A business meeting of the Kalamazoo City Commission was held on Monday, March 7, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Commission Chambers at City Hall, 241 W. South Street.

Roll Call

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Mayor Bobby Hopewell
Vice Mayor Don Cooney
David Anderson
Erin Knott
Matt Milcarek
Shannon Sykes
Jack Urban

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: None

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

Invocation/Pledge

The invocation, given by Pastor Nathan Dannison, First Congregational Church, was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Introduction of Guests

Jeff Troyer, Executive Director of the Kalamazoo County Consolidated Dispatch Authority, introduced himself and thanked the Commission for allowing him to work with the City and other jurisdictions. Mr. Troyer reported the next major steps for the Authority were the development of a strategic vision plan, a staffing model, and a funding mechanism.

Dr. Michael Rice, Superintendent of Kalamazoo Public Schools (KPS), and Carol McGlinn, Vice President of the KPS Board of Trustees, thanked the Commission for the work of the Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety (KDPS) and the partnership between KDPS and KPS. Dr. Rice remarked on the deaths of three students since the beginning of the year.

Mayor Hopewell recognized the presence of Kalamazoo County Commissioner Kevin Wordelman.

Adoption of the Agenda

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

Consent Agenda

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

- approval of a one-year contract extension with Republic Services of West Michigan in the amount of $150,000 for the rental, placement, and removal of roll-off containers and disposal of all street sweeping materials deposited in those containers.

- approval of a one-year contract extension with US Lawns for mowing various properties in the amount of $324,440.

- approval of a one-year contract with the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority, through Ibex Insurance Agency, for property & casualty insurance at an annual premium not to exceed $756,161.

Consent Agenda (cont'd)

- approval of the following amendments to the Fiscal Year 2015 Budgeted appropriations: reduction of the General Fund appropriation by $13,296; increase of the Solid Waste Fund appropriation by $106,220; increase of the Private Grants and Donations Fund appropriation by $42,315; increase of the Farmers Market Fund appropriation by $1,524; and increase of the Local Development Finance Authority appropriation by $412,200, for a total net increase in appropriations of $548,963.

- approval of an Easement Agreement with GTW Depot, LLC allowing it to use the undeveloped triangle portion of Porter Street.

- approval of the minutes from the City Commission meetings on February 6 and February 15, 2016.

Commissioner Milcarek, seconded by Commissioner Anderson, moved to approve the consent agenda requests 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 Anderson, Knott, Milcarek, Sykes, Urban, Vice Mayor Cooney, Mayor Hopewell

NAYS: None

Regular Agenda items were considered next.

Regular Agenda

Resolution 16-11 Approving the Bronson Park Master Plan as an Amendment to Parks and Recreation Five-Year Master Plan

Deputy City Manager Jeff Chamberlain offered remarks on the development of the Bronson Park Master Plan, including a discussion of the City's plan to address the controversy surrounding the Fountain of the Pioneers.

Parks and Recreation Director Sean Fletcher delivered a PowerPoint presentation entitled *Bronson Park Master Plan, City of Kalamazoo*. Copies of the slides from this presentation were filed with the papers for this meeting.

Dr. David Brose reviewed the education strategy that would be used to provide an interpretation of the Fountain of the Pioneers and the history of the Pottawatomi band of Native Americans in Kalamazoo. A brochure distributed by Dr. Brose was filed with the papers for this meeting.

In response to a question from Commissioner Sykes, Dr. Brose stated the physical markers in Bronson Park would have verbiage on them for people who did not have smart phones and internet links so visitors could find more information online. Dr. Brose stated the group that was interested in placing a statue of Abraham Lincoln in the park wanted to use the same approach to education.

In response to questions from Vice Mayor Cooney Dr. Brose stated Alfonso Ianelli's vision was not necessarily flawed, but his understanding of Native Americans was probably in line with that of most people at the time. Dr. Brose explained the existing historical marker at the Kalamazoo

Resolution 16-11 Approving the Bronson Park Master Plan as an Amendment to Parks and Recreation Five-Year Master Plan (cont'd)

Transportation Center was somewhat accurate, but it gave the wrong overall idea, that all Native Americans in Kalamazoo were transported to the west. Mr. Brose indicated the Pottawatomi would have a lot of say regarding the content of the interpretive plaques that would be installed.

In response to a question from Commissioner Urban, Director Fletcher stated fundraising for the project would happen in 2016 with construction taking place in 2017. Dr. Brose reported the central website would be functioning by the time of the Hidden Kalamazoo Tour in mid-June.

Mayor Hopewell noted Bronson Park was a park, not a monument, and he inquired about the possibility of having features for children, such as a water feature.

Director Fletcher indicated he was working with arts organizations to have pieces created that functioned as art but would be somethings kids could climb on. Director Fletcher stated there was the potential to install bubble-up sprayers in the park for summer and to have an ice rink in the park during the winter.

In response to a question from Mayor Hopewell, Dr. Brose stated it would be difficult to tell the history of the Pottowatomi through a piece of art in the park. Dr. Brose indicated the tribe was excited about the placement of the reservation boundary markers in the appropriate locations around the City.

An opportunity was given for citizens to comment on a resolution amending the 2014-2018 Parks & Recreation Department Five-year Strategic Master Plan to include the Bronson Park Master Plan, but no comments were offered.

Commissioner Urban, seconded by Commissioner Milcarek, moved to adopt a **RESOLUTION** amending the 2014-2018 Parks & Recreation Department Five-year Strategic Master Plan to include the Bronson Park Master Plan.

Prior to a vote on the motion, Commissioner Milcarek thanked the people involved for their hard work, and he urged the project planners to be mindful of the needs of children when redesigning Bronson Park.

