

Roll Call

A regular meeting of the Kalamazoo City Commission was held on Monday, March 1, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. This meeting was held as an electronic meeting under the authority of the Michigan Open Meetings Act (PA 267 of 1976) as amended by PA 254 of 2020.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Mayor David Anderson
Eric Cunningham
Jeanne Hess
Erin Knott
Chris Praedel
Jack Urban

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Vice Mayor Patrese Griffin

All members present indicated they were physically located in the City of Kalamazoo.

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

Commissioner Excused

Commissioner Hess, seconded by Commissioner Cunningham, moved to excuse the absence of Vice Mayor Griffin. With a voice vote the motion passed.

Adoption of the Agenda

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

Public Comments

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

A City resident expressed concern about conditions in the homeless encampments and the sustainability of this solution, especially if those in the encampments were not from the Kalamazoo area.

Jeff Messer, City resident, urged City Commissioners to use the public Committee of the Whole meetings to add and remove items from Business Meeting agendas rather than adding items of new business during the "adoption of formal agenda" portion of the Business Meeting agenda. Mr. Messer stated the addition of agenda items during Committee of the Whole meetings would give members of the public time to react and offer comments on those items.

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:

2021-00

- approval of a contract extension with Premier Lawn and Snow for 2021 property maintenance of Riverside and Mountain Home Cemeteries in the amount of \$226,000.

2021-00

- approval of a cooperative purchase agreement with P.K. Contracting, Inc. for pavement marking services in the amount of \$178,425.

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| - 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 street sweeping materials in the amount of \$220,800. | 2021-00 |
| - first reading an ordinance to temporarily suspend the required minimum off-street parking requirements of Section 507.2 <i>Required Vehicular Off-Street Parking Spaces</i> through November 1, 2021; and schedule a public hearing for March 15, 2021. | 2021-00 |
| - adoption of a RESOLUTION approving the Act 381 Brownfield Plan for the 400 Rose Phase II redevelopment project. | 2021-00
Resolution 21-15 |
| - approval of an agreement between the City of Kalamazoo and the United Way for business development assistance. | 2021-00 |
| - approval of the release of the 2021 Draft Action Plan for a 30-day public comment period to begin on March 2, 2021, as required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. | 2021-00 |
| - approval of the Mayor's appointments and reappointments to the following boards and commissions: | 2021-00 |
| - the appointment of David Burgess to the Planning Commission for a term expiring on March 31, 2024. | |
| - the appointment of Michael Harrison to the Planning Commission for a term expiring March 31, 2024. | |
| - the appointment of Mariah Phelps to the Planning Commission for a term expiring March 31, 2024. | |
| - the reappointment of James Pitts to the Planning Commission for a term expiring on March 31, 2024. | |
| - the appointment of Jennifer Swan to the Planning Commission for a term expiring March 31, 2023. | |
| - the reappointment of Jeff Carroll to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a term expiring on March 31, 2024. | |
| - the reappointment of Christina Doane to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a term expiring on March 31, 2024. | |
| - the appointment of Beth van den Hombergh to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a term expiring March 31, 2022. | |

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 6-0.

Consent Agenda
Cont'd)

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

NAYS: None

*At the time of the vote, Commissioner Praedel abstained from voting on Item G-7, the release of the 2021 Draft Action Plan for a 30-day public comment period, due to a conflict of interest.

Commissioner
Comments

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

Commissioner Cunningham spoke about the City Commission's vote on February 15th to remove itself from the Southwest Michigan First (SWMF) Council of 100, and he noted it was the intent of the action for the City Administration to continue working with SWMF. Commissioner Cunningham remarked there were many events taking place in March.

Commissioner Praedel commented on the success of the small business loan program and the role of the United Way in administering this program. Commissioner Praedel congratulated the people who were appointed and reappointed to the Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals. Commissioner Praedel explained he had abstained from voting on Item G-7 because his organization was named in the Draft Action Plan, and he did not want there to be an appearance of a conflict of interest.

Commissioner Hess remarked that March was "National Optimism Month," and "March 4th" was the only date that was a command. Commissioner Hess thanked City staff for developing the Draft Action Plan for funds from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Mayor Anderson remarked on the deaths of former Public Safety Officer Thomas Spears and former City Commissioner and Vice Mayor John Oosterbaan. Mayor Anderson noted PureWow magazine had ranked Kalamazoo number one on its list of "Ten Coolest Cities with the Lowest Cost of Living in the US."

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott A. Borling
City Clerk

For City Commission approval on March 15, 2021

Approved by: _____
David F. Anderson, Mayor
Dated: March 15, 2021

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