

	A business meeting of the Kalamazoo City Commission was held on Monday, April 4, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Commission Chambers at City Hall, 241 W. South Street.
Roll Call	COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Vice Mayor Don Cooney David Anderson Erin Knott Matt Milcarek Shannon Sykes Jack Urban COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Mayor Bobby Hopewell Also present were City Manager Jim Ritsema, City Attorney Clyde Robinson, and Deputy City Clerk Shelby Moss.
Commissioners Excused	Commissioner Urban, seconded by Commissioner Milcarek, moved to excuse the absence of Mayor Hopewell. With a voice vote the motion passed.
Invocation/Pledge	A moment of reflective silence was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.
Proclamation	Commissioner Knott read a proclamation entitled Child Abuse Prevention Month. Carol Dedow from the Kalamazoo County Child Abuse Prevention Council received the proclamation.
Adoption of the Agenda	By unanimous consent the City Commission adopted its meeting agenda as presented.
Communications	City Manager Ritsema informed the Commission that a presentation of the Draft Downtown Kalamazoo Parking Plan would be presented at the Monday, April 18, 2016 regular business meeting. James Baker, Interim Public Services Director, presented a Water Quality Video produced by City staff to illustrate the excellent quality and safety of the drinking water in Kalamazoo.
Public Hearing re: the PY2016 HUD Action Plan and Funding Allocations	At 7:14 p.m. Vice Mayor Cooney opened a public hearing to receive comments on the recommendations of the Community Development Act Advisory Committee (CDAAC) and the proposed Program Year 2016 Action Plan. Vanessa Collins-Smith, Community Development Compliance Specialist II, reported the City would receive the following allocation of funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD): Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) - \$1,478,874; HOME Program - \$422,450; and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) - \$138,353. Ms. Collins-Smith outlined the application process and stated the final step was submitting the action plan by May 15th to HUD. Dana Underwood, Board Member of CDAAC, outlined the application review process and thanked City staff and her fellow CDAAC members for all their time commitments and hard work. Ms. Underwood also highlighted the need for affordable rental housing in the community.

At 7:22 p.m. Vice Mayor Cooney closed the public hearing.

Commissioners Milcarek and Anderson and Vice Mayor Cooney thanked CDAAC and City staff for their hard work.

Commissioner Anderson, seconded by Commissioner Urban, moved to 1) accept the recommendations of the Community Development Act Advisory Committee and adopt the Program Year 2016 Action Plan; and 2) authorize the Director of Community Planning and Development to act as the official representative of the City and to sign all required HUD documents.

With a roll call vote this motion passed:

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Commissioner Milcarek*

*At the time of the vote, Commissioner Milcarek announced he was abstaining due to a conflict of interest.

At 7:24 p.m. Vice Mayor Cooney opened a public hearing to receive comments on an ordinance to rezone the east 105 feet of 827 S. Westnedge Avenue from Zone RM-36 (Residential, Multi-Dwelling District) to Zone CN-1 (Commercial, Neighborhood District).

Rebecca Kik, City Planner, gave a brief presentation on the proposed rezoning and stated the rezoning was in line with the City's current and future Land Use Plan. Ms. Kik stated rezoning the property would bring the zoning in line with neighboring properties. Ms. Kik noted Rainey Street would remain closed and the property owner had no intention of reopening the street.

At 7:28 p.m. Vice Mayor Cooney closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Milcarek, seconded by Commissioner Anderson, moved to adopt an **ORDINANCE** to rezone the east 105 feet of 827 S. Westnedge Avenue from Zone RM-36 (Residential, Multi-Dwelling District) to Zone CN-1 (Commercial, Neighborhood District.)

With a roll call vote this motion passed:

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

NAYS: None

Approval of PY2016
HUD Action Plan and
Funding Allocations

Public Hearing re: the
Rezoning of 827 S.
Westnedge Avenue

Ordinance 1937
Rezoning 827 S.
Westnedge Avenue

Consent Agenda

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

- approval of the purchase of Body Worn Cameras from Watch Guard through the MiDEAL purchasing program in the amount of \$201,435.
- acceptance of grant funding in the amount of \$76,075 from the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority to support the Body Worn Camera project.
- approval of the purchase of ten Public Safety fleet vehicles from Berger Chevrolet through the MiDEAL purchasing program in the amount of \$298,733.46.
- approval of a three-year term contract for industrial uniform rental and cleaning service with Continental Linen Services for staff within the Public Services Department in the amount of \$150,000.
- denial of a request from Fiber Technologies Networks, L.L.C. for a Bilateral Metropolitan Extension Telecommunications Right of Way Oversight (METRO) Act permit for the reasons that it is incomplete, and does not conform with either the METRO Act or the City's Zoning Code regulations pertaining to telecommunication facilities.
- approval of the minutes from the City Commission meetings on March 21, 2016.

