

Roll Call

A regular meeting of the Kalamazoo City Commission was held on Monday, February 15, 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
Vice Mayor Patrese Griffin
Eric Cunningham
Jeanne Hess
Erin Knott
Chris Praedel
Jack Urban

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

None

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.

Invocation

The invocation was given by Pradip Sagdeo.

Adoption of the Agenda

By unanimous consent the City Commission adopted its meeting agenda with the following changes:

Commissioner Knott asked that an action be added under New Business to remove the City's membership on the Southwest Michigan First Council of 100.

Commissioner Praedel asked that a follow-up discussion of appointee evaluations be added under New Business.

2021-00Downtown Street Study
Update

Community Planning and Economic Development (CPED) Director Rebekah Kik, City Planner Christina Anderson, and Public Works Division Manager Anthony Ladd delivered a presentation entitled *Downtown Streets & Network Design Project Phase I, February 15, 2021*. A copy of the slides from this presentation was filed with the papers for this meeting.

Commissioner Cunningham questioned why none of the one-way street plans provided for two-way traffic on North Park Street and North Westnedge Avenue.

In response to Commissioner Cunningham, Mr. Ladd explained two-way traffic on North Park Street and North Westnedge Avenue was not feasible based on current traffic volumes. Mr. Ladd noted there were not many other north-south connectors that could handle a shift in volumes from Park and Westnedge.

Commissioner Cunningham stated one-way streets had impacted the Northside Neighborhood in a negative way, and he requested a presentation from the consultant so he could understand why two-way traffic on Park and Westnedge was not possible. Commissioner Cunningham stated the City needed to look for alternatives if two-way traffic was not an option on these streets.

Commissioner Urban stated a northeast bypass to connect US-131 and I-94 was needed to even out downtown traffic flows and handle north-south traffic.

Director Kik reported the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) had funds in its 2021 budget for design and engineering work for a US-131 interchange. Director Kik indicated staff would follow up on Commissioner Cunningham's questions.

Commissioner Cunningham expressed support two-way traffic conversions as they would help downtown businesses and improve partnerships and linkages with Western Michigan University (WMU), Kalamazoo College, and Kalamazoo Valley Community College (KVCC), but he noted there would be a cultural transition, which would take time. Commissioner Cunningham asked if there were plans to make changes to Michikal and Stadium Drive.

City Planner Anderson remarked on the need for patience as the proposed changes involved a network of streets. City Planner Anderson stated the City had jurisdiction over Stadium Drive from downtown to Rambling Road, and there would be proposed reconfigurations of Stadium in Phase II of the project. City Planner Anderson stated Stadium Drive needed to be resurfaced in the near term, and that could be accomplished with future plans in mind.

Mr. Ladd explained the jurisdictional transfer of streets to the City had included a commitment that the City would improve the pavement ratings of those streets within 10 years. Mr. Ladd stated the work to make these improvements took time, and the City needed to balance this work with the changes to Stadium called for in the downtown streets plan. Mr. Ladd reported that Stadium between Rambling Road and Lovell Street would be repaved in 2022, and the project would include pedestrian and streetscape improvements.

In response to a question from Commissioner Praedel, City Planner Anderson stated the pilot projects would come later in the year and would involve paint, bollards, and signage, with very intentional, targeted communications. City Planner Anderson stated there would be a lot of pilot projects over the next few years as project ideas were tested.

Commissioner Praedel noted that residents had been asked to give feedback on street plans in the past, but nothing was implemented. Commissioner Praedel questioned why people should think their input would be heard and implemented this time.

In response to Commissioner Praedel, City Planner Anderson stated the jurisdictional transfer of streets from the state to the City was an important factor, as the City now had the control necessary to make changes. City Planner pointed to the IK 2025 Strategic Vision document and a new level of cooperation between staff in CPED and Public Services as factors that increased the likelihood that projects would be implemented.

Director Kik remarked on the national trend from away from one-way streets and back to two-way traffic.

Mr. Ladd noted the City's downtown streets study was considering more elements than MDOT would have considered, such as pedestrian and non-motorized traffic.

Commissioner Praedel stated transportation and access were major impediments to fair housing, and he expressed support for looking closer at converting Park and Westnedge to two-way traffic.

2021-00Downtown Street Study
Update (cont'd)

2021-00

Downtown Street Study
Update (cont'd)

Commissioner Cunningham stated his vision for transportation in Kalamazoo was a European model that took into consideration all modes of transportation, and he recommended that people study European traffic engineering and the example of Kalamazoo's sister city, Numazu Japan.

City Manager Ritsema urged patience with this project and stated the total estimated cost was \$75 million. City Manager Ritsema indicated the City would be working to seek funds and phase in the changes.

