

Roll Call

A regular meeting of the Kalamazoo City Commission was held on Monday, February 5, 2018 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 Scott McCloughan, Executive Director of Kalamazoo Youth for Christ, was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Introduction of Guests

City Manager Ritsema introduced Katie Reilly, the City's new Neighborhood Activator, and Tim DuBois, the City's new Chief Information Officer.

Proclamation

Vice Mayor Knott proclaimed February 7, 2018 *National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day*. Kelly Doyle, Executive Director of Community AIDS Resource and Education Services (CARES), accepted the proclamation.

Adoption of the Agenda

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

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 a Doosan 140 Tracked Excavator with trailer and appurtenances from Carleton Equipment Company in the amount of \$212,217.60.
- approval of a five-year contract with CTS Telecom, Inc. for telephone service at City Hall and the Harrison and Stockbridge facilities for a not-to-exceed amount of \$180,000.00.
- approval of a 60-month lease for 64 light duty fleet vehicles from Enterprise Fleet Management Trust, including after-market equipment and all maintenance, in the amount of \$1,557,760.
- approval a one-year contract extension for the purchase of fluorosilic acid from Alexander Chemical Corporation in the amount of \$112,000.
- approval of a sole source contract with Monument Engineering Group Associates, Inc. (MEGA) for the development of a

Cemetery Business Plan in the amount of \$117,000, and approval of a budget appropriation in same amount.

Consent Agenda
(cont'd)

- approval of an agreement with Merion Capital, LLC, to provide investment consulting services for the City's Employee Retirement System and Perpetual Care Investment Trust through December 31, 2018, and to increase the FY 2018 Budgeted appropriations for the Pension System by \$286,000.
- approval of an agreement with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality for a Wellhead Protection Grant in the amount of \$70,000.
- approval and acceptance of an easement agreement with TMV Properties, LLC for water main modified as part of the TMV Properties, LLC construction project at 5937 West Main Street; and approval of the release of three existing easements at the same location.
- approval and acceptance of an easement agreement with American Village Development II, LLC for water main and sanitary sewer to be installed as part of the American Village Development II, LLC Walden Woods Phase 4 construction project.
- approval of the following actions for property related to the Harrison St./Ransom St./Gull Rd. Round-about and Street Improvement Project: 1) acceptance of a quit claim deed from the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority; and 2) approval of an Agreement for Declaration of Easements.
- approval of the following actions for property related to the Harrison St./Ransom St./Gull Rd. Round-about and Street Improvement Project: 1) approval of a Quit Claim Deed from the City to MacKenzie & MacKenzie, LLC; 2) acceptance of a Quit Claim Deed from MacKenzie & MacKenzie, LLC to the City; and 3) approval of an Agreement for Declaration of Easement.
- approval of the appointment and assignment of City Commissioners to various committees, boards, and commissions.
- approval of the Mayor's appointments and re-appointments to the following boards and commissions:
 - the re-appointment of Randy Eberts to the Employees' Retirement System Board of Trustees for a term expiring on March 31, 2021; and approval of a waiver of City Commission Rules 12e and 12k regarding term limits and dual board memberships.
 - the appointment of Andrew Grayson to the Historic District Commission for a term expiring on January 1, 2021.
 - the appointment of Dana Underwood to the Historic District Commission for a term expiring on January 1, 2021.

Consent Agenda
(cont'd)

- approval of the following reappointments to the Board of Review for Assessments:
 - the reappointment of Mr. James Lippincott for a three-year term expiring January 31, 2021; and
 - the reappointment of Mr. Richard Skalski for a three-year term expiring January 31, 2021.

Resolution 18-06

- adoption of a **RESOLUTION** reappointing James K. Ritsema, Clyde J. Robinson and Thomas C. Skrobola to the City of Kalamazoo Hospital Finance Authority.
- approval of the minutes from the City Commission meetings on January 8 and January 16, 2018.
- approval of a recommendation to hold until February 19, 2018 consideration of a resolution vacating the 206-foot-long public alley located between North Park Street and Cooley Street.

Vice Mayor Knott, seconded by Commissioner 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.

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

NAYS: None

*At the time of the vote, Commissioner Urban abstained from voting on Item F-2, a contract with CTS Telecom, Inc. for telephone services, due to a conflict of interest.

Regular Agenda

Regular Agenda items were considered next.

Memoranda of Understanding with LISC for Economic Development and Housing Services

Assistant City Manager (ACM) Laura Lam provided an overview of two Memoranda of Understanding (MOU's) between the City and the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) for economic development and housing services.

When an opportunity was given for citizens to comment on the approval of two Memoranda of Understanding with the Local Initiatives Support Corporation of Kalamazoo for economic development and housing services, the following people addressed the City Commission:

Nehemiah Scudder, City resident, described how he used to be homeless and expressed support for the proposed MOU's.

Tim Graham, City resident, asked what the City meant by "good jobs" and requested information about the history of job growth in Kalamazoo.

Vice Mayor Knott, seconded by Commissioner Urban, moved to approve two Memoranda of Understanding with the Local Initiative Support Corporation of Kalamazoo for Economic Development and Housing Services.

Prior to a vote on the motion, Commissioner Anderson remarked on what a blessing it was to be able to partner with LISC and noted it was not very often that LISC worked with communities the size of Kalamazoo.

