

Roll Call

A regular meeting of the Kalamazoo City Commission was held on Monday, August 1, 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, City Attorney Clyde Robinson, and City Clerk Scott Borling.

Invocation

The invocation, given by Commissioner Juarez, was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Adoption of the Agenda

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

A member of the audience requested that Items G-1 (contract supplemental with Treeworks, Inc. for hazardous tree removal) and G-2 (contract with Treeworks, Inc. for neighborhood tree maintenance) be moved from the Consent Agenda to the Regular Agenda.

Communications

Deputy City Manager Jeff Chamberlain introduced the City's new Communications Manager, Michael Smith.

Public Comments

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

In-Person Comments

Ben Stanley stated he saw a lot of pain, hurt, and trauma in the City. Mr. Stanley spoke about how the City was depriving him of his civil rights and had taught him to be combative. Mr. Stanley offered comments on gentrification in the Northside Neighborhood and getting fined for having dandelions in his front yard.

Jack Urban, City resident, expressed support for the restriping of Park Street and North Westnedge Avenue and the pilot bike lane on Lovell Street.

James Pitts, City resident, indicated he was a victim of gun violence on May 14th and stated the Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety (KDPS) had not provided good service. Mr. Pitts expressed hope that KDPS and the community could come together to eliminate gun violence and become tough on crime.

Becky Bil apologized for not speaking correctly with the media about the Chapter 22 decriminalization ordinance. Ms. Bil expressed appreciation for Commissioner Praedel's remarks on decriminalization and stated she was dismayed that he had been treated badly because of those remarks.

Call-In Comments

Blake Lajiness of The Center for Energy and Environment spoke about the Kalamazoo Energy Collaborative sponsored by Consumers Energy.

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

- approval of a professional service agreement with Jones & Henry Engineers for construction engineering services for the 33rd Street Transmission Main Project in the amount of \$250,000.
- approval of a one-year contract extension with Water Solutions Unlimited for the purchase of sodium hexametaphosphate in the amount of \$277,200.
- approval of a supplemental to the cost share agreement with the Road Commission of Kalamazoo County for the Lake Street Water Main Reconstruction Project - East City Limits to Olmstead Road - to reflect a \$917,866.47 cost increase, from \$1,877,794.60 to \$2,795,661.07.
- approval of a contract with Feyen-Zylstra for remote station upgrades within the countywide supervisory control and data acquisition system and communication network for the water and wastewater utilities in the amount of \$3,010,629.86.
- adoption of a **RESOLUTION** approving the third revision to the Scattered Site Brownfield Plan to Support Infill Housing.
- adoption of a **RESOLUTION** from the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, Liquor Control Commission recommending approval of an On-Premises Tasting Room Permit for Apoptosis Brewing Company, LLC located at 3811 S Westnedge Ave.
- authorization for the City Manager to execute a Bilateral Permit with 123Net, INC. pursuant to the Metropolitan Extension Telecommunications Right of Way Oversight (METRO) Act.
- approval of a Housing Development Fund grant in the amount of \$500,000 to replace a CDBG-CV grant for the acquisition of Knight's Inn located at 1211 South Westnedge Avenue for The Lodge House project.
- acceptance of a grant in the amount of \$68,421.12 from the Kalamazoo Rotary Stage Endowment Fund for audio improvements to Bronson Park.
- approval of the minutes from the City Commission meetings on December 13 and December 20, 2021; and January 3, January 18, February 7, February 19, February 21, June 21, July 5, and July 18, 2022.

Commissioner Hoffman, 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.

Public Comments
(cont'd)

Consent Agenda

2022-00

2022-00

2022-00

2022-00

2022-00
Resolution 22-39

2022-00
Resolution 22-40

2022-00

2022-00

2022-00

2022-00

Consent Agenda
(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

*At the time of the vote, Mayor Anderson abstained from voting on Item G-10, a Housing Development Fund grant in the amount of \$500,000 to replace a CDBG-CV grant for the acquisition of Knight's Inn located at 1211 South Westnedge Avenue for The Lodge House project, due to a conflict of interest. Mayor Anderson stated he was a volunteer member of the LIFT Foundation Board, and neither he nor the LIFT Foundation received any benefit from the funding, as it went directly to the purchase and redevelopment of a former motel into an affordable housing community.