Mayor Anderson expressed agreement with Commissioner Cunningham about Park and Westnedge. Mayor Anderson encouraged everyone involved to watch the federal budget for infrastructure funding, as this would be a major source of funds.

2021-00

Public Hearing re: an
Ordinance Rezoning
Parcels in the Eastside
Neighborhood

At 7:56 p.m. Mayor Anderson opened a public hearing to receive comments on an ordinance to rezone properties generally located along East Main Street and East Michigan Avenue in the Eastside Neighborhood.

City Planner Anderson provided an overview of the proposed rezoning.

In response to a question from Vice Mayor Griffin, City Planner Anderson stated both the current and proposed zoning allowed for grocery stores. City Planner Anderson explained the current zoning did not match the structures currently in place.

In response to a question from Commissioner Praedel, City Planner Anderson reviewed the community engagement process that led to the proposed rezoning.

An opportunity was given for public comments on the proposed rezoning ordinance, but no comments were offered.

At 8:03 p.m. Mayor Anderson closed the public hearing.

2021-00

Ordinance 2022
Rezoning Parcels in the
Eastside Neighborhood

Commissioner Cunningham, seconded by Commissioner Hess, moved to adopt an **ORDINANCE** to rezone properties generally located along East Main Street and East Michigan Avenue in the Eastside Neighborhood.

Prior to a vote on the motion, Commissioner Hess commended staff for their great public engagement work.

Commissioner Praedel indicated he was hearing the processed used to develop this ordinance was a model for public engagement.

Mayor Anderson noted improvements along the corridors being rezoned would require patience.

With a roll call vote this motion passed unanimously.

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

NAYS: None

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

Public Comments

Tony Tone, City resident, expressed dismay that there were no actions from the last Commission meeting regarding the City Manager.

A non-resident expressed opposition to how the City used water usage to calculate sewer usage for billing purposes.

Jeff Messer, City resident, noted the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board held its summer meetings in various City parks, and he requested that the City Commission hold its meetings in City parks if it had not moved to hybrid or in-person meetings by May. Mr. Messer stated he had left this comment during the February 1st meeting, but it was not played because he also recorded a comment regarding an agenda item. Mr. Messer noted he would have been allowed to make both comments at an in-person meeting.

TC Custer, City resident, asked for an update on City Manager Ritsema after the closed session on February 1st.

Andy Argo, City resident, expressed opposition to the hiring of Lee Chatfield as the new CEO of Southwest Michigan First.

Matt Milcarek, City resident, asked the City to make it clear the new CEO of Southwest Michigan First (SWMF) did not share Kalamazoo's values. Mr. Milcarek requested a statement from City staff about the ability of current zoning regulations to support construction of an arena on SWMF properties downtown.

Noel, a City resident, expressed frustration and disappointment at the City's hiring of former Kalamazoo County Treasurer Mary Balkema and asked for the firing of the City Manager and the resignation of the Mayor.

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:

Consent Agenda

- approval of a professional service agreement with OHM Advisors for Inkster bridge design and engineering services in the amount of \$100,000. **2021-00**
- approval of a contract with Hoffman Brothers, Inc. for the Oakland Dr. at Angling Rd. stormwater reconstruction in the amount of \$116,636.53. **2021-00**
- approval of a professional service agreement with OHM Advisors for Paterson bridge design and engineering services in the amount of \$120,000. **2021-00**
- approval of a professional services agreement with Wightman & Associates, Inc. for design and engineering services on the Stadium Drive Improvement project in the amount of \$187,000. **2021-00**
- approval of a professional service agreement with Wightman & Associates, Inc. for construction engineering services related to the **2021-00**

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|-----------------------------|---|
| | Portage Street Improvements, Stockbridge to Michigan, in the amount of \$409,900. |
| 2021-00 | - approval of a contract with Ferguson Water Works to provide Neptune Water Meters in the amount of \$600,000. |
| 2021-00 | - approval of a contract with SWT Excavating, Inc. for the 2021 Sidewalk Project in the amount of \$692,069.22. |
| 2021-00
Resolution 21-14 | - adoption of a RESOLUTION amending City Commission Policy 20.3 Poverty Exemption Guidelines which determines eligibility and sets guidelines for granting partial poverty exemptions. |
| 2021-00 | - approval of a Housing for All loan in the amount of \$100,000 from the City to Zoo North, LLC for gap financing to construct a mixed-use building with affordable housing units at 718 North Burdick Street. |
| 2021-00 | - approval of grant agreements with Kalamazoo Neighborhood Housing Services to provide a total of \$750,000 for the Kalamazoo Attainable Homes/Pathways Home Homeownership Initiative. |
| 2021-00 | - acceptance of a grant from the Irving S. Gilmore Foundation in the amount of \$687,820 for major updates to Mountain Home Cemetery and Jewish Mountain Home Cemetery; and amend the 2021 Cemetery Fund Capital Improvement Budget by the same amount. |
| 2021-00 | - authorization for the City Clerk to sign <i>Election Coordinating Committee Agreements</i> between the City of Kalamazoo, the Kalamazoo County Clerk, Kalamazoo Public Schools, Comstock Public Schools, Portage Public Schools, Parchment Public Schools, Kalamazoo Valley Community College, and Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency for the conduct of elections for these school districts. |
| 2021-00 | - approval of a purchase agreement with, and acceptance of a warranty deed from, Robert E. Endias and Eileen F. Stryker, Trustees of the Endias-Stryker Living Trust, for 4,281 square feet of Parcel #0635227001 at 2300 Angling Road for the amount of \$8,562. |
| 2021-00 | - approval of reclassifying the Certified Municipal Clerk to an "E" level in the Non-Bargaining Unit classification system; approve an associated salary of \$106,000 for Clerk Scott Borling effective February 15, 2021; and approve a budget amendment to fund the salary increase and associated benefits. |