Mayor Hopewell stated there needed to be a significant feature for children in Bronson Park.

With a roll call vote this motion passed unanimously.

AYES: Commissioners Anderson, Knott, Milcarek, Sykes, Urban, Vice Mayor Cooney, Mayor Hopewell

NAYS: None

Update on the Southtown Design Review District

City Planner Rebekah Kik provided an update on the Downtown Design Review District (DDRD)/Southtown Design Review District. City Planner Kik reported that during the first year of the expanded DDRD there were no design review applications for new construction or renovations; 13

Update on the Southtown Design Review District (cont'd)

applications for signage and lighting; and 6 inquiries. City Planner Kik stated there was a community meeting in the spring of 2015 to talk about the reporting criteria that would be measured and tracked, and staff photographed all buildings that would be subject to the new design requirements. City Planner Kik indicated there was another public meeting during the National Night Out event, and staff had conducted a "walk-about" that was open to the public to explain how the review process would work using real buildings as examples. City Planner Kik reported that a "Southtown Appendix" to the DDRD Standards and Guidelines was developed in early 2016 and presented at public meeting on March 2nd, and this document was available for public review at the Washington Square Library and in the Community Planning and Development office. City Planner Kik stated there was another walking tour being planned, which would look at properties on Burdick Street.

In response to a question from Commissioner Sykes, City Planner Kik explained that staff tracked design review applications that were submitted and accepted, but if an application was not accepted it was not tracked. City Planner Kik stated an example of an application that would not be accepted and tracked was an application submitted for a project that was *not* subject to a design review.

Commissioner Milcarek thanked City Planner Kik for her report and stated his concerns from a year ago had been addressed.

New Business

Next, items of new business were considered.

Introduction of a Resolution Opposing HB 5232 and SB 0720

Commissioner Urban introduced a *Resolution in Opposition to House Bill 5232 and Senate Bill 0720, Legislation to Amend the Michigan Local Historic Districts Act*. Commissioner Urban requested that this item be placed on the next business meeting agenda.

Historic Preservation Coordinator Sharon Ferraro provided a history of the bills and reviewed the significant changes they would make to current statutes.

In response to a question from Commissioner Knott, Coordinator Ferraro confirmed the House and Senate bills mirrored each other but stated she was not sure if the Senate had held hearings yet.

In response to a question from Vice Mayor Cooney, Coordinator Ferraro stated the sponsors claimed the purpose behind the bills was to inject more local control into the historic district designation process.

Mayor Hopewell reported Michigan Municipal League had officially opposed this legislation, and some people thought its introduction may have been related to the potential location of an arena in downtown Detroit. Mayor Hopewell indicated a resolution, updated to reflect the current version of the bills, would be placed on the next business meeting agenda.

Citizen Comments

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

Richard Stewart, City resident, noted that in 2015 he had asked for an impact study on DDRD and then tried to negotiate a grandfather clause to exclude existing property owners from the design guidelines. Mr. Stewart remarked on difference between the DDRD ordinance process and the stadium lighting ordinance process. Mr. Stewart stated the lack of new construction and renovation applications proved that the design standards were having a negative impact on business investment.

Alphonso Harris, City resident, noted March was Bisexual Health Awareness Month. Mr. Harris pointed out that the Michigan Civil Rights Act did not cover sexual orientation or gender identity.

Ed Nickerson, City resident, spoke about his recent experiences with the Kalamazoo Public Safety Officers, one good and one bad.

Commissioner Comments

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

Commissioner Milcarek remarked that the DDRD applications were for exterior rehabs, so there could be interior rehabilitations taking place that were not tracked. Commissioner Milcarek explained he had supported a grandfather clause in 2015 because he was concerned about the potential building material requirements, but the Southtown Appendix addressed those concerns.

Commissioner Urban noted the DDRD annual report was a condition of the approval of the guidelines, and he indicated the dialogue on this issue would continue.

Commissioner Knott thanked Mr. Harris for his comments and noted there was still a lot of work to do in the area of civil rights. Commissioner Knott reminded people to vote.

Commissioner Sykes expressed excitement about the changes coming to Bronson Park. Commissioner Sykes offered remarks on the DDRD and thanked City Planner Kik and Community Planning and Development Director Laura Lam for their continued engagement with the community on the DDRD issue and the continued improvement in the community engagement process. Commissioner Sykes thanked Mr. Harris for his comments.

Vice Mayor Cooney urged people to vote. Vice Mayor Cooney remarked on the violence in the community so far in 2016 and stated there were too many guns on the street. Vice Mayor Cooney suggested the City fight the state law that prevented local units of government from enacting strict gun regulations.

Mayor Hopewell thanked Commissioners who had been available to meet and attend events over the past few weeks related to violence in the community. Mayor Hopewell stated violence needed to be addressed

Commissioner Comments (cont'd)

and indicated he would be challenging legislators on the issue of violence. Hopewell expressed condolences to the family of a gentleman who was struck by a car and died after stepping off a Metro Transit bus. Mayor Hopewell thanked the Kalamazoo Wings for their support of the families of the shooting victims.

Closed Session

Commissioner Sykes, seconded by Commissioner Knott, moved that the City Commission go into closed session to discuss pending litigation.

Prior to a vote on the motion, Mayor Hopewell indicated the Commission would not return to open session following the closed session.

With a roll call vote this motion passed unanimously.

AYES: Commissioners Anderson, Knott, Milcarek, Sykes, Urban, Vice Mayor Cooney, Mayor Hopewell

NAYS: None

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott A. Borling
City Clerk

For City Commission approval on March 21, 2016

Approved by: _____
Bobby J. Hopewell, Mayor
Dated: March 21, 2016