

Roll Call

A regular meeting of the Kalamazoo City Commission was held on Monday, December 4, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Commission Chambers at City Hall, 241 West South Street.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Mayor Bobby J. Hopewell
Vice Mayor Erin Knott
David Anderson
Don Cooney
Eric Cunningham
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 Dori Beltz, The River Church, was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Youth Programs Update

City of Kalamazoo parks staff delivered a PowerPoint presentation entitled, *Summer FFE Programs: Supervised Recreation, All Things Possible, MyCity (YOU)*. Karen Carlisle and Eric Stewart of Youth Opportunities Unlimited delivered a PowerPoint presentation entitled *myCity Summer Youth Employment Program: 2017 Program Review*.

Ms. Carlisle and Mr. Stewart presented plaques to the following businesses that participated in the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP):

Denzo Manufacturing
Duncan Aviation
Flowserve Corporation
Gryphon Place
Kalamazoo Nature Center
Kiddie U Preschool
MediLodge
Nature's Way Preschool
Public Media Network
The YWCA
Wenke Greenhouses
Western Michigan University

Commissioner Cooney thanked YOU for their work and expressed support for the career development training that was added to SYEP in 2017.

In response to a question from Commissioner Cooney, Ms. Carlisle stated the Van Buren Technical Center and all of the training sites were excellent to work with. Ms. Carlisle indicated YOU staff would be working to extend the programs at the current sites and expand the number of training centers involved with SYEP.

Commissioner Anderson remarked on the success of SYEP and expressed support for the program evaluation tools that were developed. Commissioner Anderson recognized Flowserve as a for-profit business and noted participation in SYEP was not just for non-profit organizations.

In response to a question from Commissioner Urban, Ms. Carlisle stated there had always been good communication between YOU and Kalamazoo Public Schools (KPS), but it was a big effort to coordinate SYEP with the KPS summer school schedule.

Parks and Recreation Director Sean Fletcher thanked community partners, the Parks and Recreation Department staff, and the Foundation for Excellence for making the summer youth programs possible.

In response to a question from Commissioner Cooney, Director Fletcher indicated one of the City's goals was to find ways to support the KPS summer reading program.

City Manager Ritsema thanked Director Fletcher and his staff for their hard work and ability to make the summer youth programs happen on very short notice.

Mayor Hopewell stated the City needed to track the impact of these programs beyond the summer and find ways to involve entire families.

Michelle Parkkonen, Manager of the Redevelopment Ready Communities program at the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC), presented the Redevelopment Ready Community Certification Award to the City of Kalamazoo. Mayor Hopewell and City Manager Ritsema accepted the award.

Commissioner Anderson remarked on cooperative work between the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) and the MEDC to address workforce housing development, and he stated Kalamazoo was eager and ready to help this program get off the ground and develop.

Mayor Hopewell thanked Assistant City Manager Laura Lam, Community Planning and Development Director Rebekah Kik, and Assistant City Manager Jerome Kisscorni for their work to improve the City's development processes.

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

City Manager Ritsema announced the City Commission would hold a work session on Monday, December 11th at 4:15 p.m. to discuss the City's proposed budget for fiscal year 2018.

Consent Agenda items were presented as follows with a recommendation to approve the items authorize the City Manager to sign all documents on behalf of the city:

- first reading of an ordinance to rezone Mayors' Riverfront Park at 251 Mills Street from Zone M-1 (Manufacturing, Limited District) to

Youth Programs
Update (cont'd)

Adoption of the
Agenda

Communications

Consent Agenda

Consent Agenda
(cont'd)

Zone CMU (Commercial, Mixed Use District) and schedule a public hearing for December 18, 2017.

- first reading of an ordinance to amend Section 2-237 B. of the City Retirement System Ordinance to permit general member employees with credited service with a reciprocal governmental unit to use such prior service to avoid the reduction in pension amount if they retire with 25 years of credited service, but less than 62 years of age.
- first reading of an ordinance to amend section 22-42 of the Kalamazoo City Code regarding the purchase, consumption, or possession of alcoholic liquor by a minor.

Resolution 17-63

- adoption of a **RESOLUTION** approving three new Neighborhood Enterprise Zone Certificate requests for 423 West Dutton Street, 444 West Vine Street, and 604 South Rose Street; and transfer a previously-approved Certificate for 724 Oak Street.

