

Roll Call

A regular meeting of the Kalamazoo City Commission was held on Monday, February 3, 2020 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 Deputy City Manager Jeff Chamberlain, City Attorney Clyde Robinson, and City Clerk Scott Borling.

Opening Ceremony

The invocation, given by Kalamazoo College Chaplain Liz Candido, was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Introduction of
Guests/Presentation
2020-0029

Sean McBride, Executive Director of the Central County Transportation Authority (CCTA), delivered a presentation entitled *METRO: Keeping Kalamazoo County Moving, February 2020*. A copy of the presentation slides was filed with the papers for this meeting. Mr. McBride introduced Garrylee McCormick, Greg Rosine, and Curt Aardema, the City's representatives on the CCTA Board of Directors. Mr. Rosine spoke about the CCTA millage question on the May 10th ballot and offered ways Commissioners could support the millage.

Commissioner Knott asked Mr. McBride the following questions: 1) why was a fixed bus route taken out of the Oakwood Neighborhood, and can a route be returned to that neighborhood? 2) what can be done to add curb cuts to bus stops to enable people with mobility issues to use the ramps that extend from the buses? and 3) what can be done for people who live on the south side of the City to eliminate their need to travel downtown first in order to catch a bus traveling to points south of the City?

In response to Commissioner Knott, Mr. McBride stated METRO worked with the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) to install curb cuts during street projects, and he noted the City was using Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to make more curb cuts possible. Mr. McBride noted there were bus routes that went down Oakland Drive and Parkview Avenue, adjacent to the Oakwood Neighborhood. Mr. McBride stated streets in the neighborhood were narrow and not always safe for busses. Regarding the time it took some residents to travel to points south of the City, Mr. McBride explained the Kalamazoo bus system was a hub-and-spoke system. Mr. McBride stated the addition of more busses to certain routes would help reduce the amount of time riders spent waiting.

Commissioner Knott stated something needed to be done about a route through the Oakwood Neighborhood.

In response to a question from Vice Mayor Griffin, Mr. McBride stated METRO actively pursued input from riders when route changes were being considered, and he was always open to feedback from riders.

Commissioner Urban expressed support for the placement of a bus route through the Oakwood Neighborhood. Commissioner Urban noted busses had used the streets in Oakwood in the past, and people had moved to Oakwood to be on the bus line.

In response to a question from Mayor Anderson, Mr. McBride stated he was giving this presentation to other jurisdictions.

Mayor Anderson thanked the City's CCTA representatives for their service.

Commissioner Cunningham proclaimed February 11, 2020 *National 2-1-1 Day*. Maricela Alcalá, CEO of Gryphon Place, received the proclamation.

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

Deputy City Manager Chamberlain introduced Dorla Bonner as the City's new Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Director.

City Attorney Robinson announced there would be community outreach meetings on February 5th and February 11th regarding adult-use marihuana facilities and a social equity program for marihuana facility permit applicants. City Attorney Robinson stated the general public was welcome to attend both meetings, but the February 5th meeting would target marihuana industry representatives.

City Clerk Borling announced absentee ballots for the March 10th Presidential Primary election were available, and he explained that voters would need to identify their party preference in writing in order to receive the correct ballot. City Clerk Borling responded to clarifying questions from Commissioners, confirming the City needed additional poll workers for the 2020 election cycle, and explaining the CCTA ballot question would appear on all City ballots.

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:

- approval of a change order with Tetra Tech, Inc. for Corrosion Coupon Testing in the amount of \$104,500.
- approval of a professional services agreement with Prein & Newhoff to provide engineering and design services for the Bank Street Farmers' Market project in the amount of \$174,000.
- approval of a contract supplemental and change order with Hoffman Brothers, Inc. for the emergency repair of sanitary sewer infrastructure in the amount of \$204,980; and the appropriation of funds from the Wastewater Emergency Reserves for the same amount.
- approval of a contract with Ferguson Water Works to provide Neptune Water Meters in the amount of \$600,000.
- approval of a one-year term contract extension with Kalamazoo Oil, Inc. for gasoline and diesel fuel for an amount not to exceed \$600,000.

