

Roll Call

A regular meeting of the Kalamazoo City Commission was held on Monday, September 18, 2023 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 Aaron Leal, and City Clerk Scott Borling.

Invocation

The invocation, given by Pastor Moise Ratsara from Kalamazoo Seventh-Day Adventist Church, was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Proclamation
2023-38-01

Commissioner Hoffman read a proclamation celebrating *Encore Magazine – 50th Anniversary, October 2023*. Marie Lee from Encore Magazine received the proclamation.

Adoption of the Agenda

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

Public Comments

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

In-Person Comments

2023-38-02

John Allen, City-resident, urged the City Commission to not approve contract 91824-001.0 for branding, marketing, and event planning for the Streets for All projects. A copy of Mr. Allen's written remarks was filed with the papers for this meeting.

Wilson Xu, City resident, thanked the City for installing traffic calming measures and infrastructure to support a multi-modal transportation system.

Karin Larsen, City resident, expressed concerns about the proposed commercial zoning changes and requested the City create green zones around parks and not weaken the Natural Features Protection language in the Zoning Code.

2023-38-03

Jeff Messer, City resident, spoke about the benefits of Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) and asked people to vote "Yes" on the RCV charter amendment question on the November 7th ballot. A copy of Mr. Messer's written remarks was filed with the papers for this meeting.

Matt Smith, City resident, expressed support for RCV and spoke about Graphic Packaging and environmental racism. Mr. Smith noted there was an open public comment period through the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) regarding a request from Graphic Packaging to change their permit.

Christine Taplin, City resident, stated the City was violating a grant application. Ms. Taplin stated the proposed sidewalk on Winchell Avenue would not address the primary problem on that street, which was speeding traffic. Ms. Taplin expressed concern about a speed sign that had been installed in front of her house and requested data on the effectiveness of the sign. Ms. Taplin requested an additional turn lane on Oakland Drive at Winchell Avenue.

Tyler Dancer, non-resident, spoke about the EGLE public comment period for the Graphic Packaging permit and the deficiencies of the odor-related data the City was collecting. Mr. Dancer expressed frustration that the state's permit process placed too much responsibility on individual citizens to understand complex data and processes.

Dustin Black, City resident, stated the City was frequently commended at professional events for its proactive approach to traffic safety, but ongoing problems with speeding traffic showed there was still work to be done.

Shona Espinoza, City resident, asked the City to change its rules for tenants and landlords and inspect all rental units prior to new tenants moving in. Ms. Espinoza spoke about landlords who did not care and described how she had been forced to move multiple times in a year.

Charles Curtis Sanders, City resident, spoke about the high cost of living in Kalamazoo and stated he wanted to be an advocate for people in his neighborhood.

Jacob Johnson, City resident, spoke about his family's struggles in Kalamazoo and how Graphic Packaging was polluting the black and brown community. Mr. Johnson expressed concern about the lack of urgency at all levels of government to address air quality.

Call-In Comments

An anonymous caller reported trash in her neighbor's front yard on Bessie Street.

An anonymous caller spoke about the problems in Kalamazoo, including poverty, racism, and the housing crisis. The caller stated people could not trust City government.

Remi Harrington, City resident, expressed concern that the City cut down a tree on her property without giving her prior notification.

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 contract with Kraemar Design Group for the Historic Reconnaissance Level Survey Analysis Project in the amount of \$111,988.
- approval of a contract supplemental and change order with Blu Cleaning for citywide custodial services in the amount of \$120,347.40.

Public Comments
(cont'd)

Consent Agenda

2023-38-04

2023-38-05

2023-38-06	- approval of a cooperative purchase agreement with Carahsoft through the OMNIA EDU contract: R191902 for Salesforce CRM services in the amount of \$186,667.42.
2023-38-07	- approval of a sole source purchase of engineered high capacity carbon from PureAir Filtration for the removal, replacement and disposal of carbon in the wastewater treatment plant scrubber units in the amount of \$443,213.
2023-38-08	- approval of a professional service agreement with Wightman & Associates for construction engineering services in support of the Westnedge Avenue Watermain Roadway, and Sanitary Project in the amount of \$817,750.
2023-38-09 Resolution 23-49	- adoption of a RESOLUTION approving a contract supplemental and change order with Consumers Energy and authorizing a change in the Street Lighting Contract for West Michigan Avenue from Drake Road to Howard Streets.
2023-38-10 Resolution 23-50	- adoption of a RESOLUTION approving a contract supplemental and change order with Consumers Energy and authorizing a change in the Street Lighting Contract for Ransom Street from Walbridge to Burdick Streets.
2023-38-11 Resolution 23-51	- adoption of a RESOLUTION approving a contract supplemental and change order with Consumers Energy and authorizing a change in the Street Lighting Contract for Fraternity Village Drive and California Avenue.
2023-38-12 Resolution 23-52	- adoption of a RESOLUTION approving an amendment to the 2019 wastewater services agreement with the City of Parchment.
2023-38-13	- approval of an agreement with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services for an Ending Community Violence grant in the amount of \$50,000.
	Commissioner Juarez, 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.
	With a roll call vote this motion passed unanimously.
	AYES: Commissioners Decker, Hess, Hoffman, Juarez, Praedel, Vice Mayor Cooney, Mayor Anderson
	NAYS: None
Regular Agenda	Regular Agenda items were considered next.
2023-38-14 Contract for Water Main Replacement on Balch Street	Public Services Director James Baker provided an overview of the project to replace water main on Balch Street from Park Street to Burdick Street. An opportunity was given for public comments on a contract with Peters Construction Company for the replacement of water main on Balch Street from Park Street to Burdick Street, but no comments were offered. Commissioner Juarez, seconded by Vice Mayor Cooney, moved to approve a contract with Peters Construction Company for the replacement of water main on Balch Street from Park Street to Burdick Street in the amount of \$1,562,158.97.

