mistake. Deputy City Manager Lam apologized on behalf of City staff for the late addition and stated it would not become a regular practice to add items at a meeting.

Commissioner Juarez, seconded by Vice Mayor Cooney, moved to adopt a Notice of Intent **RESOLUTION** for the issuance of the 2022 Capital Improvement Bonds in the amount not to exceed eighteen million dollars (\$18,000,000).

An opportunity was given for public comments on the Notice of Intent Resolution, but no comments were offered.

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

Approval of the
Purchase of 827 and
833 Walter Street

Commissioner Juarez, seconded by Commissioner Hess, moved to approve 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.

An opportunity was given for public comments on this item, but no comments were offered.

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 abstained as his employer, Integrated Services of Kalamazoo, was a party to the transaction.

City Manager's Report

Deputy City Manager Lam announced the Odor Remediation Efforts Quarterly Report for May 2022 was published with the agenda packet for the meeting.

An opportunity was given for questions or concerns from Commissioners on the quarterly report, but no comments were offered.

New Business items were considered next.

Vice Mayor Cooney announced he wanted to discuss gun violence in the community, and he requested the City Commission authorize the Gun Violence Prevention Subcommittee to continue meeting to consider the use of City resources for addressing gun violence.

Commissioner Juarez stated gun violence was not only a City issue but a County issue as well. Commissioner Juarez expressed support for the subcommittee continuing to meet to discuss strategies around solving gun violence. Commissioner Juarez remarked on his personal experiences with gun violence, and he stated he did not want his children or others to have to protest gun violence in the future.

Commissioner Hess stated local organizations and individuals were already in the community working to end gun violence; supporting their work with the \$1,000,000 allocation would make the dollars go further.

Vice Mayor Cooney stated \$1,000,000 may not be enough money to address the issues of gun violence, and more money may need to be allocated because it was about meeting the needs not the dollar amount. Vice Mayor Cooney expressed support for funding organizations or individuals already aligned with gun violence prevention programs.

Commissioner Hoffman provided remarks on the “urgent” matters of the Black, Indigenous, and People-of-Color (BIPOC) community. Commissioner Hoffman’s remarks were filed with the paperwork for this meeting.

Commissioner Praedel offered remarks on his experience serving on the Commission, and he asked his fellow Commissioners how they will know when the community had been heard? Commissioner Praedel expressed concerns regarding the immediate crisis the community was facing from gun violence.

Commissioner Hoffman highlighted the resolution declaring gun violence a public health crisis adopted by the City Commission in September of 2021, and she expressed support for creating a process for the City and County to fund individuals and organizations already working to end gun violence.

Vice Mayor Cooney requested that the Gun Violence Prevention Subcommittee meet the next day to continue their conversations.

Commissioner Juarez thanked KDPS Deputy Chief Dave Boysen and Chief Coakley for continuing to work towards a solution to end gun violence.

Mayor Anderson thanked the Gun Violence Prevention Subcommittee for their work and expressed support for the comments made during the meeting. Vice Mayor Anderson expressed concerns regarding the next shooting incident and the lack of a “plan” for addressing gun violence before the summer. Mayor Anderson expressed support for spending as much money as necessary to make real connections with people to stop the violence and authorized the subcommittee to continue to meet and develop a plan to spend the allocated funds.

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

New Business

Discussion re: Gun Violence

City Commissioner Comments

City Commissioner
Comments (cont'd)

Commissioner Juarez remarked on the need for neighbors to love neighbors and the significance of having a sense of community. Commissioner Juarez conveyed the importance of unity and working with others to solve problems.

Commissioner Hoffman highlighted the need for the City to change its thinking and be more creative with solutions to community problems. Commissioner Hoffman stated she had spoken with representatives from Stockton, California and Charleston, South Carolina because they were seeking advice on how to create a "Homes for All" campaign, a "Vote Yes for Kids" Campaign, and a Housing Equity Ordinance. Commissioner Hoffman stated she told them the campaigns and ordinance was accomplished in the City of Kalamazoo because of a very determined Kalamazoo community and passionate individuals working together.

Commissioner Hess conveyed her observations of the evening and encouraged those doing important work for the community to do that work through the lenses of equity and empathy. Commissioner Hess requested City staff work with Western Michigan University and the Asylum Lake Preservation Association (ALPA) to address concerns related to the removal of parking at the end of Winchell Avenue. Commissioner Hess highlighted the consent agenda items involving housing and thanked Jamauri Bogan for his work on housing in the Northside Neighborhood. Commissioner Hess welcomed Brandi Janes to the City of Kalamazoo.

Commissioner Praedel celebrated the good work being accomplished in the City by highlighting the housing items passed on the consent agenda, the Community Sustainability Plan, the amount of money being allocated for youth programming, and the City's advanced position to receive and use funds under the American Rescue Plan Act. Commissioner Praedel thanked the ALPA representatives for attending the meeting and requested City staff contact them to find a compromise on the removal of parking from Winchell Avenue.

Vice Mayor Cooney expressed support for short-term and long-term solutions to ending gun violence in the community. Vice Mayor Cooney expressed support for restoring the parking spaces on the end of Winchell Avenue near the Asylum Lake Preserve entrance. Vice Mayor Cooney requested that a resolution supporting the Medicare for All Act be on the agenda for the next City Commission meeting.

Mayor Anderson recognized City staff for their excellent work, and he recognized City street crews for completing projects around the City in hot weather.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:06 p.m.

Shelby Moss
Deputy City Clerk

Approved by the City Commission on: _____

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