Resolution 17-64

- adoption of a **RESOLUTION** setting a public hearing on December 18, 2017 to consider the proposed Fiscal Year 2018 Budget for the City of Kalamazoo.

Resolution 17-65

- adoption of a **RESOLUTION** approving the 80% / 20% option for sharing medical plan benefit costs with City employees.
- approval of a request from New Year's Fest of Kalamazoo to publicly display fireworks from the Epic Center Parking Structure on Sunday, December 31, 2017 at midnight as part of the annual New Year's Fest event.
- approval of a purchase agreement with Ivest Real Estate Group/Carl Besteman regarding the purchase of 624 Lake Street and authorization for the City Manager or his designee to sign all related documents to complete the closing of this purchase.
- approval and acceptance of an easement from CLLH, LLC for water main installed as part of the Belle Meade Cottage Living Construction Project; and authorize the City Manager to sign all related and necessary documents regarding the acquisition of the easement.
- approval of the following appointments to the Local Officers Compensation Commission:
 - the appointment of Mark Liddle for a term expiring on March 31, 2024.
 - the appointment of Barbara Hamilton Miller for a term expiring on March 31, 2024.

Vice Mayor Knott, seconded by Commissioner Sykes, 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, Cooney, Cunningham, Sykes,
Urban, Vice Mayor Knott, Mayor Hopewell

NAYS: None

Regular Agenda items were considered next.

Commissioners discussed the process for selecting Commissioner Directors and an At-Large Director for the Foundation of Excellence (FFE) Board of Directors.

Commissioner Anderson noted there was an established process for assigning and appointing Commissioners to various boards, commissions, and committees, and he recommended using this process to select City Commissioners to serve on the FFE Board. Commissioner Anderson remarked that the City Clerk had distributed a survey sheet for Commissioners to indicate their board, commission, and committee preferences.

Commissioner Sykes suggested the City Commission consider and vote on the appointment of the FFE members separately from the other board/commission/committee assignments, so that Commissioners would have an opportunity to discuss their reasons.

In response to a question from Mayor Hopewell, City Clerk Borling indicated the City Commission typically considered the appointment of Commissioners to boards, commissions, and committees as an item on the Consent Agenda.

Commissioner Urban expressed a desire to see Commissioners work out the assignments amongst each other so that the final approval could be by consent. Commissioner Urban suggested the City Clerk share the compiled results of the survey with all Commissioners.

Commissioner Anderson suggested the establishment of a deadline for Commissioners to submit their completed surveys to the City Clerk.

Mayor Hopewell noted Commissioner Urban had indicated a desire to serve on the FFE Board, and he asked if any other Commissioners wanted to serve on this board.

Commissioner Anderson indicated he wanted to serve on the FFE Board.

Commissioner Cooney indicated he was willing to serve on the FFE Board, but it was not a priority.

An opportunity was given for citizens to comment on a recommendation that the City Commission approve a selection process for Commission Directors to the Foundation for Excellence Board of Directors, but no comments were offered.

Consent Agenda
(cont'd)

Regular Agenda

Appointment of
Commissioners to
the FFE Board of
Directors

Appointment of
Commissioners to
the FFE Board of
Directors (cont'd)

Commissioner Sykes, seconded by Commissioner Cunningham, moved to approve a selection process for Commission Directors to the Foundation for Excellence Board of Directors.

With a roll call vote this motion passed unanimously.

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

NAYS: None

Vice Mayor Knott, seconded by Commissioner Sykes, moved to appoint Commissioners Anderson and Urban to the Foundation for Excellence Board of Directors.

An opportunity was given for citizens to comment on the appointment of Commissioners Anderson and Urban to the FFE Board of Directors, but no comments were offered.

With a roll call vote this motion passed unanimously.

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

NAYS: None

City Attorney's Report

City Attorney Robinson announced the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) had issued emergency rules for its administration of the Medical Marihuana Facilities Licensing Act (MMFLA) earlier that day, and he stated he would begin working with staff to see if any adjustments needed to be made to the City's draft ordinances. City Attorney Robinson indicated he would aim to bring the proposed ordinances to the City Commission for consideration at the second business meeting in January or the first meeting in February.

Commissioner Anderson thanked City Attorney Robinson for his report and stated he was proud that the City had done a lot of work already on a medical marihuana facilities ordinance and had held public input meetings.

Mayor Hopewell remarked the City of Lansing had included a community benefit requirement in its medical marihuana facility ordinance.