Regular Agenda

Regular Agenda items were considered next.

2022-00Resolution 22-41
Adopting a Public
Participation Policy

City Planner Christina Anderson delivered a presentation entitled *Public Participation Policy & Community Engagement Planning Guide and Toolkit*. A copy of the slides from this presentation was filed with the papers for the meeting.

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

- the Redevelopment Ready Community recertification process did not require a review of the policy. Experience using the current public participation policy showed there were some missing elements, and there was a sense from the community that it was time for the policy to be updated. To address the missing elements, the policy would apply the engagement strategies to multiple City boards, codify practices learned during the COVID-19 pandemic, and create Communities of Practice.
- the City's Public Participation Policy was attractive to other jurisdictions because it offered a step-by-step process to break down a project and prescribe engagement methods.
- having a predictable engagement process was important so that residents and property owners knew what to expect from the City leading up to a project, and they could count on an engagement process after a project was finished.
- the points listed for the Community of Practice were not the only points the Community would address; their work would evolve.

Commissioner Hoffman expressed excitement at the possibility of using the Community of Practices model for the City's work on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI).

Commissioner Hess stated Communications Manager Smith would play a key role in the City's work related to community engagement, DEI, and sustainability.

Commissioner Decker observed that the engagement strategy tool would dovetail with Commissioner Praedel's emphasis on improving communication.

When an opportunity was given for public comments on a resolution adopting an updated Public Participation Policy, the following people addressed the City Commission:

Ben Stanley spoke about comments on the City's Facebook page regarding community engagement and stated he would like to see more public participation. Mr. Stanley identified the temporary bike lanes and the restriping of North Park Street and North Westnedge Avenue as examples of projects where there should have been community engagement.

Commissioner Praedel, seconded by Commissioner Decker, moved to adopt a **RESOLUTION** adopting an updated Public Participation Policy.

Prior to a vote on the motion, Commissioner Praedel reported the Planning Commission had reviewed and approved the proposed policy on July 7th. Commissioner Praedel highlighted the importance of having a predictable public engagement process and noted the connection between the policy and the City's IK2025 and DEI work.

With a roll call vote this motion passed unanimously.

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

NAYS: None

Mayor Anderson gave Commissioners an opportunity to ask questions about a proposed ordinance to revise Chapter 20B of the Kalamazoo City Code, which licensed and regulated medical and adult-use marijuana businesses, but no questions were asked. Mayor Anderson noted there had been a staff presentation on the ordinance and Commissioner discussion at a Committee of the Whole meeting, and the ordinance was offered for first reading two weeks ago.

City Attorney Robinson stated most of the changes in the ordinance addressed changes to state law and the state administrative rules on marihuana establishments and facilities.

In response to a question from Commissioner Praedel, Community Planning and Economic Development Deputy Director Antonio Mitchell noted the new ordinance would change the permitting process to allow businesses more time to make corrections the City was requiring, and a two-year permit was being offered as an incentive for businesses to achieve the state's Social Equity Gold Level.

An opportunity was given for public comments on an ordinance to revise Chapter 20B of the Kalamazoo City Code, which licensed and regulated medical and adult-use marijuana businesses licensed by the State and permitted to operate in the City, but no comments were offered.

Commissioner Hess, seconded by Commissioner Decker, moved to adopt an **ORDINANCE** to revise Chapter 20B of the Kalamazoo City Code, which licenses and regulates medical and adult-use marijuana businesses licensed by the State and permitted to operate in the City.

With a roll call vote this motion passed unanimously.

2022-00

Resolution 22-41
Adopting a Public
Participation Policy
(cont'd)

2022-00

Ordinance 2052
Amending Chapter 20B –
Marihuana Commercial
Businesses

2022-00

Contract Supplemental
and Budget Amendment
for Hazardous Tree
Removal

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 supplemental with Treeworks, Inc. and budget amendment in the amount of \$100,000 for hazardous tree removal, the following people addressed the City Commission:

Ben Stanley stated he was not notified that the City was taking bids for this work, and he spoke about how difficult it was to obtain information from the City about bids and bid opportunities.

