

Roll Call

A regular meeting of the Kalamazoo City Commission was held on Monday, December 16, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Commission Chambers at City Hall, 241 West South Street.

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.

Opening Ceremony

Mayor Anderson opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Adoption of the Agenda

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

2019-0371

Public Hearing re:
Amendments to IDD#10
at 1421 N. Pitcher Street

At 7:01 p.m. Mayor Anderson opened a public hearing to receive comments on a resolution amending and enlarging Industrial Development District #10 at 1421 North Pitcher Street.

Rusty Miller, non-resident and Senior Vice President for Engineering Technology for Graphic Packaging, expressed support for the resolution.

At 7:02 p.m. Mayor Anderson closed the public hearing.

2019-0371

Resolution 19-62
Amending IDD#10 at
1421 N. Pitcher Street

Commissioner Cunningham, seconded by Commissioner Urban, moved to adopt a **RESOLUTION** amending and enlarging Industrial Development District #10 at 1421 North Pitcher Street.

With a roll call vote this motion passed unanimously.

AYES:

Commissioners Cunningham, Hess, Knott, Praedel, Urban, Vice Mayor Griffin, Mayor Anderson

NAYS:

None

Consent Agenda

Consent Agenda items were presented as follows with a recommendation to approve the items and authorize the City Manager to sign all documents on behalf of the city:

2019-0372

- approval of a contract with Pajay, Inc. for the 35th Street Water Main Extension Project in the amount of \$1,482,276.08.

2019-0373

- approval of the purchase of desktop computers, laptop computers, and peripherals from CDWG through the Michigan Master Computing MiDEAL cooperative purchasing program in the amount of \$288,113.73.

- approval of a supplemental contract change order with Prein & Newhof for the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy Drinking Water Revolving Fund Water System Improvements, in the amount of \$326,100 and amend the Water Fund 2019 Capital Improvement Budget. **2019-0374**
- adoption of a **RESOLUTION** setting a public hearing on January 6, 2020 for the Proposed FY 2020 Budget. **2019-0375**
Resolution 19-63
- adoption of a **RESOLUTION** approving 13 new Homestead Neighborhood Enterprise Zone applications. **2019-0376**
Resolution 19-64
- adoption of a **RESOLUTION** setting the schedule of regular City Commission meetings for the 2020 calendar year. **2019-0377**
Resolution 19-65
- adoption of a **RESOLUTION** consenting to the continued resettlement of refugees in the City of Kalamazoo. **2019-0378**
Resolution 19-66
- approval of a request from New Year's Fest of Kalamazoo to publicly display fireworks from the Epic Center Parking Structure on Tuesday, December 31, 2019 at midnight as part of the annual New Year's Fest event. **2019-0379**
- approval of the Mayor's appointment of Brian Pittelko to the Planning Commission for a term expiring on March 31, 2023. **2019-0380**
- approval of recommendation to postpone until January 6, 2020 consideration of a purchase agreement with Texas Charter Township for property for the 6th Street South Elevated Water Storage Tank Project in the amount of \$27,500 and final paving of the park parking lot. **2019-0381**

Commissioner Knott, seconded by Commissioner Hess, moved to approve the consent agenda request and authorize the City Manager to sign all documents on behalf of the City.

With a roll call vote this motion passed unanimously.

AYES: Commissioners Cunningham, Hess, Knott, Praedel, Urban, Vice Mayor Griffin, Mayor Anderson

NAYS: None

Regular Agenda items were considered next.

City Attorney Robinson described how the City had rejected the 2018 Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) due to conditions in the grant agreement that would possibly require the City to cooperate with federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officials. City Attorney Robinson reported that a federal appeals court had determined these conditions were unconstitutional and had issued a permanent injunction, which meant those conditions would be considered unconstitutional and unenforceable if they appeared in any future grant agreements. City Attorney Robinson explained the U.S. Conference of Mayors was a party to the lawsuit, and the decision was applicable to the City of Kalamazoo because it was a member of the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

Regular Agenda

2019-0382
Acceptance of the 2018
JAG Award

2019-0382

Acceptance of the 2018
JAG Award (cont'd)

City Manager Ritsema reported Public Safety Officers did not ask people about their immigration status and would not cooperate with ICE.

In response to a question from Commissioner Praedel, City Attorney Robinson stated he was not concerned about the appeals court decision being overturned on further appeal, as the administration of President Trump had lost in every similar case, at both the trial level and appeals level.

