

Roll Call

A regular meeting of the Kalamazoo City Commission was held on Monday, April 20, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. This meeting was held as an electronic meeting under the authority of Executive Order 2020-48 issued by Governor Gretchen Whitmer.

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.

Proclamation
2020-106

Commissioner Hess proclaimed April 18-25, 2020 *Earth Week - Kalamazoo*.

Adoption of the Agenda

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

Public Comment

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

Denise Keele, non-resident, thanked the City Commission for issuing a proclamation for Earth Day Week.

Zach Lassiter, City resident, stated it was inappropriate for the City to be censoring public comments.

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:

2020-0107

- approval a contract with Rieth-Riley Construction for Asphalt Paving Materials for the 2020 season in the amount of \$996,000.

2020-0108

- authorization for the City Manager to enter into contracts with ice control salt suppliers as awarded by the State of Michigan for the 2020-2021 winter season requirements in an amount not to exceed \$500,000.

2020-0109

- approval of a change order to a professional services contract with Hubbell, Roth, and Clark Inc. in the amount of \$39,000 to allow the continued provision of engineering services for design work on the Howard Pathway Project.

2020-0110

- approval of a contract with Unique Paving Materials, Corp. for asphalt patching materials for the 2020 season in the amount of \$221,100.

2020-0111

- approval of a contract with Scrubair Systems, Inc. for the central air stripper media replacement project in the amount of \$278,670.

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| - approval of a one-year contract extension with PVS Nolwood Chemicals, Inc. for the purchase of fluorosilicic acid in the amount of \$106,500. | 2020-0112 |
| - approval of a professional service agreement with the Peerless-Midwest Company to perform well rehabilitation and associated maintenance in 2020 in the amount of \$170,200. | 2020-0113 |
| - approval of a one-year contract extension with Republic Services of West Michigan for the rental, placement, and removal of roll-off containers and disposal of all street sweeping materials deposited in those containers in the amount of \$210,240. | 2020-0114 |
| - approval of a Professional Service Agreement with Hurley & Stewart, LLC for professional design engineering services related to the Parkview Avenue improvements, from Tamsin Avenue to Oakland Drive, in the amount of \$100,400. | 2020-0115 |
| - first reading of an ordinance to approve text amendments to Chapter 50, The Zoning Ordinance; and set a public hearing for May 4, 2020. | 2020-0116 |
| - approval and acceptance of an easement with Texas Township for water main and an access road planned to be installed as part of the 6th Street South Tank and Water Main Extension Project. | 2020-0117 |
| - approval and acceptance of an easement with Bronson Methodist Hospital for water main installed as part of the Bronson Primary Care – Richland Construction Project. | 2020-0118 |
| - approval and acceptance of an easement with Friendship Village – Kalamazoo for water main installed as part of the Persianwood Construction Project. | 2020-0119 |
| - approval of the Mayor's reappointment of Alfonso Espinosa and Sakhi Vyas to the Planning Commission for terms expiring on March 31, 2023. | 2020-0120 |
| - approval of the reappointments of Chris Flach and Matt Lager to the Zoning Board of Appeals for terms expiring on March 31, 2023. | 2020-0121 |
| - approval of a recommendation to postpone until May 4, 2020 consideration of the purchase of 447 East Stockbridge Ave from the County Land Bank in the amount of \$9,882. | 2020-0122 |

Commissioner Cunningham, seconded by Commissioner Urban, 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.

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Vice Mayor Griffin

Regular Agenda

2020-0123

Resolution 20-23
Authorizing COPE
Network to Engage in a
Needle Exchange
Program

At 7:17 p.m. Vice Mayor Griffin returned to the meeting.

Regular Agenda Items were considered next.

Nancy King, Executive Director of the Community Outreach Prevention and Education (COPE) Network, described the proposed safe syringe program and the benefits of the program for drug users and the community.

Commissioner Praedel asked Ms. King to address concerns raised in 2019 when the City Commission adopted the ordinance allowing needle exchange programs, and specifically concerns that needle exchange programs led to increases in drug use and needle debris.

In response to Commissioner Praedel, Ms. King explained people who used drugs were concerned about being caught, so they left needles wherever they could. Ms. King stated having a safe place for the disposal of needles would reduce the debris.

In response to a question from Commissioner Praedel, Ms. King stated COVID-19 was creating stress, and people were relapsing into drug use. Ms. King indicated the services COPE provided, including the delivery of Naloxone, were considered essential services. With this approval the goal was to have the program up and running by the beginning of May.

Commissioner Praedel indicated needle exchange programs had been around for 30 years, and there was no evidence these programs resulted in increased drug use.