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 unanimously.

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

NAYS: None

*At the time of the vote, Commissioner Praedel abstained from voting on Item G-9, a Housing for All loan to Zoo North, LLC, due to a conflict of interest.

Mayor Anderson remarked that funding from the Foundation for Excellence allowed the City to have a sidewalk repair/replacement program, and he explained that for years the City did not have a proactive program due to the lack of funding. Mayor Anderson noted SWMF was a private organization that did not consult with the City on its personnel decisions. Mayor Anderson clarified that former County Treasurer Mary Balkema was hired recently by Kalamazoo County, not the City of Kalamazoo.

Regular Agenda items were considered next.

Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Dorla Bonner, delivered a presentation entitled, *Analysis to Impediments to Fair Housing to Affirmatively Further Fair Housing 2019-2022*. A copy of the slides from this presentation was filed with the papers from this meeting.

In response to a question from Commissioner Hess, Director Bonner stated the *Analysis to Impediments* report would be available on the City's website following the meeting.

Commissioner Urban, seconded by Commissioner Cunningham, moved to approve the release of the draft Analysis to Impediments for a 30-day public comment period beginning March 9, 2021 and ending April 9, 2021 as required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

With a roll call vote this motion passed unanimously.

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

NAYS: None

Commissioner Praedel asked Director Baker to explain the importance of the rate increases.

In response to questions from Commissioner Praedel, Public Services Director James Baker explained the proposed utility rate increases were needed to maintain system infrastructure and ensure water quality. Director Baker described actions the City had taken to assist customers who could not afford utility bill payments, including participating in the state utility assistance fund, suspending water shutoffs through 2021, and partnering with Consumers Energy to publicize their Free Home Energy Analysis Program.

In response to a question from Mayor Anderson, Director Baker explained sewer usage for retail customers was calculated based on their water usage and specifically their winter water usage to eliminate non-inhouse usage for things like lawn sprinkling and car washing.

In response to a question from Mayor Anderson, Director Baker reported the City's utility rates were some of the lowest in the state, and he stated they would continue to be some of the lowest in the state even with the proposed increases.

Regular Agenda

2021-00

Release of *Analysis to Impediments to Fair Housing* for Public Comment

2021-00

Ordinance 2023 re: Water Utility Rates

2021-00

Ordinance 2023 re:
Water Utility Rates
(cont'd)

Commissioner Hess, seconded by Commissioner Urban, moved to adopt an **ORDINANCE** to amend certain sections of Chapter 38 of the Kalamazoo City Code to change the rates charged for drinking water.

With a roll call vote this motion passed unanimously.

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

NAYS: None

2021-00

Ordinance 2024 re:
Wastewater Utility Rates

Commissioner Cunningham, seconded by Commissioner Urban, moved to adopt an **ORDINANCE** to amend certain sections of Chapter 28 of the Kalamazoo code to change the rates charged for wastewater service.

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 provided the following reports and updates:

- the warming center on Mills Street opened on Thursday, February 11th, and the City would keep it open as long as the forecast for cold weather met the established criteria.

Mayor Anderson noted day shelters were available at The River Church, Ministry with Community, and the Kalamazoo Gospel Mission.

New Business

Next, items of New Business were considered.

2021-00

Removal of the City's
Membership from the
Southwest Michigan First
Council of 100

Commissioner Knott, seconded by Vice Mayor Griffin, moved that the City of Kalamazoo immediately withdraw its standing with Southwest Michigan First (SWMF) as a Council of 100 member.

