

Roll Call

A regular meeting of the Kalamazoo City Commission was held on Monday, February 4, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Commission Chambers at City Hall, 241 West South Street.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Mayor Bobby J. Hopewell
David Anderson
Don Cooney
Eric Cunningham
Shannon Sykes
Jack Urban

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Vice Mayor Erin Knott

Also present were Deputy City Manager Jeff Chamberlain, City Attorney Clyde Robinson, and City Clerk Scott Borling.

Commissioners
Excused

Commissioner Cunningham, seconded by Commissioner Sykes, moved to excuse the absence of Vice Mayor Knott. With a voice vote the motion passed.

Opening Ceremony

The invocation, given by Bishop Dr. T.D. Lockett, Faith Temple Church of God, was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

2019-0029
Presentation of the
2019 Social Justice
Youth Awards

Mayor Hopewell introduced the community sponsors and presenters of the 2018 Social Justice Youth Awards.

Dr. Betty Lodge-Dennis and Mr. Tony Dennis presented the Lodge-Dennis Social Justice Youth Award to Gregory Culp.

Judy Woolsey, Assistant to the CEO of Schupan & Sons, presented the Schupan & Sons Social Justice Youth Award to Emma Knutson.

Ron Foor, Community President of Fifth Third Bank, presented the Fifth Third Bank Social Justice Youth Award to Tanner Luther.

Derek Nofz, Community Affairs Manager at Consumers Energy, presented the Consumer's Energy Social Justice Youth Award to Delores Shackelford.

Mayor Hopewell, on behalf of John Pinkster, Director of South Operations for Life EMS, presented the Life EMS Social Justice Youth Award to Trinity Scott.

Dr. Lewis Walker presented the Dr. Lewis Walker Social Justice Youth Award to Kaylana Jones.

The meeting was recessed at 7:29 p.m.
The meeting resumed at 7:34 p.m.

2019-0030
Proclamations

Commissioner Cunningham proclaimed February 9-16, 2019 *Curling Week* in the City of Kalamazoo. Greg Ayers, President & CEO, Discover Kalamazoo, and Garnet Eckstrand, Founding Member of the Kalamazoo Curling Club, received the proclamation.

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

- a citizen requested that Item F-7, acceptance of Koopsen's Alley and the Eleanor Street extension as public roadways, be moved to the Regular Agenda.

Adoption of the 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:

Consent Agenda

- approval of a 3-year Professional Services Agreement and subsequent purchase order with Jones and Henry Engineers, Ltd. for construction consulting services for the Kalamazoo Water Reclamation Plant's Contract 74 Project in the amount of \$825,000.
- approval of a one-year contract extension with the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority through Ibex Insurance Agency, for property & casualty insurance annual premium and member loss fund deposit not to exceed \$944,681.
- approval of a contract supplemental and subsequent change order with Hoffman Brothers, Inc. for necessary additional Project construction needs in the amount of \$115,000.
- approval of a 16-month contract and subsequent purchase order with Elite Companies, LLC for the construction of the Laboratory Renovation Project in the amount of \$699,000.
- approval of a two-year contract extension with Rathco Safety Supply, Inc. for rental of temporary traffic control devices in the amount of \$400,000.
- adoption of a corrected **RESOLUTION** recommending approval of the application of DT Water Street, LLC (Water Street Coffee Joint) for a new Redevelopment Liquor License under Section 521a of PA 501 of 2006 to be located at 315 E Water Street within the Downtown Development District; and rescinding of Resolution 18-81 adopted on November 19, 2018.
- approval of the sale of a City-owned vacant lot located at 318 Stockbridge to HML Real Estate, LLL for \$32,500.
- approval of a recommendation to hold for consideration until February 18, 2019 adoption of a resolution vacating the 209-foot-long segment of Cooley Street north of W. Kalamazoo Avenue with the condition that an easement be provided to the Public Services Department for access to the underground utilities for maintenance purposes.
- approval of a recommendation to hold until February 18, 2019 consideration of the purchase 441 Reed Avenue from Kalamazoo County in the amount of \$3,765.69 to facilitate construction of the next segment of the Kalamazoo River Valley Trail.

