

Roll Call

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

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

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

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

None

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

Invocation

The invocation, given by Dr. Michael T. Scott, Sr., The Galilee Baptist Church, was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Adoption of the
Agenda

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

2019-0001Public Hearing re: the
FY2019 Proposed Budget

At 7:02 p.m. Mayor Hopewell opened a public hearing to receive comments on the Fiscal Year 2019 (FY2019) Proposed Budget for the City of Kalamazoo.

Deputy City Manager Patsy Moore provided the following summary of the FY2019 Proposed Budget:

- A total proposed budget of \$181,712,603
- A proposed General Fund budget of \$64,812,067
- A proposed General Fund fund balance of 15.3%
- A city operating levy of 12 mills
- A solid waste levy of 1.8 mills
- 642 full time positions and 9 part-time positions
- Capital improvement spending of \$46.2 million

Andrew Haan, Executive Director of Kalamazoo Downtown Partnership, delivered a presentation entitled *Overview of 2019 Downtown Budgets*. A copy of the PowerPoint slides from the presentation were filed with the papers for this meeting.

In response to a question from Commissioner Cooney, Director Haan explained the Downtown Ambassadors would be people who performed a variety of tasks focused on making downtown clean and safe. Such tasks would include things like picking up trash, giving directions, walking people to their cars at night and assisting Public Safety Officers by being observant.

An opportunity was given for citizens to comment on the FY2019 Proposed Budget, but no comments were offered.

At 7:13 p.m. Mayor Hopewell closed the public hearing. Mayor Hopewell announced that final adoption of the FY2019 Budget would be considered at the City Commission business meeting on Tuesday, January 22nd.

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

- approval of a one-year term contract extension for gasoline and diesel fuel with Kalamazoo Oil, Inc. for an amount not to exceed \$600,000.
- approval of a contract with SWT Excavating, Inc. for the 2019 New Water Services Project, in the amount of \$903,893.78.
- first reading of a zoning ordinance to amend the Residential District Standards, and set a public hearing for January 22, 2018.
- adoption of a **RESOLUTION** adopting and approving the Sixth Amendment to Revised Brownfield Plan Implemented by the City of Kalamazoo Brownfield Redevelopment Authority for 1101 Portage Street.
- adoption of a **RESOLUTION** granting a Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) for the Kalamazoo Creamery Limited Dividend Housing Association Limited Partnership at 1101 Portage Street (06-22-434-008), pursuant to Section 35-4 of the Kalamazoo City Code.
- approval of the sale of 925 Grant Street to Andy Van Lente in the amount of \$1,500.
- approval of the minutes from the City Commission meetings on August 20, November 5, November 19, December 3, December 10, and December 17, 2018.

Commissioner Urban, seconded by Commissioner Cunningham, 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, Cooney, Cunningham, Sykes, Urban,
Vice Mayor Knott, Mayor Hopewell

NAYS: None

Regular Agenda items were considered next.

Deputy City Manager Jeff Chamberlain provided introductory remarks for a staff presentation on several transportation and mobility items. Deputy City Manager Chamberlain noted the first item, a Complete Streets Policy, was a policy other communities had adopted and was not a new idea. Deputy City Manager Chamberlain explained the City had waited to develop its Complete Streets Policy until the Imagine Kalamazoo 2025 (IK2025) strategic visioning process was complete and the Master Plan adopted so that input from IK2025 could be incorporated in the policy.

Consent Agenda

2019-0002

2019-0003

2019-0004

2019-0005

Resolution 19-01

2019-0006

Resolution 19-02

2019-0007

2019-0008

Regular Agenda

2019-0009

Adoption of a Complete
Streets Policy

2019-0009

Adoption of a Complete Streets Policy (cont'd)

Community Planning and Development Director Rebekah Kik and Public Services Director James Baker delivered a presentation entitled *Connected City: City Commission Meeting, January 7, 2019*. A copy of the PowerPoint slides for this presentation was filed with the papers for this meeting.

