A regular meeting of the Kalamazoo City Commission was held on Monday, October 16, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Commission Chambers at City Hall.

Roll Call

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 Pradip Sagdeo, was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Proclamations
2023-42-01

Commissioner Hess proclaimed November 1, 2023 *Extra Mile Day*. There was nobody present to receive the proclamation.

2023-42-02

Commissioner Hoffman proclaimed October 15-21, 2023 *YWCA Week Without Violence*. Daniel Hamilton, Director of Public Policy for the YWCA, received the proclamation.

2023-42-03

Vice Mayor Cooney proclaimed October 29, 2023 Turkish Republic Day. Representatives from the Turkish American Cultural Association of Michigan, including association President Armağan Korkmaz, received the proclamation.

2023-42-04

Commissioner Praedel proclaimed October 19, 2023 Imagine a Day Without Water. Public Services Director James Baker received the proclamation.

Adoption of the Agenda

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

Commissioner Hoffman requested that Item F-7, a resolution supporting state legislation banning source of income discrimination be moved to Policy Items

Commissioner Praedel requested that Item F-6, a resolution supporting the restoration of drivers licenses for undocumented immigrants, be moved to Policy Items

A member of the public requested that Item F-4, a resolution approving a Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) for an affordable housing development project at 210 Lake Street.

2023-42-05
Communications – Presentation of the Draft 2024 FFE Grant to the City

Foundation for Excellence (FFE) Executive Director Steve Brown presented the draft 2024 FFE Grant to the City of Kalamazoo for tax reduction, budget stabilization, and aspirational initiatives. 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, Executive Director Brown provided the following information:

2023-42-05
Communications – Presentation of the Draft 2024 FFE Grant to the City (cont'd)

- the FFE endowment is meant to be permanent; the investment in the community will be in the hundreds of millions of dollars.

- noteworthy accomplishments of the FFE include the All Things Possible program at Parks and Recreation, significant investment in housing and economic development, and the Frank Street development project by Jamauri Bogan.

- people can donate to the FFE through the FFE website.

Commissioner Hess highlighted the work of FFE funding partners, donors, and City staff. Commissioner Hess noted City tax bills indicated the dollar amounts the FFE saved individual taxpayers, and there was a place for people to donate to the FFE with their tax payments.

Public Comments

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

In-Person Comments

Nehemiah Scudder, City-resident, offered remarks about mental illness, the connection between mental illness and creativity, and the contributions of people with mental illness.

Bruce Schuur, City resident, expressed support for the proposed ordinance that would change the zoning of 814 Douglas, 1117 Conant, and 1135 Conant from commercial to multi-family residential.

Jeff Weisman, City resident, spoke about the lack of Public Safety foot patrols on Kalamazoo Avenue, the lack of ordinance enforcement for junk automobiles, and debris left on site after a structure was demolished on North Burdick Street.

Todd Ketanski-O'Brien, City resident, expressed support for the bike lanes the City had installed downtown.

Amelia Ketanski, City resident, thanked the City for installing bike infrastructure and traffic calming measures.

Wil Roland, City resident, asked about the rezoning of properties on the Northside and stated there should be neighborhood meetings. Mr. Roland observed the new bike lanes were being used by panhandlers, which was not good. Mr. Roland suggested the City consider what it was doing in 2006-2007 when there were 400+ days without a murder.

Tina McClinton, City resident, described how the proposed rezoning would harm her neighborhood. Ms. McClinton stated the City had failed to fix the storm sewers in her neighborhood, and she urged people to vote on November 7th.

Millie Boutwell, City resident, requested better bike infrastructure and recounted how she was hit on her bike by a school bus.

Public Comments (cont'd)

An anonymous speaker expressed support for the resolution supporting the reinstatement of driver's licenses for undocumented immigrants.

Matilda Ramirez, City resident, expressed support for the resolution supporting the reinstatement of driver's licenses for undocumented immigrants.

Shona Espinoza, City resident, stated housing in Kalamazoo was not affordable or equitable, and she asked for the City's help. Ms. Espinoza stated City housing inspectors were not doing their jobs.

Arlena Jones, City resident, stated people had returned their absentee ballots before they knew she was a write-in candidate for Mayor. Ms. Jones asked what could be done about this.

An anonymous speaker stated he had lost four family members to suicide in the past four years and spoke about the reality of mental illness and suicide. The speaker described how the City Attorney's Office refused to drop charges against him for trespassing.

