

Roll Call

The Kalamazoo City Commission met as a Committee of the Whole on Monday, October 2, 2023 at 5:02 p.m. in the City Commission Chambers at City Hall.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Mayor David Anderson
Vice Mayor Don Cooney
Jeanne Hess
Stephanie Hoffman
Esteven Juarez
Chris Praedel

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Qianna Decker

Also present were Chief Operating Officer Laura Lam, City Attorney Aaron Leal, and City Clerk Scott Borling.

Commissioner Excused

Commissioner Hess, seconded by Commissioner Hoffman, moved to excuse the absence of Commissioner Decker. With a voice vote the motion passed.

Public Comments

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

In Person

Tobi Hannah-Davies, City resident, thanked staff for proposing an extension of the Emergency Housing Ordinance and adding an additional winter to the five-year timeline. Ms. Hannah-Davies expressed opposition to the 20-pod implementation limit and phasing requirement for larger projects.

Michelle Davis, Executive Director of Housing Resources Incorporated (HRI), expressed appreciation to City staff and support for the updated Emergency Housing Ordinance. Director Davis suggested that all Memoranda of Understanding (MOU's) with housing providers be presented as informational items to the City Commission, not just MOU's for projects with 20+ housing units.

Jane Gosh, Executive Director of Discover! Kalamazoo expressed support for Item H-5 on the business meeting agenda, a three-year contract with Gud Marketing for downtown and Streets for All marketing and communications.

Call In

Michael Bain stated his family experienced a panhandler exposing himself over the weekend while they were at an intersection downtown. Mr. Bain stated the City should end its emergency housing initiative and enforce the basic rules of society.

2023-39-01

Emergency Housing Ordinance Update

Housing Development Supervisor Sharilyn Parsons delivered a presentation entitled Emergency Housing Ordinance Proposed Updates. A copy of the slides from this presentation was filed with the papers for this meeting.

In response to questions and comments from City Commissioners, Housing Development Supervisor Sharilyn Parsons provided the following information:

- under the proposed ordinance, the service provider can be the property owner.

- the words “develop” and “install” refer to the same thing.
- it seems like there is consensus with HRI around the updated, proposed ordinance.
- the location of HRI’s emergency housing site was for HRI to disclose.
- the City would welcome more emergency housing partners like HRI.

Commissioner Juarez stated the City was not opposed to extending the Emergency Housing Ordinance, but staff needed to figure out how the ordinance could best serve the community. Commissioner Juarez spoke about the need for a collective response to homelessness and the need for more organizations like HRI.

Commissioner Praedel stated he liked to see consensus building, and he noted the City was being proactive by addressing the Emergency Housing Ordinance well before the sunset date.

Mayor Anderson noted this ordinance was not just for HRI; other organizations could partner with the City to provide emergency housing.

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

The meeting adjourned at 5:27 p.m.

Scott A. Borling
City Clerk

Approved by the City Commission on: _____

2023-39-01

Emergency Housing
Ordinance Update
(cont’d)

Commissioner
Comments

Adjournment