Introduction of
Guests/Presentation
(cont'd)
2020-0029

Proclamation
2020-0030

Adoption of the Agenda

Communications

Consent Agenda

2020-0031

2020-0032

2020-0033

2020-0034

2020-0035

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| 2020-0036 | - first reading of an ordinance to amend Section 38-32 of the Kalamazoo City Code to change the rates charged for water service. |
| 2020-0037 | - first reading of an ordinance to amend Section 28-73 of the Kalamazoo City Code to change the rates charged for wastewater service. |
| 2020-0038 | - approval of an affiliation agreement between Western Michigan University (WMU) and the Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety (KDPS) allowing for WMU students to complete internships with KDPS. |
| 2020-0039 | - approval and acceptance of an easement with Consumers Energy for electrical utility equipment installation at the Station 18 Wellfield. |
| 2020-0040 | - approval of the appointment of Alyssa Stewart to the Shared Prosperity Kalamazoo Organizing Committee. |
| 2020-0041 | - approval of the minutes from the City Commission meetings on January 13 and January 21, 2020. |
| 2020-0042 | - postpone until February 17, 2020 consideration of the purchase of a portion of the property at 1157 Bank Street for the realignment of Bank Street that is part of the Farmers' Market Improvement Project. |

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

*At the time of the vote, Commissioner Praedel abstained from voting on Item F-8, an affiliation agreement with Western Michigan University, due to a conflict of interest.

Public Comments

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

Chris Wahmhoff, City resident, expressed opposition to the proposed utility rate increases and spoke about the impact of the increases on people in his neighborhood.

Ben Stanley, City resident, described how a former employer failed to pay him wages for work performed and stated the Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety refused to take a police report when the employer intimidated him with a gun. Mr. Stanley spoke about being threatened with a citation for sitting on a bench in Bronson Park and being threatened with arrest for bringing a service dog into City Hall.

Ron Zellers, City resident, asked about the status of a rezoning request for property at the corner of Stadium Drive and Drake Road. Mr. Zellers stated

he heard there was a Civil War-era train trestle on the property, and he enquired about the process for have this property placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Nehemiah Scudder, City resident, expressed concerns about people who made public comments at City Commission meetings but did not put their names on the sign-in-sheet. Mr. Scudder stated the City Clerk should make speakers sign in.

Jeffrey Messer, City resident, spoke about an expungement clinic being organized by Kalamazoo Defender.

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

Commissioner Urban encouraged Mr. Sellers to attend meetings of the Historic Preservation Commission and enquire about the process to add the Stadium Drive property to the National Register of Historic Places.

Commissioner Knott welcomed students to the meeting and thanked them for coming.

In response to a question from Commissioner Knott, Public Services Director James Baker explained that charges for water service were comprised of two parts: a base rate and a commodity charge. Director Baker stated the base rate was determined by the size of the water service line, and the commodity charge was based on the volume of water used. Director Baker stated customers who were connected to City sewer but not City water were the only customers who paid a flat rate, as there was no way to directly meter wastewater flows.

In response to a question from Mayor Anderson, Director Baker explained the water and wastewater funds were “enterprise funds” that relied on utility rates for their income. Director Baker pointed out enterprise fund revenues were not allowed to be used for general fund expenses. Director Baker stated the proposed utility rate increases were needed to support capital improvements, including lead service line replacements and improvements at water pumping stations.

In response to a question from Commissioner Praedel, Director Baker stated the most up-to-date water quality data was found in the Consumer Confidence Report, which was published annually in June or July for the previous calendar year.

Commissioner Hess thanked Director Baker for giving her a tour of the Water Reclamation Plant and congratulated Ms. Bonner on her new position.

Commissioner Praedel welcomed his wife and children to the meeting. Commissioner Praedel congratulated Ms. Bonner and noted the current issue of Encore magazine contained a profile of Community Planning and Economic Development Director Rebekah Kik. Commissioner Praedel spoke about the importance of voting, and he invited people to watch a new show on Public Media Network called *Conversations for Change*. Commissioner Praedel stated the show featured topics such as affordable housing and prisoner re-entry.

Vice Mayor Griffin highlighted a meeting that would take place on Wednesday at Washington Square Library to discuss potential zoning updates and street designs.

Public Comments
(cont'd)

City Commissioner
Comments

City Commissioner
Comments (cont'd)

Vice Mayor Griffin congratulated Ms. Bonner on her new position and noted the work of diversity, equity, and inclusion needed to be done all day, every day and not just on special holidays or during designated months.

Mayor Anderson offered remarks about a January 30th public hearing on air quality sponsored by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy. Mayor Anderson read a quote from Sojourner Truth.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott A. Borling
City Clerk

For City Commission approval on February 3, 2020

Approved by: _____
David F. Anderson, Mayor
Dated: February 3, 2020

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