In response to questions from Mayor Anderson, City Manager Ritsema indicated December 31st was the deadline for submitting signed grant agreements for both the 2018 and 2019 JAG awards. City Manager Ritsema stated the City's JAG applications needed to specify how the funds would be used, and the 2018 grant would be used to purchase equipment for officers.

When an opportunity was given for public comment on the 2018 Justice Assistance Grant award from the U.S. Department of Justice, the following people addressed the City Commission:

Elvira Oropeza, City resident, expressed concerns about how the grant funds would be used and suggested the funds be used to educate PSO's on immigration status issues.

Commissioner Hess, seconded by Commissioner Urban, moved to accept the 2018 Justice Assistance Grant award from the U.S. Department of Justice in the amount of \$92,200 and authorize the City Manager to sign all related documents.

Prior to a vote on the motion, Vice Mayor Griffin remarked that Commissioners had asked a lot of questions about this item leading up to the meeting and had met with members of the community to get their feedback.

Commissioner Praedel noted the City Commission had made a policy decision to prohibit City resources from being used to assist ICE.

With a roll call vote this motion passed unanimously.

AYES: Commissioners Cunningham, Hess, Knott, Praedel, Urban, Vice Mayor Griffin, Mayor Anderson

NAYS: None

2019-0383

Acceptance of the 2019
JAG Award

Commissioner Urban, seconded by Commissioner Knott, moved to accept the 2019 Justice Assistance Grant award from the U.S. Department of Justice in the amount of \$91,036 and authorize the City Manager to sign all related documents.

Prior to a vote on the motion and in response to questions from Vice Mayor Griffin, Assistant Public Safety Chief Ryan Tibbets reported the grant fund would be used to purchase equipment for front line patrol officers, including stop sticks, protective shields, and body cameras. Assistant Chief Tibbets stated there was an internal committee at Public Safety that arranged for training around issues of race, gender, and equality, and he stated he would suggest to this committee that future training for officers address issues around immigration.

In response to a question from Mayor Anderson, Assistant Chief Tibbets explained the Public Safety Department used JAG awards as gap funding, to purchase

equipment the department would not be able to afford otherwise through its regular general fund budget allocation.

With a roll call vote this motion passed unanimously.

AYES: Commissioners Cunningham, Hess, Knott, Praedel, Urban, Vice Mayor Griffin, Mayor Anderson

NAYS: None

City Clerk Borling presented the report of the Local Officers Compensation Commission (LOCC). City Clerk Borling explained the role of the LOCC and stated the LOCC's compensation determination, a 2.5% salary increase for the Mayor, Vice Mayor, and City Commissioners, would take effect on January 10, 2020, unless the City Commission rejected that determination.

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

Nehemiah Scudder, City resident, asked how the Foundation for Excellence (FFE) defined "low cost" in its annual report where it stated 137 low cost housing units were created in 2019.

Lysanne Harma, Richland Township Supervisor, thanked the City for its continued support regarding PFAS issues in the township.

Daniel Oropeza, City resident, thanked Commissioners for their leadership and encouraged them to continue their good work in 2020.

Jane Trejo, non-resident and Program Manager at Bethany Christian Services, thanked the City Commission for adopting the resolution allowing resettlement of refugees in the City of Kalamazoo.

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

Commissioner Cunningham expressed support for the appointment of Mr. Pittelko to the Planning Commission and noted that a member of the community, Crystal Walker, had been missing since November 16th.

Commissioner Praedel stated he was glad the City Commission approved the refugee resettlement letter as a group, and he remarked on the care that was taken to ensure stakeholders in the community were consulted about ~~this action~~ **the two JAG awards**. Commissioner Praedel reported he and Commissioner Hess and Vice Mayor Griffin had attended a training session for newly elected officials sponsored by the Michigan Municipal League.

Commissioner Hess remarked on the work being done by the Kalamazoo Youth Development Network (KYDNet), a network of 50 non-profit organizations that were focused on improving the lives of young people in Kalamazoo.

Vice Mayor Griffin congratulated Mr. Pittelko on his appointment to the Planning Commission.

2019-0383

Acceptance of the 2019 JAG Award (cont'd)

2019-0384

Report of the Local Officers Compensation Commission

Public Comments

City Commissioner Comments

Correction made on 1/21/2020

Adjournment

Mayor Anderson read a poem by Maya Angelou entitled "Continue."

The meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott A. Borling
City Clerk

For City Commission approval on January 21, 2020

Approved by: _____
David Anderson, Mayor
Dated: January 21, 2020

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