

Roll Call – 51st City Commission

A regular meeting of the Kalamazoo City Commission was held on Monday November 13, 2017 at 7:02 p.m. in the City Commission Chambers at City Hall.

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.

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Milcarek, seconded by Commissioner Sykes, moved to approve the minutes from the City Commission meeting on October 16, 2017. With a voice vote the motion passed.

Report of the Board of Canvassers

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

The Kalamazoo County Board of Canvassers has certified the following results from the Municipal Election held on November 7th: having received 6,028 votes, Bobby J. Hopewell was elected Mayor; having received 4,869 votes, Erin Knott was elected City Commissioner and is, by charter, the Vice-Mayor; having received 4,809 votes Eric Cunningham was elected City Commissioner; and having received 3,377 votes, Jack C. Urban was elected City Commissioner.

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

Proclamation
Honoring
Commissioner
Milcarek

Vice Mayor Cooney Anderson read a proclamation *Honoring Matt Milcarek for Dedication and Service to the City of Kalamazoo*.

Commissioner Milcarek thanked his fellow Commissioners and stated he would continue to serve the community.

Commissioner Urban thanked Commissioner Milcarek for being a helpful resource over the past two years, and he stated he would continue to use Commissioner Milcarek as a resource.

Commissioner Sykes stated she was proud to have served with Commissioner Milcarek and noted one of his strengths was his eye for details. Commissioner Sykes stated she considered Commissioner Milcarek was a friend and indicated she would miss having him on the Commission.

Commissioner Anderson indicated he knew he would continue to work with Commissioner Milcarek on various issues in the future, even if in less formal

Vice Mayor Cooney expressed appreciation for Commissioner Milcarek.

Commissioner Knott stated she and Commissioner Milcarek would continue to work together on issues like code enforcement and affordable housing.

Mayor Hopewell expressed appreciation for Commissioner Milcarek and stated he was glad Commissioner Milcarek would be able to spend more time with his young daughter.

Mayor Hopewell adjourned the meeting, *sine die*, at 7:12 p.m.

City Clerk Borling administered the Constitutional Oath of Office to newly elected City Commissioners Eric Cunningham and Jack C. Urban; newly elected Vice Mayor Erin Knott; and newly elected Mayor Bobby J. Hopewell.

Prior to taking the oath of office, each newly elected official received a pin bearing the City Seal, which was presented and affixed by a friend or loved one.

At 7:21 p.m. Mayor Hopewell called to order the first meeting of the 52nd City Commission of the City of Kalamazoo.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Mayor Bobby Hopewell
Vice Mayor Erin Knott
David Anderson
Don Cooney
Eric Cunningham
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 Pastor Nathan Dannison, First Congregational Church, was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Hopewell acknowledged the presence of the following state and local officials:

Mary Balkema, Kalamazoo County Treasurer
Mike Seals, Kalamazoo County Commissioner
Laurence Shaffer, City Manager for the City of Portage
Tim Snow, Kalamazoo County Clerk/Register of Deeds
Jon Hoadley, State Representative

When an opportunity was given for people to offer celebratory comments, the following people addressed the City Commission and congratulated the newly elected officials:

Proclamation
Honoring
Commissioner
Milcarek (cont'd)

Adjournment *Sine Die*

Oath of Office
Ceremony

Call to Order and
Roll Call – 52nd City
Commission

Invocation/Pledge

Introduction of Guests

Celebratory Comments

Celebratory Comments
(cont'd)

Jon Hoadley, City resident and State Representative
Zach Lassiter, City resident
Camilla
Coleman Cunningham, City resident
Bishop Herbert V. Cunningham
Kristy Jones, City resident, and members of Commissioner
Cunningham's Rocket Football team
Mike Seals, City resident and County Commissioner
(an unidentified man)

Citizen Comments

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

Frank Warren, City resident, expressed disappointment that the Kalamazoo Holiday Parade took place on Veterans' Day, and he spoke about how veterans had been disrespected in Kalamazoo.

Patricia Meyer, non-resident, congratulated the newly elected officials and stated she had left packets of information at Commissioners' places regarding issues that local individuals wanted to discuss. Ms. Meyer indicated those individuals would be at the next City Commission meeting to raise those issues.

City Commissioner
Comments

Finally, an opportunity was given for miscellaneous comments and concerns of City Commissioners.

Commissioner Sykes expressed appreciation for Commissioner Cunningham and his desire to be a public servant rather than a politician.

Commissioner Anderson welcomed Commissioner Cunningham and remarked on the ability of the City Commission to work towards common goals to address the challenges facing the City.

Commissioner Cooney congratulated Vice Mayor Knott and Commissioner Urban, and welcomed Commissioner Cunningham. Commissioner Cooney noted the City Commission was a non-partisan group of problem-solvers.

Commissioner Urban thanked people for taking part in the election and stated City Commissioners trusted each other and were able to work together.

Commissioner Cunningham thanked former Commissioner Milcarek for doing an amazing job as Commissioner. Commissioner Cunningham stated he was excited to do the work of the community and offered comments on the need to move beyond differences of opinion. Commissioner Cunningham thanked everyone who had helped with his campaign.

Vice Mayor Knott remarked on getting to know Commissioner Cunningham during the campaign and stated she was ready to get back to work.

Mayor Hopewell noted local government, more than the state or federal government, had a direct impact on peoples' daily lives. Mayor Hopewell congratulated Vice Mayor Knott and Commissioner Urban, and welcomed Commissioner Cunningham. Mayor Hopewell thanked Commissioner Cooney for all of his help during his time as Vice Mayor. Mayor Hopewell commented on the journey ahead of the Commission and urged people to keep moving the work forward. Mayor Hopewell thanked City staff for all their hard work and encouraged them to keep up their efforts in the days ahead.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott A. Borling
City Clerk

For City Commission approval on November 20, 2017

Approved by: _____
Bobby J. Hopewell, Mayor
Dated November 20, 2017

City Commissioner
Comments (cont'd)

Adjournment