

Roll Call

A special work session of the Kalamazoo City Commission was held on Saturday, March 23, 2019 at 12:00 p.m. at The Foundry, located at 600 East Michigan Avenue. The purpose of the work session was to discuss the implementation of Imagine Kalamazoo 2025, projects for 2020, and additional strategic objectives.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Mayor Bobby J. Hopewell
Vice Mayor Erin Knott
David Anderson
Don Cooney
Jack Urban

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Eric Cunningham*
Shannon Sykes

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

Commissioners
Excused

Commissioner Anderson, seconded by Commissioner Cooney, moved to excuse the absences of Commissioners Cunningham and Sykes. With a voice vote the motion passed.

Communications

An opportunity was given for general communications, but none were offered.

*Commissioner Cunningham arrived at 12:06 p.m.

2019-0091Introductory Remarks
and Presentation

City Manager Ritsema provided introductory remarks and reviewed the meeting agenda. A copy of the PowerPoint presentation *City Commission Retreat, Saturday, March 23, 2019* was filed with the papers for this meeting.

Update on Fireworks
Statute and Recreation
Marihuana

City Attorney Robinson provided brief overview of recreational marihuana and recent amendments to the Fireworks Safety Act.

In response to questions from Commissioner Anderson, City Attorney Robinson stated most other jurisdictions were taking a wait-and-see approach with recreational marihuana.

In response to a question from Mayor Hopewell, City Attorney Robinson stated it might be possible to do something around equity and community investment with recreational marihuana facility licensing.

Mayor Hopewell noted there would be a work session on April 8th to discuss marihuana regulations, and he asked City Attorney Robinson to address in more detail at that meeting the City's ability to leverage local facility permits for community investment; and he asked Public Safety Chief Karianne Thomas to be prepared to talk about conditions on the street relative to marihuana. Mayor Hopewell stated he had asked the City Attorney to bring forward the nuisance ordinance for adoption on April 1st.

In response to a question from Mayor Hopewell, Chief Thomas stated the most effective approach for dealing with fireworks was good communication.

In response to a question from Mayor Hopewell, City Attorney Robinson stated fireworks vendors were required to provide information with each sale on the legal hours for use.

Jeff Chamberlain delivered a presentation entitled *2019: Getting to the Work!*, which reviewed dashboards and tracking tools for 2019 projects.

Dashboards and
Tracking Tools

In response to a question from Mayor Hopewell, Deputy City Manager Chamberlain stated the dashboards and metrics would track projects relative to sub-goals. Deputy City Manager Chamberlain noted the City did not have measurements for the main strategic goals.

In response to a question from Commissioner Urban, Deputy City Manager Chamberlain stated the goal for the public-facing dashboards was to make them simple and easy to navigate for the public.

At 12:47 p.m. Commissioners and staff dispersed to tables to review and discuss proposed 2020 projects for the IK2025 Strategic Goal Areas. At the end of the activity Commissioners expressed excitement about the City moving items from planning to action. A compilation of the input provided during the table exercise was filed with the papers for this meeting.

2019-0092
IK 2025 Goal Map
Table Exercise

Kevin Ford, Shared Prosperity Kalamazoo Coordinator, provided an update on Shared Prosperity Kalamazoo (SPK).

Shared Prosperity
Kalamazoo Update

Mayor stated the SPK Organizing Committee would be reviewing High Impact Fund proposals in the next few weeks and would present them to the City Commission for approval at the end of April.

Assistant Public Safety Chief Jeff VanderWier delivered a presentation on emergency management planning, including updates to the Support Emergency Operations Plan, creation of the Strategic Operations/Emergency Coordination Center, and the development of local partnerships.

Emergency Operations
Update

Mayor Hopewell stated the Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Commissioners needed to be educated about their roles in the emergency operations plan.

Community Investment Manager Dorla Bonner provided a brief report on the development of the 2019-2023 Consolidated Plan and the Analysis to Impediments. Ms. Bonner noted the Emergency Solutions Grant was no longer available, but the City would be able to use Community Development Block Grant funds for homelessness assistance. Documents distributed by Ms. Bonner were filed with the papers for this meeting.

2019-0093
Report on the
Development of the
Consolidated Plan

Mayor – how do we identify and connect the best renters with the best landlords? Can we put extra criteria on landlords to offer a higher-tier certification?

In response to a question from Mayor Hopewell, Ms. Bonner reported she was connecting with landlords to discuss a preferred landlord program. Ms. Bonner stated there had been conversations about a “renter certification” program, but staff wanted to do something with landlords first.