Commissioner Cooney expressed concerns about the jurisdictional transfer of streets from the state to the City and the burden of maintaining those roads moving forward. Commissioner Cooney noted the City was not able to adequately maintain its current inventory of streets. Commissioner Cooney stated he had been talking with people who were civil engineers, and they told him the \$11 million payment from the state, designed to cover maintenance and repairs for the next 10 years, would be short of actual expenses more than estimated, as the additional maintenance costs would be around \$800,000 per year rather than the \$480,000-\$580,000 estimated by staff. Commissioner Cooney asked about that shortage and what would happen in year 11.

In response to questions from Commissioner Cooney, Director Baker stated the cost estimates used in the financial analysis were conservative and the differences in estimate were not really that large. Director Baker pointed out that the total budget for Major and Local Streets was \$15,000,000, and \$150,000 was 1% of that budget. Director Baker reported he was usually 7-10% under budget with his projects, so there was ample room to cover the ups and downs of maintenance needs from year to year. Director Baker stated the City was already doing the work on the roads to be transferred, so capacity to do the work was not an issue. Director Baker remarked that his team had found a good mix of using contractors and City crews to achieve the lowest possible costs for projects. Director Baker explained it was cheaper to fix streets that were in better condition compared to streets in poor condition, which meant the City would wait to repair streets in poor condition until there were water and sewer repairs that could be done in coordination with the street projects. Regarding year 11 and beyond, Director Baker noted the transferred streets would be eligible for significant federal funding through the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study (KATS), and based on the scoring criteria he was confident projects involving these streets would score well compared with other projects in the county.

City Manager Ritsema noted the recently adopted Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Plan for the Downtown Economic Growth Authority included funds for street projects in the downtown area beginning around year 10.

In response to questions from Mayor Hopewell, Director Baker stated he had been doing civil engineering for approximately 20 years. Director Baker stated there were plans for water and wastewater capital needs going out to 2045, and a Major Streets plan going out to 2045 had been submitted to the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study. Director Baker indicated an Asset Management Plan was initiated in 2017 to coordinate work across the different asset categories. Director Baker stated the impact of transferring projects from contractors to City crews was a huge morale boost for employees and a considerable cost savings to the City. Director Baker stated in some cases City crews were able to complete projects for one-third the cost of contractors.

In response to a question from Commission Urban, Director Baker reported Southwest Michigan First had brought together the City of Kalamazoo, the Kalamazoo County Road Commission, and Consumers Energy in 2018 to coordinate projects so streets and sidewalks were not torn up again and again for

underground utility and street projects that could have been done at the same time. Director Baker noted emergencies happened, and sometimes one fund did not have the resources to do a project when resources were available in another fund for a project that really needed to be done, but every effort was made to coordinate projects.

When an opportunity was given for citizens to comment on the proposed Complete Streets Policy, the following people addressed the City Commission:

Nehemiah Scudder, City resident, stated the City needed to put its resources into fixing existing roads and expressed concern that the rights and responsibilities of pedestrians and cyclists were not defined.

Paul Ecklund, City resident and ADA Specialist at Disability Network of Southwest Michigan, expressed support for the Complete Streets Policy.

Bob Miller, City resident and Associate Vice President of Western Michigan University, expressed support for jurisdictional transfer of streets to the City.

Greg Ayers, President and CEO of Discover Kalamazoo, expressed support for the jurisdictional transfer of streets to Kalamazoo and the conversion of downtown streets from one-way streets to two-way streets.

Matt Hollander, City resident, expressed support for the jurisdictional transfer of streets.

Dean Hauck, City resident and owner of the Michigan News Agency, expressed support for the jurisdictional transfer streets and the Complete Streets Policy.

Greg Diment, Chief Information Officer for Kalamazoo College, expressed support for the jurisdictional transfer of streets roads to the City.

