

Roll Call

A regular meeting of the Kalamazoo City Commission was held on Monday, November 11, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Commission Chambers at City Hall.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Mayor Bobby J. Hopewell
Vice Mayor Erin Knott
David Anderson
Don Cooney
Eric Cunningham
Patrese Griffin
Jack Urban

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

None

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

2019-0354
Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Cunningham, seconded by Vice Mayor Knott, moved to approve the minutes from the City Commission meetings on October 7 and October 21, 2019.

With a roll call vote this motion passed unanimously:

AYES: Commissioners Anderson, Cooney, Cunningham, Griffin, Urban,
Vice Mayor Knott, Mayor Hopewell

NAYS: None

Commissioner
Comments and Remarks

Mayor Hopewell gave members of the 52nd City Commission the opportunity to make final comments and remarks.

Commissioner Griffin stated she was honored to serve with everyone on the current Commission.

Commissioner Anderson stated serving with Commissioner Cooney and Mayor Hopewell had been a phenomenal, transformational experience for himself personally and for the City. Commissioner Anderson expressed appreciation to Commissioner Cooney and Mayor Hopewell for their service.

Commissioner Urban stated Commissioner Cooney and Mayor Hopewell personified Kalamazoo and embodied affection for the City.

Commissioner Cunningham stated the accomplishments of Commissioner Cooney and Mayor Hopewell were legendary, and people would never understand the sacrifices they had made to put the City first.

Vice Mayor Knott thanked Commissioner Cooney for letting her into his world and promised Mayor Hopewell that she would continue to do the work of the City.

2019-0355
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 5th: having received 5,879 votes, David Anderson was elected Mayor; having

received 5,242 votes, the highest number of votes received by a commission candidate, Patrese Griffin was elected City Commissioner and Vice Mayor; having received 4,369 votes, Jeanne Hess was elected City Commissioner; and having received 4,202 votes, Chris Praedel was elected City Commissioner.

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

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

City Clerk Borling administered the Constitutional Oath of Office to newly elected City Commissioners Chris Praedel and Jeanne Hess; newly elected Vice Mayor Patrese Griffin; and newly elected Mayor David Anderson.

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 7:30 p.m. Mayor Anderson called to order the first meeting of the 53rd City Commission of the City of Kalamazoo.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Mayor David Anderson
Vice Mayor Patrese Griffin
Eric Cunningham
Jeanne Hess
Erin Knott
Chris Praedel
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.

Vice Mayor Griffin read a proclamation *Honoring Don Cooney for Dedication and Service to the City of Kalamazoo*. Mayor Anderson presented a Key to the City and other gifts to former Commissioner Cooney.

Former Commissioner Cooney thanked the people of Kalamazoo for giving him the privilege of doing the work of the City Commission, and he thanked his colleagues on the City Commission and City staff. Commissioner Cooney stated everyone had the ability to stand for justice and indicated he would continue to work in the community on justice issues.

Commissioner Knott read a proclamation *Honoring Bobby J. Hopewell for dedication and service to the City of Kalamazoo*. Mayor Anderson presented a Key to the City and other gifts to former Mayor Hopewell.

Former Mayor Hopewell stated it had been the honor of his life to serve his hometown, and he stated it had been a privilege to work with an intelligent staff. Mayor Hopewell offered personal remarks to each member of the City Commission and to former Commissioner Cooney. Mayor Hopewell reminded

2019-0355

Report of the Board of
Canvassers (cont'd)

Adjournment *Sine Die*

Oath of Office Ceremony

Call to Order and
Roll Call – 53rd City
Commission

Invocation/Pledge

2019-0356

Proclamation
Honoring Don
Cooney

2019-0357

Proclamation
Honoring Bobby J.
Hopewell

2019-0357
Proclamation
Honoring Bobby J.
Hopewell (cont'd)

people the City Commission would continue to work on behalf of all City residents, even residents who had not voted for the newly-elected members. Mayor Hopewell stated the phrase “Masterpiece in Progress” was not just a nice saying – it was true – and the new City Commission held the paint brushes.

Celebratory Comments

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

Esteven Juarez, City resident

John Hoadley, City resident and State Representative for the 60th District

Kelly Doyle, City resident

Patti Sholler-Barber, City resident and President of the Kalamazoo Public School Board

Jim Sellman, non-resident and brother of Commissioner Hess

Ed Genesis, City resident and husband of Vice Mayor Griffin

Stephanie Moore, City resident and Kalamazoo County Commissioner for District 1

Public Comments

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

City Commissioner
Comments

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

Commissioner Urban stated this was a watershed moment for the City.

Commissioner Cunningham encouraged the new City Commissioners to enjoy the moment, but when the night was over there was work to do. Commissioner Cunningham thanked people for voting and expressed appreciation for all the candidates who ran for office. Commissioner Cunningham offered personal remarks to each member of the Commission and thanked City staff.

Commissioner Knott noted voter turnout was up for this election, which was proof that people wanted change. Commissioner Knott stated now was the time to engage the community. Commissioner Knott thanked veterans for their service.

Commissioner Praedel thanked his wife, the other candidates, Don Cooney, and Bobby Hopewell. Commissioner Praedel thanked veterans for their service. Commissioner Praedel remarked on the people and events that inspired him to get involved in local government, and he commented that being in public office had caused him to look at things differently. Commissioner Praedel urged people to tell their children that words and actions matter, and he encouraged people to keep their sidewalks clear of snow.

Commissioner Hess thanked her husband and family, those who helped with her campaign, the people who voted for her, Don Cooney, Bobby Hopewell, and the 53rd City Commission. Commissioner Hess thanked veterans for their service. Commissioner Hess remarked on the influences of her brother in-law, her mom, and her brother. Commissioner Hess expressed her love for the community and her heart for service. Commissioner Hess indicated she was looking forward to dialoguing with residents, and she stated she wanted Kalamazoo to be the “City of Promise” for everyone.

Vice Mayor Griffin thanked the voters, the other candidates, Bobby Hopewell, Don Cooney, her family, and her dad who was present for this meeting. Vice Mayor Griffin remarked that it was an honor to be the 2nd black, female Vice Mayor for the City of Kalamazoo. Vice Mayor Griffin urged people to be involved in the work of the City. Vice Mayor Griffin stated City staff were amazing, they cared about the community, and they wanted to do the work.

Mayor Anderson thanked the people who worked on all the campaigns and thanked veterans for their service. Mayor Anderson asked the community to give the City Commission grace and to recognize the importance of doing the work of governing. Mayor Anderson urged the community to come together to do the work and to do it with kindness.

The meeting adjourned at 9:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott A. Borling
City Clerk

For City Commission approval on January 21, 2020

Approved by: _____
Bobby J. Hopewell, Mayor
Dated: January 21, 2020

City Commissioner
Comments (cont'd)