In response to a question from Vice Mayor Griffin, Ms. Stated there would be one, fixed site drop-off center on Pioneer Street to start, but COPE would be assessing the community's need for additional sites.

In response to questions from Mayor Anderson, Ms. King stated the determination of whether additional sites were necessary and the location of those sites would be made in consultation with the Health Department and with input from drug users and the neighborhoods that were potential locations for new sites.

Commissioner Knott, seconded by Commissioner Praedel, moved to adopt a **RESOLUTION** authorizing the Community Outreach Prevention and Education (COPE) Network to engage in a Needle Exchange Program for a period of two years.

With a roll call vote this motion passed unanimously.

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

NAYS: None

City Manager's
Report

City Manager Ritsema reported the City was working with Kalamazoo Township and the City of Portage on when offices would re-open to the public. City Manager Ritsema indicated officials were hoping for a mid-May reopening, but there was caution.

Deputy City Manager Laura Lam provided an update on the Disaster Relief Fund and Small Business Loan Fund. Deputy City Manager Lam reported \$1.1 million

had been deployed to five local agencies from Disaster Relief Fund. Deputy City Manager Lam reported a second round of lending had taken place the week prior, which resulted in over \$890,000 approved for 42 businesses, impacting over 360 employees. Deputy City Manager Lam stated a third round of lending would take place that week.

Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Steve Vicenzi provided information about the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on the City's finances. CFO Vicenzi reported the City was anticipating revenue reductions in the amount of \$900,000 for the General Fund and \$1 - \$1.5 million for the Local Streets Fund in 2020. CFO Vicenzi stated the reductions were expected to be one-time or one-year reductions with revenues returning to normal for 2021.

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

Commissioner Urban thanked City staff for stepping up and adjusting to the new situation under COVID-19. Commissioner Urban noted all public comments were recorded, and all recordings were kept and would be made available through the Freedom of Information Act.

Commissioner Knott reported she had been calling on Kalamazoo County Health Officer James Rutherford to release positive COVID-19 test results by zip code and to work with the Public Safety Department on potential hot spots, but he had not been inclined to do so. Commissioner Knott also reported she had asked the City Manager to investigate whether the City could test wastewater for COVID-19 particles. Commissioner Knott encouraged people to contact Mr. Rutherford and ask him to release COVID-19 test results by zip code.

Vice Mayor Griffin thanked City staff for the work they were doing, and she thanked frontline workers for their efforts.

Commissioner Cunningham urged people to be safe. Commissioner Cunningham announced there would be a special City Commission meeting on April 27th at 6:00 p.m. to talk about Adult Use Marihuana. Commissioner Cunningham asked about the City's efforts to encourage participation in the 2020 Census.

Commissioner Hess thanked frontline workers, City staff, teachers, and school employees for their work. Commissioner Hess urged people to register with the 2020 Census. Commissioner Hess thanked City Clerk Borling for his work on the May 5th election.

Commissioner Praedel thanked City staff, the Public Safety Department, Mayor Anderson and Vice Mayor Griffin for their work on the COVID-19 crisis. Commissioner Praedel thanked the Planning Commission for a smooth electronic meeting on April 15th. Commissioner Praedel reported the state had partnered with a company called Headspace to offer physical and mental exercises through the website [headspace.com/mi](https://www.headspace.com/mi) to help people cope with the COVID-19 pandemic. Commissioner Praedel offered well-wishes and encouragement to local college students as they took their final exams. Commissioner Praedel announced he was hoping to be a new dad in the next week or two, and he apologized for any meetings he might miss.

City Manager's
Report (cont'd)

City Commissioner
Comments

City Commissioner
Comments (cont'd)

In response to a Commissioner Cunningham, Deputy City Manager Jeff Chamberlain stated the City had been working with community partners on a full-blown Census campaign, but the campaign events were planned for March and were derailed by COVID-19. Deputy City Manager Chamberlain reported the City had spent \$15,000 for media buys and a mailing.

Mayor Anderson thanked the City Clerk for his work on the May 5th election and urged people to vote by mail. Mayor Anderson noted April 18th was the anniversary of the death of Public Safety Officer Eric Zapata. Mayor Anderson remarked on Public Safety recent work to stop retaliatory killings. Mayor Anderson reported on the work being done to help people without homes during the COVID-19 situation: the opening of an additional day shelter location; the opening of a quarantine site; the placement of restroom facilities downtown; and a multi-partner effort to move families out of the Kalamazoo Gospel Mission and into a hotel so they could stay safe. Mayor Anderson acknowledged the economic situation was crushing and indicated the City was advocating for state and federal resources.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott A. Borling
City Clerk

For City Commission approval on September 8, 2020

Approved by: _____
David F. Anderson, Mayor
Dated: September 8, 2020

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