Policy Items

Next, Policy Items were considered.

Resolution 17-66
Amending the City
Commission Rules

An opportunity was given for citizens to comment on a resolution amending the City Commission Rules related to: 1) designation of the Mayor Pro tempore; and 2) the creation and composition of City Commission standing and appointed committees. The changes reflect that City Commissioners are elected to staggered, 4-year terms and that every two years is considered a new City Commission legislative session, but no comments were offered.

Commissioner Sykes, seconded by Commissioner Urban, moved to adopt a **RESOLUTION** amending the City Commission Rules related to: 1) designation of the Mayor Pro tempore; and 2) the creation and composition of City Commission standing and appointed committees. The changes reflect that City Commissioners are elected to staggered, 4-year terms and that every two years is considered a new City Commission legislative session.

With a roll call vote this motion passed unanimously.

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

NAYS: None

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

Cheree Thomas, City resident, expressed support for the City's Shared Prosperity Kalamazoo initiative and spoke about the high infant mortality rate in Kalamazoo among babies of color. Mr. Thomas reported Greater Kalamazoo had established a goal of reducing the infant mortality rate among babies of color to 6 per 100 live births by 2020. Ms. Thomas requested that the City Commission endorse Greater Kalamazoo as an official strategy under SPK Goal #3, and that the City Commission appoint a Commissioner to serve on Greater Kalamazoo Steering Committee.

Frank Warren, City resident, announced veterans would be giving awards to Don Seelye Ford for flying 28 flags at their dealership on Stadium Drive.

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

Commissioner Sykes thanked the Greater Kalamazoo team and volunteered to serve on the steering committee. Commissioner Sykes asked City Manager Ritsema to schedule a presentation by Greater Kalamazoo on an upcoming City Commission agenda. Commissioner Sykes thanked Commissioners for taking a public vote on the appointment of Commissioner Directors to the FFE Board. Commissioner Sykes announced that she was in a competition with County Commissioner Tracy Hall and Kalamazoo Township Trustee Jennifer Strebs to see which public body would raise the most money for the Christmas dinner provided by God's Kitchen. Commissioner Sykes thanked the Parks and Recreation team for their presentation and especially the video. Commissioner Sykes spoke about the reality of mental health issues and encouraged people struggling with depression and anxiety to get help.

Commissioner Anderson expressed appreciation to Commissioner Sykes for her remarks. Commissioner Anderson noted the retirement investment system had celebrated its 35th birthday in October, and he

Resolution 17-66
Amending the City
Commission Rules
(cont'd)

Citizen Comments

City Commissioner
Comments

City Commissioner
Comments (cont'd)

stated the work of the Retirement Investment Committee (RIC) had saved the City millions of dollars over the years. Commissioner Anderson thanked current and past RIC members for their time and effort given to this work.

Commissioner Cooney stated it was good to address infant mortality, but the ultimate goal was for every child born in Kalamazoo to have the same opportunity for success. Commissioner Cooney endorsed the appointment of Commissioner Sykes as the City Commission liaison to the Greater Kalamazoo Steering Committee. Commissioner Cooney thanked Parks and Recreation Department staff for their creativity and hard work with youth programs.

Commissioner Urban read a statement expressing his support for proceeding with the Bronson Park restoration as planned. Commissioner Urban also read from a letter submitted to the City Commission by the Gun Lake Tribe on November 20th. A copy of Commissioner Urban's statement was filed with the papers for this meeting.

Commissioner Cunningham thanked Greater Kalamazoo for their work. Commissioner Cunningham expressed frustration that the community did not seem to take the most recent election seriously. Commissioner Cunningham stated this was an important time for the City because officials were in the process of establishing structures and processes for the FFE that would set up things for the future. Commissioner Cunningham stated he was expecting Commissioners Anderson and Urban to put in a lot of work in as FFE board members.

Mayor Hopewell thanked Commissioner Sykes for volunteering to serve on the Greater Kalamazoo steering committee. Mayor Hopewell stated Kalamazoo had reduced the infant mortality rate for African American babies significantly in the 1990's, and that work needed to be done again. Mayor Hopewell announced the City's 2018 Proposed Budget had been released, and he noted adopting the annual budget was the City Commission's most important task as it described the work being done.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott A. Borling
City Clerk

For City Commission approval on January 16, 2018

Approved by: _____
Bobby J. Hopewell, Mayor
Dated: January 16, 2018

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