Commissioner Praedel, seconded by Commissioner Hoffman, moved to approve a contract supplemental with Treeworks, Inc. and budget amendment in the amount of \$100,000 for hazardous tree removal.

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

Contract for
Neighborhood Tree
Maintenance

When an opportunity was given for public comments on a contract with Treeworks, Inc. for neighborhood tree maintenance in the amount of \$198,485, the following people addressed the City Commission:

An anonymous speaker made an observation about why he stopped attending City Commission meetings.

Commissioner Hess, seconded by Commissioner Juarez, moved to approve a contract with Treeworks, Inc. for neighborhood tree maintenance in the amount of \$198,485.

With a roll call vote this motion passed unanimously.

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

NAYS: None

City Manager's Report

City Manager Ritsema invited Commissioners and the public to attend National Night Out events in various City neighborhoods on August 2nd.

Policy Items

Policy Items were considered next.

2022-00

Amendments to the
Marihuana Social
Equity Policy

Mayor Anderson gave Commissioners an opportunity to ask questions about proposed amendments to the Marihuana Social Equity Policy, but no questions were asked. Mayor Anderson noted there had been a staff presentation and Commissioner discussion about this policy at a Committee of the Whole meeting.

An opportunity was given for public comments on amendments to the Marihuana Social Equity Policy, but no comments were offered.

Commissioner Juarez, seconded by Commissioner Hoffman, moved to approve an amended Marihuana Social Equity Policy to be consistent with recent changes to the State's social equity program and the City's Marihuana Commercial Businesses ordinance.

With a roll call vote this motion passed unanimously.

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

NAYS: None

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

Commissioner Praedel thanked Ms. Bil for her apology and for being a downtown business owner. Commissioner Praedel thanked County Commissioner Tami Rey for joining the City in the work on gun violence. Commissioner Praedel offered remarks on the long-term dedication and commitment of City Commissioners and staff to make Kalamazoo a better place, and he contrasted this with a recent one-minute segment on national television that criticized him and the City of Kalamazoo. Commissioner Praedel stated Kalamazoo residents recognized the value and worth of everyone, and he discussed the work the City Commission had done over the past two and a half years to help small businesses and develop affordable housing. Commissioner Praedel stated Election Day was the most powerful day in the world, and he expressed his growing belief in the City.

Commissioner Hess encouraged people to vote on August 2nd and noted National Night Out events would be taking place in the evening. Commissioner Hess offered comments on an event she attended with U.S. Representatives Fred Upton and Debbie Dingle. Commissioner Hess indicated the One Small Step initiative would be coming to Kalamazoo, which involved mediated conversations between participants who did not hold the same beliefs or points of view. Commissioner Hess remarked on the need to end divisiveness and the us-versus-them approach.

Commissioner Decker commented on a recent ribbon cutting event for a new mixed-use development at 615 West Kalamazoo Avenue. Commissioner Decker thanked Deputy Director Mitchell for the work of staff to distribute water filters and educate residents on lead service lines. Commissioner Decker remarked on the downtown sidewalk sales and restaurant week events, and she recognized the need for the City to collaborate with downtown businesses. Commissioner Decker announced the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority had received two grants that would increase the funding available to invest in businesses.

Vice Mayor Cooney spoke about Mothers of Hope and announced they were hosting the 3rd Annual Recovery Walk on August 6th. Vice Mayor Cooney spoke about the life and impact of former NBA basketball player and coach Bill Russell, who had passed away recently.

Mayor Anderson noted that for a community to be great, the people needed to be great. Mayor Anderson remarked on events he had attended recently, including an event at El Concilio on economic development and wealth building; a retirement party for Joel Cooper; and a home-going ceremony for Johnny Lee Caldwell, a local educator and community leader.

2022-00

Amendments to the
Marihuana Social
Equity Policy (cont'd)

Commissioner
Comments

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:31p.m.

Scott A. Borling
City Clerk

Approved by the City Commission on: _____

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