2019-0031

2019-0032

2019-0033

2019-0034

2019-0035

2019-0036
Resolution 19-07

2019-0037

2019-0038

2019-0039

Consent Agenda
(cont'd)

Commissioner Sykes, 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, Mayor Hopewell

NAYS: None

*At the time of the vote, Commissioner Anderson abstained from voting on Item F-9, a resolution vacating a portion of Cooley Street, due to a conflict of interest.

Regular Agenda

2019-0040
Resolution 19-08
Recognizing and
Accepting Koopsen's
Alley and the Eleanor
Street Extension as
Dedicated Roadways

Regular Agenda items were considered next.

When an opportunity was given for citizens to comment on a resolution recognizing and accepting a one-block extension of Eleanor Street and the unnamed alley way between E. Water Street and E. Kalamazoo Avenue adjacent to the Arcadia Festival Site as dedicated roadways; and formally recognizing the alley by the name it has long been informally known, as Koopsen's Alley, the following people addressed the City Commission:

Mark Kraai, City resident and representative of the Arcadia Condominium Association, expressed support for the resolution and spoke about the need for safe streets in the area around the condominiums. Mr. Kraai asked that the City consider reducing the speed limit on the alley and making the alley one-way, and he asked that the City include condominium residents in the discussions and decisions regarding safety issues in that area. A letter submitted to the City Commission by Mr. Kraai, dated November 1, 2018, was filed with the papers for this meeting.

Linda Lesniak, City resident, spoke about bike traffic in the area around the condominium.

Commissioner Urban, seconded by Commissioner Sykes, moved to adopt a **RESOLUTION** recognizing and accepting a one-block extension of Eleanor Street and the unnamed alley way between E. Water Street and E. Kalamazoo Avenue adjacent to the Arcadia Festival Site as dedicated roadways; and formally recognizing the alley by the name it has long been informally known, as Koopsen's Alley; and authorize the City Manager to sign all documents on behalf of the City.

Prior to a vote on the motion, Commissioner Anderson noted City Commissioners had received the correspondence from the condominium residents referenced by Mr. Kraai.

Mayor Hopewell explained the process for citizens to request changes to traffic regulations like speed limits and one-way designations started with the Traffic Engineer and Traffic Board.

With a roll call vote this motion passed unanimously.

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

NAYS: None

Neighborhood Activator Katie Reilly provided an overview of the process used to develop the Edison Neighborhood Plan.

When an opportunity was given for citizens to comment on the Edison Neighborhood Plan 2019 as a sub-plan to the City of Kalamazoo's Comprehensive Plan, the following people addressed the City Commission:

Richard Stewart, City resident, asked Commissioners Cooney and Cunningham to help him achieve City designation/recognition of the Southtown Neighborhood and Southtown Neighborhood Association.

Commissioner Cooney, seconded by Commissioner Cunningham, moved to adopt a **RESOLUTION** affirming the adoption of the Edison Neighborhood Plan 2019 as a sub-plan to the City of Kalamazoo's Comprehensive Plan.

Prior to a vote on the motion, Commissioner Cooney expressed appreciation for the work done on the Edison Neighborhood Plan.

With a roll call vote this motion passed unanimously.

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

NAYS: None

An opportunity was given for citizens to comment on an ordinance to amend certain sections of chapter 38 of the Kalamazoo code to change the rates charged for water service, but no comments were offered.

Commissioner Cooney, seconded by Commissioner Anderson, moved to adopt an **ORDINANCE** to amend certain sections of chapter 38 of the Kalamazoo code to change the rates charged for water service. The proposed ordinance would increase water system revenues, effective February 14, 2019.

Prior to a vote on the motion, Commissioner Anderson noted the City would continue to be one of the lowest water/sewer rates in the state, even with the proposed increases. Commissioner Anderson explained the increased rates would help the City address infrastructure issues with the water and sewer systems.

Commissioner Cooney expressed appreciation to Public Services Director James Baker for effectively demonstrating the need for more investment in water and sewer infrastructure.

With a roll call vote this motion passed.

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

NAYS: None

2019-0041

Resolution 19-09
Adopting the Edison
Neighborhood Plan

2019-0042

Ordinance 1979 re:
Rates for Water Service

2019-0043

Ordinance 1980 re:
Rates for Wastewater
Service

An opportunity was given for citizens to comment on an ordinance to amend certain sections of chapter 28 of the Kalamazoo City Code to change the rates charged for wastewater service, but no comments were offered.