Mayor Hopewell questioned whether the City knew the number of houses that were available for purchase in the City during a one-year period. Mayor Hopewell suggested the City do something to get people who wanted to buy homes into the “buying pipeline.”

Housing for All
Presentation

Assistant City Manager Laura Lam delivered a presentation entitled *Housing for All*, which provided a housing update and addressed jurisdictional collaborative initiatives and community benefit agreements.

Mayor Hopewell asked Commissioner Anderson to provide an update on the Kalamazoo County Public Housing Commission.

Commissioner Anderson reported he had attended a meeting recently with representatives from Kalamazoo County, the City of Kalamazoo, the City of Portage, Comstock Township, the City of Parchment, and Kalamazoo Township, and he stated there seemed to be more of a sense that homelessness and the need for affordable housing were issues that needed to be addressed on a county basis. Commissioner Anderson stated the Public Housing Commission was the right entity to do this work, but he indicated even the Housing Commission was having a hard time finding empty, available housing units.

Commissioner Cooney expressed concern about the lack of housing units and landlords. Commissioner Cooney noted the City was not able to solve the issue of affordable housing without the federal government, and he noted the connection between housing and jobs that paid a living wage.

In response to a question from Commissioner Cunningham, Director Lam stated one idea for addressing landlords who did not want to rent to people receiving housing subsidies was a fund that would mitigate the risk to landlords who rented to perceived risky renters.

Mayor Hopewell stated the City did not have public housing per se, but the City could use funds to support “premier” landlords and “premier” renters. Mayor Hopewell urged the City to advocate for affordable housing and suggested the City hold a summit for federal, state, and local leaders on prosperity. Mayor Hopewell stated the City needed to gain control of tax foreclosed properties in the City.

2019-0094
Presentation on
Community Benefit
Agreements

Community Planning and Development Director Rebekah Kik delivered a presentation on Community Benefit Agreements (CBA's). Director Kik distributed and reviewed a list of Frequently Asked Questions, which was filed with the papers for this meeting.

In response to questions from Commissioner Cunningham, Director Kik explained how the City had required Hollander do extensive community engagement for their development, and it changed the project. Director Kik stated Ypsilanti and Detroit were the closest cities that used CBA's, and Grand Rapids tied the development process to their strategic goals.

In response to a question from Commissioner Cooney, Director Kik explained the City would not be able to include a living wage requirement in a CBA ordinance, but it could be a requirement in the CBA itself.

In response to a question from Mayor Hopewell, Director Kik stated she was organizing her team to do CBA compliance monitoring and noted they would be meeting with developers rather than just sending a form for them to complete.

Community Engagement
Team Update

Assistant Public Safety Chief Vernon Coakley discussed the formation of a Community Engagement Team, which would interface with people who were homeless and work with Kalamazoo Community Mental Health.

Mayor Hopewell offered Commissioners an opportunity to ask questions or make comments on the presentations.

Commissioner
Questions and
Comments

In response to a question from Commissioner Cunningham, 311 Manager Gina Viviano reported 311 had implemented the Water, Wastewater, Treasury, and Human Resources service areas.

In response to a question from Mayor Hopewell, Director Kik and Public Services Director James Baker described current and planned activities for the streets recently acquired from the state.

Mayor Hopewell requested a Plan/Design/Create diagram for these streets.

Director Kik stated the basic idea would be plan for one year; design for one year; and do the work in the third year.

Director Baker indicated the City would plant approximately 500 trees in 2019 and continue to do tree trimming. Director Baker noted there was a backlog of calls to replace trees, and new trees would not always be planted where one was removed.

City Manager Ritsema described the next steps after the retreat: 1) compile input and circulate to City Commissioners for feedback; 2) start the 2020 budget process early; 3) check in with the City Commission in June or July regarding the budget; and 4) incorporate Priority Based Budgeting into the budget process.

Next Steps

Next, an opportunity was given for general citizen comments, but no comments were offered.

Citizen Comments

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

City Commissioner
Comments

Mayor Hopewell spoke about the need for the City to declare its goals and put timeframes around them. Mayor Hopewell noted this was his last City Commission retreat and stated he was very proud of everyone for their work. Mayor Hopewell remarked the City was in better hands than when he started on the City Commission, and he thanked people for thinking differently.

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Scott A. Borling
City Clerk

For City Commission approval on May 6, 2019

Approved by: _____
Bobby J. Hopewell, Mayor
Dated: May 6, 2019