Jeff Messer, City resident, coached call-in speakers to speak slowly and clearly, asked if City Clerk Borling could address Ms. Jones' questions about absentee ballots, and expressed support for the Ranked Choice Voting charter amendment.

Clyde Robinson, City resident, expressed opposition to Ranked Choice Voting and described how the process was not transparent.

<u>Call-In Comments</u>

David Benac, City resident, urged the City Commission to do something about Graphic Packaging and stated more hydrogen sulfide monitors would not solve the problem.

Richard Stewart, City resident, urged the City Commission to vote against the proposed zoning ordinance and to break it up into smaller pieces. Mr. Stewart expressed opposition to a Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) for the LIFT Foundation property and support for a PILOT for the Hollander development project.

2023-42-06
Public Hearing re: Ordinances Amending the Zoning Code

At 8:34 p.m. Mayor Anderson opened a public hearing to receive comments on ordinances approving text amendments to Chapter 50, Zoning Ordinance and Appendix A Zoning; approving updates to the Zoning Map; and approving related updates to Chapter 3, Advertising, Chapter 7, Animals and Fowl, Chapter 9, Buildings and Building Regulations, and Chapter 21, Nuisances.

City Attorney Leal requested that the ordinance amending Chapter 3 of the Code of Ordinances be removed from the agenda and not adopted.

In response to a question from Commissioner Praedel, City Attorney Leal explained that Section 3.2 was in a chapter dealing with the posting of advertising on public property, and the proposed changes included amendments to three sections and the recission of three sections.

2023-42-06
Public Hearing re: Ordinances Amending the Zoning Code (cont'd)

Mayor Anderson remarked on the extensive public process that resulted in the proposed zoning ordinances.

In response to questions and comments from City Commissioners, Community Planning and Economic Development (CPED) Deputy Director Christina Anderson provided the following information:

- very few properties on the Northside were part of the proposed rezoning. Staff has talked with Mr. Roland and will connect with him about his questions.

- the proposed ordinance would rezone the properties on Conant Street and Douglas Avenue from commercial to residential.

- there was a misconception about the Natural Features Protection (NFP) standards – what they are and what they do. NFP is not about prohibiting development; it is about doing development differently to account for natural features. The proposed ordinance modifies the NFP statement of intent for clarity. Property owners need to know if their property is impact by the NFP standards.

- the proposed ordinance is the fourth version of the ordinance. There were multiple community meetings and presentations to the Planning Commission that resulted in changes and the publication of new drafts between meetings.

- two areas that were not really addressed during the process were lighting and the creation of a restrictive zone that permitted very little development. The sections on lighting were moved from Appendix A to Chapter 50, but there was not enough time for a deep review of the content. The City would not create a "zero development" district, as zoning was a development tool, not a preservation tool.

- if a person wants to know how the proposed zoning changes affect their property, they should call or email, and staff will be happy to explain.

- property owners will still have the ability to request zoning variances and rezonings.

- if adopted, the proposed ordinance will allow for different signage and lighting at commercial properties; the overlay districts will go away, removing the challenges those districts create for developers.

- the goal of the project to rewrite the zoning code is to eliminate barriers, not create them.

- the ordinance will not necessarily change situations where two adjacent properties have different zoning; a change would depend on factors specific to the properties.

Commissioner Decker remarked that the proposed ordinances should help the City make better use of public spaces. Commissioner Decker reported Kalamazoo was held up at state conferences as a city that was doing good work with the zoning code.

2023-42-06
Public Hearing re: Ordinances Amending the Zoning Code (cont'd)

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

Larry Bell, City resident, expressed opposition to the proposed rezoning of his properties at 107, 108, and 112 Parkway Drive. Mr. Bell alleged that the City was rezoning his properties in retaliation for his decision to not collaborate with the City on a hotel development at the corner of Michigan Avenue and King Highway. Mr. Bell requested that his properties retain their current zoning.

Tina McClinton, City resident, expressed opposition to the proposed zoning rezoning.

Aaron Miller, City resident, offered that not every voice had been heard and suggested the timeframe for review and comment be extended.

Discussion took place regarding Mr. Bell's request for his properties at 107, 108, and 112 Parkway Drive.

In response to questions and comments about the Parkway Drive properties, Deputy Director Anderson provided the following information:

- the proposed zoning for these properties is Live Work 2, which allows for production and is a transition zone for properties on the edge of downtown.

- the current zoning designation for these properties is CM-1, which is being eliminated in the proposed ordinance. As a result, the zoning for Parkway Drive properties must change. Properties currently in the CM-1 district are being moved to Live Work 1 and Live Work 2.

