

Roll Call

A regular meeting of the Kalamazoo City Commission was held on Tuesday, January 2, 2024 at 7:02 p.m. in the City Commission Chambers at City Hall.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Mayor David Anderson
Vice Mayor Jeanne Hess
Don Cooney
Qianna Decker
Stephanie Hoffman
Chris Praedel
Alonzo Wilson

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.

Adoption of the Agenda

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

Communications

City Manager Ritsema announced the next City Commission meetings would take place on Monday, January 22nd, not January 15th.

Public Comments

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

In Person

Jody Dozeman, City resident, thanked the City Commission for supporting The Lodge House and talked about community efforts to organize recycling opportunities.

Francois Moyet, City resident and owner of The Castle, described how a homeless person attacked cars at his business and the building itself. Mr. Moyet asked the City to solve the issue of homelessness and stop people from panhandling in the street.

Call-In

None

2024-02-01

Public Hearing re: the
Proposed FY2024 Budget

At 7:16 p.m. Mayor Anderson opened a public hearing to receive comments on the Fiscal Year 2024 Proposed Budget for the City of Kalamazoo.

Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Steve Vicenzi provided an overview of the proposed 2024 budget. CFO Vicenzi noted three additional positions in the Public Services Department had been added to the proposed budget.

In response to questions and comments from City Commissioners, CFO Vicenzi provided the following information:

- the proposed budget included two Municipal Worker positions that would be assigned to mowing City cemeteries. These positions would do the work currently being performed by a contractor.
- the budget included funds for some major IT expenses: new badge access readers for secured entrances; moving to a cloud-based system for backing up data; and replacement of the current Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system.
- the proposed budget did not include dedicated funds for public restrooms downtown, but there were some pending grant applications that would free up funds that could be used for public restrooms. Also, it was possible that ARPA funds could be reallocated to fund the restrooms.
- the proposed budget was available on the City's website. The budget was discussed at the City Commission retreat in February, a Committee of the Whole meeting in October, and a budget work session on December 11th.

City Manager Ritsema confirmed the City would be working to install public restrooms in the downtown area.

Commissioner Decker noted there would be mid-year budget adjustments, and the City Commission would discuss potential uses for the City Commission Initiatives Fund on January 22nd.

An opportunity was given for public comments on the Fiscal Year 2024 Proposed Budget, but no comments were offered.

At 7:27 p.m. Mayor Anderson closed the public hearing.

City Manager Ritsema stated the proposed budget would be presented to the City Commission for approval on January 22nd.

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 supplemental and change order with Ferguson Waterworks for the purchase of water main materials in the amount of \$416,449.
- approval of a one-year contract with Elhorn Engineering Company for the purchase of liquid phosphate for water treatment in the amount of \$192,265.92.
- acceptance of a Source Water Protection Program grant in the amount of \$70,000 from the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy for the Wellhead Protection Program.

Commissioner Hoffman, seconded by Vice Mayor 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.

2024-02-01

Public Hearing re: the
Proposed FY2024 Budget
(cont'd)

Consent Agenda

2024-02-02

2024-02-03

2024-02-04

Consent Agenda (cont'd)

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

NAYS: None

Regular Agenda

Regular Agenda items were considered next.

2024-02-05

First Reading of an
Ordinance to Amend
Section 2-237 re: Post
Retirement Adjustments

In response to questions and comments from City Commissioners, CFO Vicenzi provided the following information on an ordinance to amend Section 2-237 of the Kalamazoo City Code regarding post retirement adjustments:

- the proposed ordinance would allow Non-Bargaining Unit (NBU) employees to get a cost-of-living adjustment when they retire. The NBU group was the only employee group to not have a cost-of-living adjustment.
- the proposed ordinance would increase the Normal Cost by \$8.2 million per year and would reduce the funding level by 1%.

An opportunity was given for public comments on an ordinance amending the Kalamazoo City Code, Chapter 2 - Article X Employee Retirement System, §2-237 regarding post-retirement adjustments, but no comments were offered.

