

Roll Call

The Kalamazoo City Commission met as a Committee of the Whole on Monday, March 20, 2023 at 5:00 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.

Public Comments

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

In-Person Comments

Daniel Bair, City resident, thanked City staff for their work and expressed concern about odors coming from Graphic Packaging, which could be detected in his daughter's bedroom.

Mary Andrew, City resident, expressed concerns and frustration about odors from Graphic Packaging.

Call-In Comments

None

2023-12-01

Presentation: Retreat
Follow Up and 2024
Project Planning

Chief Operating Officer Laura Lam, Assistant City Manager Rebekah Kik, and Assistant Public Safety Chief David Juday delivered a presentation entitled *Committee of the Whole Commission Retreat Follow Up: 2024 Project Planning*. A copy of the slides from this presentation was filed with the papers for the meeting. During the presentation, Matt Forkin, Director of Program Development and Evaluation for the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Kalamazoo, and Lindsey Rowell, Workforce and Education Pathway Manager, offered remarks on the Bridging Opportunities program.

In response to questions and comments from City Commissioners, Assistant City Manager Kik provided the following information:

- the City was working to address odors from the Water Reclamation Plant, which was in the City's sphere of influence.
- the Kalamazoo Attainable Homes Initiative was a program where the City funded the construction new homes. The City had built 14 homes per year for the past 3 years through this program.
- the housing outcome "300 multifamily housing units with affordable rental targets" was on the "Explore" list so that staff could talk with community partners about feasibility and an estimated budget.

In response to a question from Vice Mayor Cooney, Commissioner Hess stated the Kalamazoo Regional Education Service Agency (KRESA) trades school facility was scheduled to be operational sometime in 2024-2025. Commissioner Hess suggested the City be a convener with trades professionals.

Commissioner Juarez stated the community's perception of the City's work would be shaped by the City's ability to be strategic with its resources. Commissioner Juarez urged the community to look at the projects on the "Explore" list and step-up to help the City. Commissioner Juarez indicated there was a gap between what the City could accomplish by itself, and what the City and the community could accomplish together.

Commissioner Decker stated the City should be able to get funding for some of the initiatives on the "Easy & Impactful" list, and the communications initiatives should be in place in 2023. Commissioner Decker suggested the City partner with other organizations for initiatives on the "Explore" list. Commissioner Decker expressed support for the beehive project. Commissioner Decker thanked Assistant Chief Juday for his presentation and for the impactful work of the Public Safety Department.

Commissioner Hess spoke about a recent presentation at the Kalamazoo Public Library by Dr. Missy Stults, Sustainability and Innovations Director for the City of Ann Arbor. Commissioner Hess stated sustainability needed to drive Imagine Kalamazoo 2035 (IK 2035). Commissioner Hess reported Ann Arbor gave trees to residents to plant on their private property.

Mayor Anderson explained that the February 18th retreat and this follow-up presentation were focused on projects for fiscal year 2024; the 2023 budget was already programed and approved. Mayor Anderson thanked City staff. Mayor Anderson noted it was community partners who created housing units; the City assisted with this work. Mayor Anderson encouraged Commissioners and staff to use language about housing that clarified these roles.

An opportunity was given for general comments from City Commissioners, but no comments were offered.

The meeting adjourned at 6:12 p.m.

Scott A. Borling
City Clerk

Approved by the City Commission on: _____

2023-12-01

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Commissioner
Comments

Adjournment