

Roll Call – 50th City Commission

A regular meeting of the Kalamazoo City Commission was held on Monday November 9, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Commission Chambers at City Hall.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Mayor Bobby Hopewell
Vice Mayor David Anderson
Bob Cinabro
Don Cooney
Eric Cunningham
Barbara Miller
Jack Urban

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: None

Also present were City Manager Jim Ritsema, City Attorney Clyde Robinson, and City Clerk Scott Borling.

Introduction of Guests – State Legislators

Mayor Hopewell introduced State Senator Margaret O'Brien and State Representatives Jon Hoadley and Brandt Iden who presented Commissioners Cunningham, Cinabro, and Miller with State of Michigan Special Tributes and thanked them for their years of service on the City Commission.

Proclamations for Commissioners Cunningham, Cinabro, and Miller

Vice Mayor Anderson read a proclamation *Honoring Eric Cunningham for Dedication and Service to the City of Kalamazoo*. Commissioner Cunningham thanked his colleagues on the Commission for appointing him. Commissioner Cunningham thanked City staff for their work and urged them to stay strong in their current path. Commissioner Cunningham thanked his family and his campaign managers for their sacrifices and support. Commissioner Cunningham stated he would continue to give back to the community and love those around him. Commissioner Cunningham offered best wishes to the new Commission and indicated he would be praying for them every day.

Vice Mayor Anderson read a proclamation *Honoring Robert H. Cinabro for Dedication and Service to the City of Kalamazoo*. Commissioner Cinabro thanked the state legislators for their participation in ceremonies of the evening. Commissioner Cinabro offered remarks to his colleagues on the Commission. Commissioner Cinabro compared himself to the Roman hero Cincinnatus, who gave up his position in public service to return to his career as a farmer. Commissioner Cinabro stated he would be returning to the practice of law, which was his first love. Commissioner Cinabro offered well-wishes to the new City Commission.

Vice Mayor Anderson read a proclamation *Honoring Barbara Hamilton Miller for Dedication and Service to the City of Kalamazoo*. Commissioner Miller expressed well-wishes to the 51st City Commission and the City of Kalamazoo.

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Cunningham, seconded by Commissioner Miller, moved to approve the minutes from the City Commission meetings on October 19, 2015.

With a roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

AYES: Commissioners Cinabro, Cooney, Cunningham, Miller, Urban, Vice Mayor Anderson, Mayor Hopewell

NAYS: None

City Clerk Borling presented the following report from the Kalamazoo County Board of Canvassers:

The Kalamazoo County Board of Canvassers has certified the following individuals were elected to the Kalamazoo City Commission on November 3, 2015. Elected Mayor with 6,490 votes was Bobby J. Hopewell; elected Vice-Mayor with 4,801 votes was Don Cooney; elected as City Commissioners were David Anderson who received 4,724 votes; Shannon Sykes who received 3,961 votes; Erin Knott who received 3,604 votes; Jack C. Urban who received 3,021 votes; and, Matt Milcarek who received 2,954 votes.

The report of the Board of Canvassers was received into the record.

Mayor Hopewell adjourned the meeting, *sine die*, at 7:22 p.m.

City Clerk Borling administered the Constitutional Oath of Office to newly elected City Commissioners David Anderson, Erin Knott, Matt Milcarek, Shannon Sykes, and Jack Urban; newly elected Vice Mayor Don Cooney; and newly elected Mayor Bobby J. Hopewell.

Following the administration of the oaths of office, pins bearing the City Seal were presented and affixed to the Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Commissioners.

At 7:35 p.m. Mayor Hopewell called to order the first meeting of the 51st City Commission of the City of Kalamazoo.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Mayor Bobby Hopewell
Vice Mayor Don Cooney
David Anderson
Erin Knott
Matt Milcarek
Shannon Sykes
Jack Urban

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: None

Also present were City Manager Jim Ritsema, City Attorney Clyde Robinson, and City Clerk Scott Borling.