Commissioner Praedel, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, moved to offer for first reading an ordinance amending the Kalamazoo City Code, Chapter 2 - Article X Employee Retirement System, §2-237 regarding post-retirement adjustments.

Prior to a vote on the motion, Mayor Anderson expressed appreciation to staff for consulting with the Retirement Investment Committee on the proposed ordinance. Mayor Anderson noted the pension system was over funded.

With a roll call vote this motion passed unanimously.

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

NAYS: None

City Manager's Report

City Manager Ritsema announced call-in public comments at City Commission meetings would be ending, effective with the February 5th meetings. City Manager Ritsema stated members of the public who did not attend meetings in person could provide feedback to Commissioner via email and the 311 call center.

2024-02-06

Report of Determination
from the Local Officers
Compensation
Commission

City Clerk Borling introduced Nick Boyd, Chair of the Local Officers Compensation Commission (LOCC), who presented the LOCC's Report of Determination.

In response to questions from Mayor Anderson, City Clerk Borling explained the LOCC's salary determination would go into effect 30 days from when the determination was filed with the City Clerk, which would be on January 11th. The City Commission was not required to take any action, unless it wanted to reject the LOCC's determination. Members of the LOCC were appointed by the Mayor with the approval of the City Commission.

City Manager Ritsema reviewed a proposed amendment to City Commission Policy 10.1, the City Commission Rules, regarding the order of agenda items and how Consent Agenda items may be moved to the Regular Agenda

An opportunity was given for questions and comments from City Commissioners, but none were offered.

An opportunity was given for public comments on this item, but no comments were offered.

Vice Mayor Hess, seconded by Commissioner Decker, moved to approve an amendment to City Commission Policy 10.1, the City Commission Rules, regarding the order of agenda items and how Consent Agenda items may be moved to the Regular Agenda.

With a roll call vote this motion passed unanimously.

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

NAYS: None

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

Commissioner Hoffman stated she was grateful to be doing this work, and she spoke about a friend, a fellow soldier, who passed away on Christmas.

Commissioner Cooney announced Malcolm X's daughter would be the keynote speaker at a teach-in at Western Michigan University on Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Commissioner Decker offered remarks about people in the community who had passed away in the new year. Commissioner Decker thanked CFO Vicenzi for the proposed 2024 budget. Commissioner Decker noted the Foundation for Excellence was looking for new members for the Board of Directors. Commissioner Decker spoke about going on a ride-along with Public Safety the previous week. Commissioner Decker thanked the LOCC for increasing the pay for the Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Commissioners. Commissioner Decker urged people to connect with the Community Action Agency for utility bill assistance.

Commissioner Wilson remarked that he had attended a Mothers of Hope event on goal setting, and he encouraged people to adopt a growth mindset in 2024.

Commissioner Praedel expressed condolences to Commissioner Hoffman. Commissioner Praedel thanked people for making New Year's Fest a great event. Commissioner Praedel remarked on gun violence in the community in 2023 and stated it could not continue.

Vice Mayor Hess spoke about the need for unity and announced upcoming events to celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Vice Mayor Hess thanked Deb Droppers and her volunteers for a great New Year's Fest event. Vice Mayor Hess remarked on the success of the University of Michigan football team and work it takes to building a winning culture. Vice Mayor Hess stated there were many ways people

2024-02-07

Amendment to the City Commission Rules re: Call-In Public Comments

Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Comments
(cont'd)

could have a voice with the City Commission, including mail, email, phone calls, and in-person comments.

Mayor Anderson thanked Vice Mayor Hess for chairing the City Commission meeting on December 18th, when he had COVID. Mayor Anderson stated people were still dying from COVID, and he encouraged people to get vaccinated. Mayor Anderson indicated he would have voted in favor of the water rate increases on December 18th. Mayor Anderson spoke about gun violence and noted Public Safety could only provide enforcement; a true solution would only be found in community. Mayor Anderson urged each member of the community to be a leader in tough situations.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Scott A. Borling
City Clerk

Approved by the City Commission on: _____

This page was left blank intentionally.