Prior to a vote on the motion, Commissioner Praedel stated he was impressed that staff had the foresight to purchase the pipe for this project in 2022 to stay ahead of potential supply chain issues.

With a roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

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

NAYS: None

Director Baker provided an overview of an ordinance to repeal the existing Chapter 28 of the Kalamazoo City Code, *Wastewater Discharge Regulations and Enforcement Procedures*, and enact a new Chapter 28, *Wastewater Discharge Regulations and Enforcement Procedures*.

Commissioner Hess stated her respect for staff in the Public Services Department increased as she read the ordinance.

In response to a question from Commissioner Hess, Director Baker stated there were a lot of changes with the new ordinance; the difference between the old and new ordinances was a night-and-day difference. Director Baker stated a lot of experts worked on the new ordinance.

An opportunity was given for public comments on an ordinance to repeal the existing Chapter 28 of the Kalamazoo City Code, *Wastewater Discharge Regulations and Enforcement Procedures*, and enact a new Chapter 28, *Wastewater Discharge Regulations and Enforcement Procedures*, but no comments were offered.

Commissioner Hoffman seconded by Commissioner Juarez, moved to offer for first reading an ordinance to repeal the existing Chapter 28 of the Kalamazoo City Code, *Wastewater Discharge Regulations and Enforcement Procedures*, and enact a new Chapter 28, *Wastewater Discharge Regulations and Enforcement Procedures*.

With a roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

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

NAYS: None

City Manager Ritsema recognized Traffic Engineer Dennis Randolph, who received the 2023 Carmine Palombo Individual Achievement Award from the Michigan Transportation Asset Management Council (TAMC).

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

Vice Mayor Cooney commended the United Auto Workers (UAW) for standing up for workers' rights.

2023-38-14

Contract for Water Main Replacement on Balch Street (cont'd)

2023-38-15

First Reading of an Ordinance to Revise and Replace Chapter 28 re: Wastewater Discharge Regulations

City Manager's Report

Commissioner Comments

Commissioner
Comments (cont'd)

Commissioner Praedel highlighted items on the Consent Agenda, including the street lighting contract amendments and the contract for Salesforce software. Commissioner Praedel reported he was working on a resolution supporting state legislation to allow immigrants to get driver's licenses. Commissioner Praedel remarked on the heavy nature of the City Commission discussion at the Committee of the Whole meeting and the public comments during the Business Meeting.

Commissioner Hess stated Commissioners listened and heard people when they spoke. Commissioner Hess highlighted upcoming events, including the Great Lakes Peace Jam on October 7th, National Drive Electric Week beginning September 23rd, and Sounds of the Zoo from September 25th – October 1st.

Commissioner Hoffman stated she was proud of the work the City had done and the work it would do in the future. Commissioner Hoffman indicated she continued to be affected by the air quality on the Northside, and she stated she would continue to raise up that issue.

Commissioner Juarez announced September was Hispanic Heritage Month, and he noted Cinco de Mayo and Mexican Independence Day were two different things. Commissioner Juarez remarked on the City's Employee Appreciation Day event and thanked staff for their work. Commissioner Juarez stated the City could do more to address homelessness and the situation with Graphic Packaging.

Mayor Anderson reported attending the following events: the ground breaking ceremony for the Boys and Girls Club; the ground breaking ceremony for Milestone Senior Services; and the 20th Anniversary of Kalamazoo Communities in Schools. Mayor Anderson expressed frustration about the EGLE public comment period for Graphic Packaging and requested that the City use its media resourced to publicize the comment period and the ways people could participate.

Closed Session

Commissioner Juarez, seconded by Commissioner Hess, moved that the City Commission go into closed session to discuss pending litigation.

Mayor Anderson indicated the City Commission would not be returning to open session following the closed session.

With a roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

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

NAYS: None

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

Scott A. Borling
City Clerk

Approved by the City Commission on: _____

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