Commissioner Cooney remarked on the connections between Shared Prosperity Kalamazoo (SPK) and the LISC partnership. Commissioner Cooney expressed appreciation to LISC for their involvement. Commissioner Cooney addressed Mr. Graham's question and stated a good job was a job that paid a living wage, had decent working conditions, and offered opportunities for advancement.

Commissioner Urban expressed excitement about this LISC partnership. Commissioner Urban noted the LISC program was a pilot program, but that was fine because the City needed to try new ideas.

Commissioner Sykes stated the LISC partnership was a great opportunity. Commissioner Sykes suggested the City needed to develop and support community entrepreneurship in addition to the creation of "good jobs."

Mayor Hopewell thanked LISC Executive Director Chuck Vliek for his work in Kalamazoo over the years and for bringing this project to the community.

With a roll call vote this motion passed.

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:

Nehemiah Scudder, City resident, reported his name change (formerly Asha Khazad) became official earlier that day, and he talked about the origins of his new name. Mr. Scudder discussed his efforts to start a support group called "Prisoners Anonymous."

Chris Wahmhoff, City resident, stated he was living in his van, and he asked the City Commission to vote to support the Edison Ducks in a Row program.

Eponine Garrod, City resident, requested that the City allow Mr. Wahmhoff to operate the Edison Ducks in a Row program.

Alfonso Harris, City resident, stated he was recently terminated by his employer and spoke against the abuses of "at-will employment."

Memoranda of Understanding with LISC for Economic Development and Housing Services (cont'd)

Citizen Comments

Citizen Comments
(cont'd)

Tim Graham, City resident, urged people to read *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City*, which was the Kalamazoo Public Library's Reading Together book for 2018. Mr. Graham read a review of the book from the Washington Post.

Dana Underwood, City resident, asked the City to address the issue of unregulated, short-term lodging and explained how the conversion of long-term rental housing to short term lodging was creating a shortage of affordable housing in the City.

Chuck Vliek of LISC thanked the City for partnering with LISC and noted LISC was offering a 2:1 match for any dollars the City invested in the partnership.

Frank Warren, City resident, spoke about poverty and growing up during the Great Depression.

Jeremy Cole, City resident, described his efforts to rehabilitate blighted properties in the City and announced he was the subject of a new television show on the DIY Network called "Gritty to Pretty." Mr. Cole invited people to watch the first episode on Saturday, February 10th at 8:00 p.m. Mr. Cole also invited people to participate in his monthly Property Krawl where he taught people how to invest in and rehabilitate houses.

Linda Kilbourne, non-resident, stated the Fountain of the Pioneers in Bronson Park was offensive to native peoples. Ms. Kilbourne stated there were many indigenous people and people groups in the area and indicated one group was not able to speak for all native people. Ms. Kilbourne asked City to protect the burial mound in Bronson Park. Ms. Kilbourne expressed support for Mr. Wahmhoff.

City Commissioner
Comments

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

Commissioner Cunningham expressed admiration and appreciation for Mr. Cole and encouraged people to participate in his Property Krawl. Commissioner Cunningham thanked Mr. Cole for bringing positive attention to Kalamazoo. Commissioner Cunningham remarked on the City's sister city in Numazu, Japan. Commissioner Cunningham expressed appreciation to Ms. Underwood for her work in the community.

Commissioner Sykes offered remarks on Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Week and thanked CARES for their work in the community. Commissioner Sykes encouraged Mr. Harris to talk with the NAACP about his employment termination. Commissioner Sykes asked the City Manager and City Attorney to develop a timeline for addressing short term lodging/rentals. Commissioner Sykes expressed hope that the City could support the Edison Ducks in a Row program. Commissioner Sykes requested the City consider how its processes and policies could better support people facing condemnations. Commissioner Sykes stated the City Commission would be addressing the Fountain of the Pioneers on February 19th. Commissioner Sykes thanked Mayor Hopewell for his

support and understanding over the past month as she dealt with issues in her private life.

Commissioner Cooney recommended the book *Evicted* by Matthew Desmond. Commissioner Cooney remarked on the lives of Reverend Robert Rasmussen and former City Commissioner and State Representative Ed LaForge, both of whom had recently passed away.

Vice Mayor Knott expressed excitement for the City's partnership with LISC.

Commissioner Urban, seconded by Commissioner Anderson, moved that the City Commission go into closed session to discuss labor negotiations.

With a roll call vote this motion passed.

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

NAYS: None

The City Commission went into closed session at 8:17 p.m.
The City Commission returned to open session at 8:41 p.m.

Commissioner Urban, seconded by Commissioner Cooney, moved to approve the collective bargaining agreement between the City of Kalamazoo and the Kalamazoo Municipal Employees Association/Fraternal Order of Police for the period of February 6, 2018 through December 31, 2020.

With a roll call vote this motion passed.

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

NAYS: None

The meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott A. Borling
City Clerk

For City Commission approval on February 19, 2018

Approved by: _____
Bobby J. Hopewell, Mayor
Dated: February 19, 2018

City Commissioner
Comments (cont'd)

Closed Session

Approval of a
Collective Bargaining
Agreement with the
KMEA/FOP

Adjournment