Janette Evans, City resident, spoke about bad condition of streets north of railroad tracks and asked the City to remember these streets when making plans for repairs.

L. Marshall Washington, President of Kalamazoo Valley Community College, expressed support for jurisdictional transfer of streets to the City.

Eric Stucky, City resident, expressed support for the Complete Streets Policy, the jurisdictional transfer of streets, and the two proposed ordinances. Mr. Stucky remarked on the positive impact of using City employees to do street projects.

Carol Schreiner, City resident, expressed support for the jurisdictional transfer of streets on behalf of residents of the Marlborough Condominiums.

Commissioner Sykes, seconded by Vice Mayor Knott, moved to adopt the Complete Streets Policy.

2019-0009

Adoption of a Complete Streets Policy (cont'd)

2019-0009

Adoption of a Complete Streets Policy (cont'd)

Mayor Hopewell opened a time for Commissioner comments and discussion on all four Regular Agenda items – the Complete Streets Policy, the jurisdictional transfer of streets from the state to the City, the sidewalk ordinance, and the crosswalk ordinance.

Commissioner Anderson thanked staff for presenting the four transportation and mobility items together and showing the connections between them. Commissioner Anderson noted the Complete Street Policy had been discussed for a long time, and serious thought had been put into it that was both practical and theoretical. Commissioner Anderson stated the jurisdictional transfer of street was not to be taken lightly, as the City was taking a risk with this action. Commissioner Anderson remarked on how Kalamazoo took a risk decades ago to create a pedestrian mall, which had been good at times and not so good at other times. Commissioner Anderson stated people were moving back to cities and City leaders cared about Kalamazoo and wanted it to be city where people felt safe to live. Commissioner Anderson acknowledged the jurisdictional transfer of streets from the state to the City was a risk where the outcome was not sure, but it was also a practical step to realize a vision. Commissioner Anderson expressed hope this decision would be seen as a wise move.

Commissioner Urban expressed support for Commissioner Anderson's remarks but emphasized the City was taking a positive risk to seize an opportunity to make Kalamazoo more attractive to people. Commissioner Urban stated these transportation and mobility items had come together because of IK2025. Commissioner Urban stated people should feel good about the coming changes overall, even if they did not like the particulars.

Commissioner Sykes thanked Director Kik for highlighting the social equity connections with the Complete Streets Policy. Commissioner Sykes stated this policy showed the City was able to plan for inclusion and equity.

Commissioner Cunningham stated one-way streets were frustrating, and converting these streets to two-way traffic would be a cultural change. Commissioner Cunningham thanked the City Manager, Mayor, City Commission, and staff for their leadership and hard work. Commissioner Cunningham expressed hope that the values of homes between North Park Street and North Westnedge Avenue would increase with the conversion of these streets to two-way traffic. Commissioner Cunningham asked people to press their state and federal representatives to fund road maintenance.

Commissioner Cooney expressed support for Director Baker and his staff but stated he would not be supporting the jurisdictional transfer. Commissioner Cooney noted the City had not fixed its roads since he had been on the Commission, and he questioned why the City would increase its maintenance and repair obligation, especially when the true cost to maintain these new streets was unknown. Commissioner Cooney observed that people were linking the jurisdictional transfer to the one-way street conversion, as if converting streets to two-way traffic was a foregone conclusion. Commissioner Cooney reminded people one-way street conversion was a separate project.

Mayor Hopewell expressed faith in the City's leadership team, including City Manager Ritsema, Director Baker, Director Kik, and Chief Thomas. Mayor Hopewell stated the City Commission had taken a risk with hiring the City Manager. Mayor Hopewell noted he was not convinced at the time that Jim

Ritsema was the right person for the job, but now he was happy with the City Commission's selection and stated the current leadership team had a good track record.

With a roll call vote the motion to adopt the Complete Streets Policy passed unanimously.