- the Live Work 1 zone is very similar to the CM-1 zone. If a change needs to be made for a specific project, staff can have that conversation with Mr. Bell. That would be his opportunity to challenge the City's decision.

- the ordinances would take effect 10 days after adoption.

- the City Commission had the legal ability to change the zoning of the Parkway Drive properties to match the zoning of the City-owned property immediately to the north along Michigan Avenue.

- zoning was only one of many factors that influenced property values.

Vice Mayor Cooney indicated he was willing to rezone Mr. Bell's parcels to match the zoning of the City's parcel to the north.

Commissioner Juarez expressed support for the work of City staff and recommended that the City Commission not make last minute changes, given that the requested change was not categorical and would not change the value of the property. Commissioner Juarez cautioned that making a last-minute change for one person could encourage other people to come forward and request changes.

Commissioner Decker noted there were options for variances and rezonings; if Mr. Bell had a development idea, he could present it.

2023-42-06
Public Hearing re: Ordinances Amending the Zoning Code (cont'd)

Vice Mayor Cooney expressed agreement with Commissioners Juarez and Decker and stated the City Commission should not make changes at the dais.

Commissioner Praedel offered remarks on the temptation to show favoritism when a well-known person and community benefactor like Mr. Bell came to the City Commission and made a request for special consideration. Commissioner Praedel stated the Commission needed to rely on process in these situations so there was no doubt about their intentions.

At 9:29 p.m. Mayor Anderson closed the public hearing.

2023-42-06
Ordinances 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, and 2077 to Amend the Zoning Code and Related Ordinances re: Commercial Properties

Commissioner Juarez, seconded by Vice Mayor Cooney, moved to adopt **ORDINANCES** approving text amendments to Chapter 50, Zoning Ordinance and Appendix A Zoning; approving updates to the Zoning Map; and approving related updates to Chapter 7, Animals and Fowl, Chapter 9, Buildings and Building Regulations, and Chapter 21, Nuisances.

Prior to a vote on the motion, Commissioner Praedel remarked that people had an opportunity to comment on the proposed ordinances, and through multiple revisions he witnessed changes to the ordinances that were a direct result of public input.

Mayor Anderson thanked Vice Mayor Cooney for his sensitivity with Mr. Bell and Commissioner Praedel for his work as the liaison to the Planning Commission through this process. Mayor Anderson noted the drafts of the ordinances changed as a result of public input, and the City Commission had received a letter from the Planning Commission recommending approval. Mayor Anderson thanked the Planning Commission for their work and remarked that no ordinance of this magnitude would be perfect.

With a roll call vote this motion passed unanimously.

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

NAYS: None

Recess

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.
The meeting resumed at 9:49 p.m.

Consent Agenda

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:

2023-42-07

- approval of a cooperative Sourcewell Purchase for New Fire Apparatus-Pumper from Spartan Emergency Response in the amount of $838,362 and approval of a budget amendment in the amount of $188,362.

2023-42-08

- approval of a contract extension with Alexander Chemical for Liquid Sodium hypochlorite in the amount of $289,948.75.

2023-42-09

- approval of a contract supplemental/change order with Ferguson Water Works for Neptune Water Meters in the amount of $700,000.

2023-42-10 - adoption of a **RESOLUTION** approving a Payment in Lieu of Taxes to Kalrecovery I Limited Dividend Housing Association Limited Partnership for the creation of 48 housing units located on the portion of 333 East Alcott Street bounded by Reed Street, Belford Street, Bryant Street, and the Portage Creek, Parcel No. 3906-27-213-002.

2023-42-11 - adoption of a **RESOLUTION** recommending approval of a Social District Permit and Commons Area permit for Union LLC, located at 359 S Kalamazoo Mall.

2023-42-12 - adoption of a **RESOLUTION** authorizing the City Clerk to sign an Intergovernmental Agreement for Early Voting Election Services Between Kalamazoo County and Associated Municipalities.

2023-42-13 - adoption of a **RESOLUTION** adopting the 2022 Kalamazoo County Hazard Mitigation Plan.

2023-42-14 - approval of the Economic Development Corporation Economic Initiative Fund Loan for 215 EM Partners LLC in the amount of $250,000 to rehabilitate 215 E Michigan Avenue for two businesses.

2023-42-15 - approval of an additional position allocation (1 FTE) for a Civic Engagement Talent Coordinator in the City Clerk's Office; and approve an amendment to the FY2023 budget for the City Clerk's Office in the amount of $10,000.