Commissioner Urban, seconded by Commissioner Sykes, moved to adopt an **ORDINANCE** to amend certain sections of chapter 28 of the Kalamazoo City Code to change the rates charged for wastewater service. The proposed ordinance would increase wastewater service system revenues, effective February 14, 2019.

With a roll call vote this motion passed.

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

NAYS: None

City Manager's Report

Deputy City Manager Chamberlain acknowledged the hard work of City crews during the past week of very cold and snowy weather. Deputy City Manager Chamberlain thanked Commissioners and citizens who helped operate warming centers, and he stated the City was continuing to work on improving its response to community emergencies.

City Attorney's Report

City Attorney Robinson reported Assistant City Attorney Marcia Jones was recognized earlier in the day by the Charles Pratt Bar Association for her advocacy, commitment to excellence, and contribution to the African-American legacy in the Kalamazoo community.

2019-0044

Presentation on the
PY2017/2018
Consolidated Annual
Performance
Evaluation Report
(CAPER)

Dorla Bonner and Vanessa Williams-Smith delivered a presentation entitled *Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER): Program Year 2017/18*. Copies of the PowerPoint slides from this presentation were included with the papers for this meeting.

In response to a question from Commissioner Anderson, Ms. Bonner explained the City had not received Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funding for the past two program years because in the last American Community Census the City was one percentage point below the eligibility for ESG funds. Ms. Bonner reported the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) had received ESG funds, which it then gave to the City as a Continuum of Care allocation.

Citizen Comments

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

2019-0045

Jody Dozeman, City resident, spoke about being homeless, having money problems, and various other issues. Written remarks submitted by Ms. Dozeman were filed with the papers for this meeting.

Carl Wiseman, non-resident, spoke about volunteering at warming centers and described how the Kalamazoo Gospel Mission treated homeless people. Mr. Wiseman requested the creation of a secular shelter for the homeless.

Nehemiah Scudder, City resident, spoke about fluoridation of the public water supply.

Angie Ponzini, non-resident, expressed concern for the homeless and suggested the former nursing home on Alamo Avenue as a site for another shelter.

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

Commissioner Sykes stated Kalamazoo's community response to the extreme cold weather was a model for other cities. Commissioner Sykes suggested the City's 75,000 residents should be able to eliminate homelessness for the 5,000 people who experienced homelessness in Kalamazoo each year. Commissioner Sykes recognized the public and private organizations that helped operate the warming centers, gather people who needed shelter, and provide services. Commissioner Sykes read an inspirational quote from Zapatista women at the closing ceremony of the First International Gathering of Politics, Art, Sport, and Culture for Women in Struggle held in March of 2018.

Commissioner Cooney remarked on the caring, kind, generous people in the Kalamazoo community. Commissioner Cooney noted there were also a lot of hurting people in the community, and he stated there needed to be a strategy that focused on a short-term/emergency plan; a long-term plan for people on the streets; and a plan to prevent homelessness and end generational poverty.

Commissioner Urban recommended the City establish a deadline for developing plans and having those plans endorsed by all community partners. Commissioner Urban expressed hope that Commissioner Sykes had a list of the contributions from each community partner, in addition to their names.

Commissioner Cunningham thanked everyone in the community for helping with the emergency response to the extreme cold weather, and he indicated the City needed to come up with a vision and mission and then follow through. Commissioner Cunningham thanked Ms. Bonner for her presentation and for telling the City's story. Commissioner Cunningham commented on the role of CDAAC in the HUD funding process. Commissioner Cunningham thanked City staff for their hard work during the extreme weather.

Mayor Hopewell offered condolences to the family of Mike Westbrook, the Director of Transportation for Portage Public Schools, who died recently while shoveling snow. Mayor Hopewell noted the City had emergency operations plans, but work needed to be done regarding the activation of those plans.

The meeting adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott A. Borling
City Clerk

City Commissioner
Comments

Adjournment

For City Commission approval on March 4, 2019

Approved by: _____
Bobby J. Hopewell, Mayor
Dated: March 4, 2019

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