The invocation, given by Reverend Nathan Dannison, First Congregational Church, was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes
(cont'd)

Report of the Board of
Canvassers

Adjournment *Sine Die*

Call to Order and
Roll Call – 51st City
Commission

Invocation/Pledge

Introduction of Guests	Mayor Hopewell acknowledged the presence of the following state and local officials: Julie Rogers, Kalamazoo County Commissioner Laurence Shaffer, City Manager for the City of Portage Tim Snow, Kalamazoo County Clerk/Register of Deeds Margaret O'Brien, State Senator Mary Balkema, Kalamazoo County Treasurer Brandt Iden, State Representative Jon Hoadley, State Representative Al Heilman, former Vice Mayor Kevin Wordelman, Kalamazoo County Commissioner Stephanie Moore, Kalamazoo County Commissioner Bob Miller, Associate Vice President for Community Outreach, Western Michigan University Larry Provancher, Kalamazoo County Commissioner
Adoption of the Agenda	By unanimous consent the City Commission adopted its meeting agenda as presented.
Citizen Comments	Next, when an opportunity was given for citizens comments the following people addressed the City Commission: Margaret O'Brien, non-resident and State Senator for the 20th District, congratulated the Mayor, Vice Mayor and City Commissioners on their election and reelection and stated she was looking forward to working with them on legislative issues.
City Commissioner Comments	Finally, an opportunity was given for miscellaneous comments and concerns of City Commissioners. Commissioner Milcarek thanked the people of the City of Kalamazoo and stated he was looking forward to the work ahead. Commissioner Urban thanked the voters and those who campaigned for him. Commissioner Knott thanked the people who voted for her and stated she was humbled. Commissioner Knott also thanked the Progressive Women's Network of Kalamazoo and the Michigan Peoples' Campaign/Fair Chance for All for their support. Commissioner Sykes thanked her family and the community for their support and stated she was looking forward to serving on the Commission. Commissioner Anderson thanked everyone who had taken the time to vote and remarked on the importance of participating in the voting process. Commissioner Anderson noted running for office and serving in office were two very different things. Commissioner Anderson remarked that Commissioners frequently found themselves in the position of choosing between two, or more, less-than-perfect options, and they needed to make decisions on difficult topics where unanimous agreement was rare.

Vice Mayor Cooney thanked the community for the opportunity to serve and stated holding public office was a sacred trust. Vice Mayor Cooney agreed with Reverend Dannison that the City Commission had a duty to preserve the gifts given to the community, but it was also a sacred trust to make advances. Vice Mayor Cooney stated the measure of success for the City would be based on whether enough was being done for those who had too little.

Mayor Hopewell announced there would be a reception in the atrium following the meeting.

In response to questions from Mayor Hopewell, City Clerk Borling indicated there were approximately 50,000 registered voters in the City, and approximately 16% of those registered voters participated in the election on November 3rd.

Mayor Hopewell stated the level of involvement by voters was sad, and he encouraged the audience to engage people who didn't vote and urge them to participate in the electoral process. Mayor Hopewell expressed excitement about the new Commissioners and the energy, input, and perspectives they would bring. Mayor Hopewell indicated he would miss Commissioner Cunningham. Mayor Hopewell remarked on the need to be civil and respectful in the Commission Chambers. Mayor Hopewell noted the members of the City Commission were normal people who were simply serving the community. Mayor Hopewell reminded people that the job of the Commission was to represent all 75,000 members of the community and love them, which meant that sometimes individual people were going to disagree and even be angry with the Commission. Mayor Hopewell stated the City Commission and City staff were a great team that would do great things for the community.

The meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott A. Borling
City Clerk

For City Commission approval on November 16, 2015

Approved by: _____
Bobby J. Hopewell, Mayor
Dated November 16, 2015

City Commissioner
Comments (cont'd)

Adjournment