2023-42-16 - approval of a grant in amount of $330,000 to Kalamazoo County Land Bank from the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery/ARPA funds to construct four new attached single-family homes for low-income households.

2023-42-17 - acceptance of a grant in the amount of $80,000 from the Irving S. Gilmore Foundation to fund 2023 Downtown Holiday Events and programming.

2023-42-18 - approval of the amended Economic Development Corporation Loan Policy Process.

2023-42-19 - approval and acceptance of three easements with 1) Kenneth and Julia Kammeraad and George Ludwig, and 2) Character Group, LLC for water services that extend beyond the eastern end of the water main on M-89 in Richland Township.

2023-42-20 - approval of Railroad Permits for the Howard Street (Stadium-Michigan) Project.

2023-42-21 - approval of the Mayor's appointments to the following boards:

- the appointment of Kwame Gyimah to the Downtown Development Authority and Downtown Economic Growth Authority Boards of Directors for a term expiring on March 31, 2025.

- the appointment of Matthew Norman to the Northside Cultural Business District Authority Board of Directors for a term expiring on March 31, 2026.

2023-42-21 (cont'd)

- the appointment of Tami Rey to the Northside Cultural Business District Authority Board for a term expiring on March 31, 2026.

- approval of the minutes from the City Commission meeting on January 3, January 17, February 18, and March 6, 2023.

Commissioner Hoffman, 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

*At the time of the vote, Commissioner Decker abstained from voting on Item G-13, a grant of $330,000 to the Kalamazoo County Land Bank.

Regular Agenda

Regular Agenda items were considered next.

2023-42-22
Ordinance 2078 re: Emergency Housing

City Manager Ritsema introduced an ordinance approving updates to Chapter 9 of the Kalamazoo City Code, Buildings and Building Regulations, Article 8: Emergency Housing.

Mayor Anderson noted there had been multiple presentations about this ordinance, and modifications had been made in response to input from stakeholders.

In response to a question from Commissioner Hess, Housing Development Supervisor Sharilyn Parsons stated the City had not heard from Housing Resources Incorporated (HRI) regarding their emergency housing project.

When an opportunity was given for public comments on an ordinance to update the emergency housing ordinance, the following people addressed the City Commission:

Michelle Davis, Executive Director of HRI, thanked the City for the proposed ordinance and stated HRI would be putting forward an emergency housing application.

Commissioner Hoffman, seconded by Commissioner Decker, moved to adopt an **ORDINANCE** approving updates to Chapter 9 of the Kalamazoo City Code Buildings and Building Regulations, Article 8: Emergency Housing.

With a roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

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

NAYS: None

2023-42-23
Leases for Hydrogen Sulfide Monitoring Equipment in the City of Parchment

Director Baker provided an overview of the next four agenda items, which were related to the City's odor mitigation efforts at the water reclamation plant: lease/access agreements to place hydrogen sulfide monitoring equipment in the City of Parchment; a one-year extension of the lease for odor and weather monitoring equipment and software, with two additional sensor monitoring stations; a contract supplemental/change order with USP Technologies for the use of hydrogen peroxide as a hydrogen sulfide reduction technology; and a contract supplemental/change order with D3W Industries for odor control chemicals for biosolids processing.

In response to questions and comments from City Commissioners, Director Baker provided the following information:

- all these actions are related to the reduction of hydrogen sulfide at the water reclamation plant.

- the Just Air system was measuring other particulates, but those particulates did not come from the water reclamation plant. Information about Just Air was available in the *View from the Curb* newsletter.

- the Envirosuite sensors have been placed in community locations, so some sensors are currently located near schools. Over time, the network of sensors can be expanded to include more locations, including more schools.

When an opportunity was given for public comments on access/lease agreements for placement of hydrogen sulfide monitoring equipment at 650 South Riverview Drive and 300 Maple Street in the City of Parchment, the following people addressed the City Commission:

An anonymous speaker asked what was being done to accommodate and compensate families that had been affected.

Commissioner Juarez, seconded by Vice Mayor Cooney, moved to approve lease agreements for access and placement of hydrogen sulfide monitoring equipment at 650 South Riverview Drive, Parchment, Michigan and 300 Maple Street, Parchment, Michigan.

With a roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

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

NAYS: None

2023-42-24
Leases Extension for Hydrogen Sulfide Monitoring Equipment and Software

An opportunity was given for public comments and comments and questions from City Commissioners about a sole source agreement with Envirosuite for a one-year extension of the lease for odor and weather monitoring equipment and software, with two additional sensor monitoring stations, but no comments were offered.