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

NAYS: None

An opportunity was given for citizens to comment on a Memorandum of Understanding between the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) and the City of Kalamazoo for the jurisdictional transfer of certain road segments within the City; and acceptance of \$11,689,997 from MDOT, but no comments were offered.

Commissioner Urban, seconded by Commissioner Cunningham, moved to approve a Memorandum of Understanding between the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) and the City of Kalamazoo for the jurisdictional transfer of certain road segments within the City; and acceptance of \$11,689,997 from MDOT.

With a roll call vote this motion passed 6-1.

AYES: Commissioners Anderson, Cunningham, Sykes, Urban, Vice
Mayor Knott, Mayor Hopewell

NAYS: Commissioner Cooney

City Attorney Robinson noted the language in section 36-225(B) of the proposed sidewalk ordinance read in part "...and shall give audible signal before..." City Attorney Robinson stated this language should be corrected to read "...and shall give an audible signal before..." and he asked the City Commission to adopt the ordinance with the corrected language. Regarding the need for this ordinance, City Attorney Robinson explained the proposed amendments to Sections 36-215 and 36-225 would clarify that cyclists were allowed to use sidewalks. Regarding the crosswalk ordinance, City Attorney Robinson described his experience with mid-block crosswalks in Ann Arbor.

An opportunity was given for citizens to comment on an ordinance addressing the operation of bicycles on sidewalks in furtherance of the City's Complete Streets initiative, but no comments were offered.

Vice Mayor Knott, seconded by Commissioner Anderson, moved to adopt an **ORDINANCE** addressing the operation of bicycles on sidewalks in furtherance of the City's Complete Streets initiative, with the correction requested by the City Attorney.

Prior to a vote on the motion, Mayor Hopewell noted Ransom Street was on the list of streets to be repaired in 2019.

2019-0009

Adoption of a Complete
Streets Policy (cont'd)

2019-0010

Jurisdictional Transfer of
State Trunklines to the
City of Kalamazoo

2019-0011

Ordinance 1976 re: the
Operation of Bicycles on
Sidewalks

2019-0011

Ordinance 1976 re: the
Operation of Bicycles on
Sidewalks (cont'd)

With a roll call vote this motion passed unanimously.

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

NAYS: None

2019-0012

Ordinance 1977 re:
Crosswalks

An opportunity was given for citizens to comment on an ordinance addressing the rights and responsibilities of pedestrians and bicyclists at crosswalks in furtherance of the City's Complete Streets initiative, but no comments were offered.

Vice Mayor Knott, seconded by Commissioner Sykes, moved to adopt an **ORDINANCE** addressing the rights and responsibilities of pedestrians and bicyclists at crosswalks in furtherance of the City's Complete Streets initiative.

With a roll call vote this motion passed unanimously.

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

NAYS: None

Citizen Comments

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

City Commissioner
Comments

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

Commissioner Sykes stated important changes had happened this was an important change that happened tonight. Commissioner Sykes wished her nephew Malik Preston a happy 21st birthday.

Commissioner Cooney remarked on upcoming activities and events celebrating the life and legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Commissioner Urban remarked on the decrease in night vision that affected people as they aged, and he urged pedestrians to wear light, reflective clothing when walking at night.

Vice Mayor Knott reported she was standing with Governor Gretchen Whitmer when the Governor signed an executive order protecting LGBT workers regarding executive employment and state contracting. Vice Mayor Knott asked people to call and thank the Governor and call their legislators to ask for LGBT protections in civil rights law.

Mayor Hopewell remarked on speaking at Governor Whitmer's inauguration. Mayor Hopewell announced he would be attending the January 22nd City Commission meeting via teleconference, which meant Vice Mayor Knott would be presiding. Mayor Hopewell wished everyone a prosperous new year.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott A. Borling
City Clerk

For City Commission approval on January 22, 2019

Approved by: _____
Bobby J. Hopewell, Mayor
Dated: January 22, 2019