Commissioner Sykes, seconded by Commissioner Knott, 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 Anderson, Knott, Milcarek, Sykes, Urban, Vice Mayor Cooney

NAYS: None

Citizen Comments

Next, an opportunity was given for general citizen comments.

Frank Warren, City resident, expressed concern regarding City vehicle purchases made outside of the City limits.

Jose L. Campos, City resident, expressed concerns regarding the crumbling street in front of his house on Dover Road. Mr. Campos stated garbage trucks and other heavy vehicles were causing the destruction of the street, and he invited Commissioners to see the damage for themselves.

Franklin Thompson, City resident, spoke about his life and the recent Kalamazoo shooting spree. Mr. Thompson expressed concern for the stress level of Public Safety Officers.

The following individuals expressed support for the Fair Chance for All Policy originally introduced at the Monday, March 21, 2016 City Commission meeting:

Allison Kennedy, City resident
Jerrin Yarbrough, Non-resident
Debbie Kline, Non-resident
Nick Boyd, City resident
Christine Lewis, City resident
Alphonso Harris, City resident

John Howard, City resident, expressed concern about unlicensed taxis operating in the City and the condition of their vehicles.

Kris Mbah, City resident, thanked the City Commission for accepting the CDAAC recommendations. Mr. Mbah expressed concern about the proposed Downtown Kalamazoo Parking Plan.

Katlin Martin, City resident, requested information regarding the approved purchase of fleet vehicles, the re-zoning at 827 S. Westnedge Avenue, and the body camera program. Ms. Martin expressed support for the Fair Chance for All campaign.

Chris Wahmhoff, City resident, expressed support for the City's water system but emphasized the importance of safety and protecting the water system.

Tia Wallace, City resident, expressed concerns regarding the parking rate increases in the proposed Downtown Kalamazoo Parking Plan and the negative impact they would have on her family and the downtown area.

Andrew Worden, City resident, expressed concerns regarding the proposed Downtown Kalamazoo Parking Plan and the negative impact the increased parking rates would have on the downtown.

Gwendolyn Hooker, City resident, expressed concerns regarding policies and procedures at the Kalamazoo County Jail.

Dana Underwood, City resident, expressed several concerns regarding: 1) a City income tax; 2) the increased parking rates in the proposed Downtown Kalamazoo Parking Plan; 3) public participation in City meetings; and 4) a lack of management plan for the Downtown Development Authority.

Cody Dekker, City resident, requested more community engagement opportunities such as town hall meetings, and he expressed concerns about the mental health of inmates at the Kalamazoo County Jail.

Van Forsman, City resident, spoke about his life experiences.

Citizen Comments
(cont'd)

Commissioner
Comments

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

Commissioner Milcarek expressed support for improved logistics of garbage collection in the City.

Commissioner Urban remarked on the need for increased public participation and engagement.

Commissioner Knott stated she would visit Dover Road and see the damage being done.

Commissioner Sykes thanked the Commission and everyone in the audience for all their hard work and continued efforts to address issues facing the community.

Commissioner Anderson noted the Kalamazoo County Jail was a function of Kalamazoo County Government, and he encouraged residents to attend Kalamazoo County Commission meetings with their concerns about the jail.

Vice Mayor Cooney stated the Fair Chance for All campaign was in line with the City Commission priority to reduce poverty, especially among children. Vice Mayor Cooney requested City Manager Ritsema follow up with Mr. Campos regarding Dover Road.

In response to a question from Vice Mayor Cooney, City Manager Ritsema stated the vehicles being purchased from Berger Chevrolet were being purchased through the State of Michigan MiDEAL program. City Manager Ritsema stated the MiDEAL program allowed the City to purchase vehicles at a competitive rate, and he encouraged local dealerships to register with the MiDEAL program.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelby A. Moss
Deputy City Clerk

For City Commission approval on May 2, 2016

Approved by: _____

Bobby J. Hopewell, Mayor
Dated: May 2, 2016

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