Commissioner Hess, seconded by Commissioner Decker, moved to approve a sole source agreement with Envirosuite for a one-year extension of the lease for odor monitoring, weather monitoring, maintenance, modelling software, and two additional sensor monitoring stations in the amount of $128,844.

2023-42-24
Leases Extension for Hydrogen Sulfide Monitoring Equipment and Software (cont'd)

Prior to a vote on the motion, Commissioner Juarez stated the City was taking action to address odors from the water reclamation plant, which is what the City could control. Commissioner Juarez noted the situation was different with Graphic Packaging.

With a roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

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

NAYS: None

2023-42-25
Contract Supplemental for Hydrogen Peroxide

An opportunity was given for public comments and comments and questions from City Commissioners about a contract supplemental/change order with USP Technologies for the use of hydrogen peroxide as a hydrogen sulfide reduction technology, but no comments were offered.

Commissioner Juarez, seconded by Commissioner Hoffman, moved to approve a contract supplemental/change order with USP Technologies for the use of hydrogen peroxide as a hydrogen sulfide reduction technology in the amount of $600,000.

Prior to a vote on the motion, Commissioner Praedel stated the amount of odor reduction at the water reclamation plant over the past three or four years was astonishing.

With a roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

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

NAYS: None

2023-42-26
Contract Supplemental for Biosolids Odor Control Chemicals

An opportunity was given for public comments and comments and questions from City Commissioners about a contract supplemental/change order with D3W Industries for odor control chemicals for biosolids processing, but no comments were offered.

Commissioner Hess, seconded by Commissioner Juarez, moved to approve a contract supplemental/change order with D3W Industries for odor control chemicals for biosolids processing in the amount of $416,900.

With a roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

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

NAYS: None

2023-42-27
Resolution 23-59 Approving a PILOT for Hawthorne Park at 210 Lake Street

An opportunity was given for questions and comments from City Commissioners about a resolution approving a Payment in Lieu of Taxes to Hawthorne Park Limited Dividend Housing Association Limited Partnership for the creation of 36 affordable residential units located at 210 Lake Street, but no questions or comments were offered.

2023-42-27
Resolution 23-59 Approving a PILOT for Hawthorne Park at 210 Lake Street (cont'd)

When an opportunity was given for public comments on a resolution approving a Payment in Lieu of Taxes to Hawthorne Park Limited Dividend Housing Association Limited Partnership for the creation of 36 affordable residential units located at 210 Lake Street, the following people addressed the City Commission:

> Jeff Messer, City resident, indicated he had requested this item be moved to the Regular Agenda on behalf of another person, who arrived after the adoption of the agenda and had already left the meeting.

Vice Mayor Cooney, seconded by Commissioner Decker, moved to adopt a **RESOLUTION** approving a Payment in Lieu of Taxes to Hawthorne Park Limited Dividend Housing Association Limited Partnership for the creation of 36 affordable residential units located at 210 Lake Street.

Prior to a vote on the motion, Vice Mayor Cooney stated he had asked staff about accusations that the development of this property would lead to increased flooding in the neighborhood, and he reported there were strict regulations in the Zoning Code and from the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) to ensure the water displaced by the property stayed on the property. Vice Mayor Cooney indicated this project would take up only a part of the green space in the area; a good portion of the green space would remain in tact.

With a roll call vote the motion passed 6-0 with one abstention.

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Mayor Anderson

At the time of the vote, Mayor Anderson indicated he was abstaining due to a conflict of interest, as he was a volunteer member of The LIFT Foundation board.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Ritsema recognized Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Coordinator Lal Tluangi for receiving certificates in Organizational Inclusion and Diversity and Human Resource Specialization from Michigan State University, and DEI Director Tanya Hewitt-Smith for earning the designation Certified Diversity Professional from the National Diversity Council.

Policy Items

Policy Items were considered next.

2023-42-28
Resolution 23-60 re: Drivers Licenses for Undocumented Immigrants

Commissioner Praedel introduced a resolution in support of the restoration of driver's licenses for undocumented immigrants. Commissioner Praedel reported 19 states allowed undocumented immigrants to get driver's licenses, and he stated allowing undocumented immigrants to get driver's licenses did not lead to an increase in criminal activity.

Commissioner Juarez stated there were a lot of lies about the Latinx community, and he spoke about the need for issues like driver's licenses to be brought to the forefront and discussed. Commissioner Juarez indicated the term "illegal immigrants" was misleading. Commissioner Juarez talked about the contributions of immigrants and urged them to rise and take their rightful place in the country.

2023-42-28
Resolution 23-60 re: Drivers Licenses for Undocumented Immigrants (cont'd)

Commissioner Juarez, seconded by Commissioner Decker, moved to adopt a **RESOLUTION** in support of the restoration of driver's licenses for undocumented immigrants.

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

> Aaron Miller, City resident, stated people were not against immigrants, and he suggested there should be a focus on simplifying the immigration process. Mr. Miller stated the problem with undocumented immigrants was that they did not pay for public services.

With a roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

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

NAYS: None

2023-42-29
Resolution 23-61 Supporting Legislation Banning Source of Income Discrimination

Commissioner Hoffman introduced a resolution supporting proposed State legislation banning source of income discrimination, and she stated this item needed to be discussed so as not to marginalize the people who were the focus of the resolution. Commissioner Hoffman spoke about racial disparities in home ownership and the discrimination faced by people who tried to use housing vouchers or assistance from family or churches for move-in costs. Commissioner Hoffman noted the City's fair housing ordinance banned source of income discrimination, and this protection should be in place statewide.

When an opportunity was given for public comments on a resolution supporting proposed State legislation banning source of income discrimination, the following people addressed the City Commission:

> An anonymous speaker stated 52% of the black population in the City lived in poverty, and she offered remarks on the need for the City to understand the numbers and be intentional in its actions.

Commissioner Hoffman, seconded by Commissioner Hess, moved to adopt a **RESOLUTION** supporting proposed State legislation banning source of income discrimination.

With a roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

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

NAYS: None

New Business

Next, an item of new business was considered.

Discussion of a Letter from the City Commission to EGLE re: Graphic Packaging

Commissioner Juarez recommended that the City Commission take a clear and definitive position on the Graphic Packaging situation and write a letter to EGLE expressing opposition to the issuance of any additional permits to Graphic Packaging, or the amendment of existing permits to allow more emissions.

Discussion of a Letter from the City Commission to EGLE re: Graphic Packaging (cont'd)	Discussion took place about the lack of clarity with EGLE's permit processes and the mechanics of how the Commission would write and approve a letter, with this meeting being the last meeting of the current City Commission. Commissioner Praedel and Vice Mayor Cooney suggested that each Commissioner write a letter to EGLE. In response to a question from Vice Mayor Cooney, City Attorney Leal stated Commissioners were free to write letters to EGLE in their individual capacities, but they could not claim to represent the City Commission unless the Commission acted. Commissioner Decker suggested the circulation of a petition. Commissioner Juarez noted the importance of a unified City Commission action and stated a petition or individual letters would be weaker. Vice Mayor Cooney stated a unified action would be good if there was another meeting before the end of Commissioners' terms. Commissioner Juarez and Vice Mayor Cooney requested this topic be placed on the next City Commission meeting agenda.
Commissioner Comments	Next, an opportunity was given for miscellaneous comments from City Commissioners. Vice Mayor Cooney remarked that it had been a privilege to be on the City Commission with people who were passionate about justice and helping people in need. Commissioner Juarez stated it had been an honor to serve on the City Commission. Commissioner Juarez stated the work was difficult, but it had been a joy. Commissioner Decker commended KDPS for how they handled a recent incident downtown where a person was threatening to take their life. Commissioner Decker spoke about a person who lost their life crossing the street and acknowledged people who had died early. Commissioner Decker Commissioner Decker offered remarks on the new Economic Development Corporation loan policy. Commissioner Hess announced a Styrofoam recycling event on October 28th and the KDPS Station 2 grand opening on October 23rd. Commissioner Hess encouraged people to vote "yes" for the veterans' millage. Commissioner Hess remarked on people who were working to make the community better, and she highlighted the importance of municipal work, the work only the City could do. Commissioner Praedel stated it was a great honor to serve with his fellow-Commissioners. Commissioner Praedel expressed appreciation for the opportunity to be on the City Commission, and he stated he would do it all again. Commissioner Hoffman stated she appreciated the rich, deep dialogue Commissioners were able to have. Mayor Anderson reminded people to vote in the upcoming election and explained the impact of the extended process for certifying election results.

The meeting adjourned at 11:13 p.m.

Adjournment

Scott A. Borling
City Clerk

Approved by the City Commission on: ____________________________

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