Commissioner Knott disclosed she was the Executive Director for Equality Michigan. Commissioner Knott spoke about the appointment of former Speaker of the Michigan House of Representatives Lee Chatfield as the new CEO of Southwest Michigan First. Commissioner Knott stated Mr. Chatfield was a teacher by trade, had no leadership experience prior to his election to the Michigan House of Representatives, did not have any economic development experience, and had a record of opposing and leading the opposition to non-discrimination rights for LGBTQ persons. Commissioner Knott offered remarks on the negative economic impact of LGBTQ discrimination laws and provided examples of how businesses opposed such laws and policies. Commissioner Knott highlighted the importance of attracting talent to Michigan and enabling LGBTQ individuals to fully participate in the economy. Commissioner Knott expressed hope that other businesses and organizations would leave the Council of 100 until everyone was satisfied that SWMF was aligned with the community's values. Commissioner Knott asked the SWMF Board of Directors, Mr. Chatfield, and the Council of 100 members to call on the state legislature to amend the Elliot-Larsen Civil Rights Act to include sexual orientation and gender identity, without any exemptions.

Commissioner Praedel stated he was endorsed by SWMF during the 2019 election, but he was not beholden to them. Commissioner Praedel stated he would draft a letter to the SWMF Board of Directors to convey his thoughts. Commissioner Praedel stated this hire showed disregard for the Kalamazoo community and its values. Commissioner Praedel stated SWMF should have sought input from stakeholders regarding desirable qualities for a CEO, and he remarked such feedback would not have resulted in the hiring of Lee Chatfield. Commissioner Praedel questioned the qualities that made him desirable to SWMF, as he had no economic development experience, was from a small town in the Upper Peninsula, was highly divisive while in the state legislature, opposed equal rights for LGBTQ persons, supported gun rights, opposed the governor's actions to protect people from the COVID-19 pandemic, and worked at the state level to undermine local control. Commissioner Praedel questioned why the SWMF board would hire someone so different from the community in which he would live and work.

Commissioner Urban stated he was appalled at the hiring of Lee Chatfield, but he questioned whether the City should be part of the cancel culture. Commissioner Urban suggested the City Commission delay action on the current motion and invite someone from SWMF to attend the next meeting and explain the hiring decision. Commissioner Urban remarked that Commissioners might not want to do this, but it would be the courteous thing to do.

Commissioner Hess thanked Commissioner Praedel for his remarks and expressed interest in Commissioner Urban's idea. Commissioner Hess asked Commissioner Knott to comment on Commissioner Urban's idea.

Commissioner Knott expressed appreciation for Commissioner Urban's idea but stated she did not want to delay action. Commissioner Knott indicated many people were caught off-guard by the hiring decision, including the City Commission and some SWMF board members. Commissioner Knott urged the City to stand for diversity, equity, and inclusion, and she stated other organizations would follow the City's lead if the Commission approved the current motion. Commissioner Knott noted the action would not end the City's relationship with SWMF; it would be a pause. Commissioner Knott stated Mr. Chatfield's record spoke for itself; the City Commission did not need to hear from SWMF. Commissioner Knott indicated she was not attempting to change the SWMF hiring decision. Rather, she was wanting the City Commission action to draw attention to the hiring decision and put people who wanted to do business in Kalamazoo on notice that they needed to value diversity, equity, and inclusion. Commissioner Knott stated actions like the proposed motion were ways the Commission could build on the anti-racism statement that was issued at the beginning of the year.

In response to a question from Commissioner Hess, City Manager Ritsema reported the City paid a \$10,000 annual membership fee to be part of the Council. City Manager Ritsema explained the Council of 100 was a good networking tool to link community partners and business organizations. City Manager Ritsema stated he did not see those connections and relationships changing. City Manager Ritsema noted the City had contracted with SWMF for economic development services in the past.

Commissioner Cunningham indicated he stood with Commissioner Knott and supported her motion. Commissioner Cunningham indicated the action by SWMF was a partisan hire, despite what their media release said. Commissioner Cunningham stated it was his experience over the past year that SWMF was not a

2021-00

Removal of the City's Membership from the Southwest Michigan First Council of 100 (cont'd)

2021-00

Removal of the City's
Membership from the
Southwest Michigan First
Council of 100 (cont'd)

diverse organization. Commission Cunningham remarked he was deeply disappointed in the hiring of Lee Chatfield because he had been told that SWMF was working to be more diverse and had even received funds from the state that required outreach into diverse communities. Commissioner Cunningham stated the City should continue its relationship with SWMF but not support them with funding. Commissioner Cunningham indicated his expectation was that SWMF either: 1) provide Mr. Chatfield with training in diversity and surround him with people who could provide the diversity competency; or 2) that he be fired. Commissioner Cunningham stated SWMF needed to do these things in a public way in order to regain the trust of the community. Commission Cunningham urged the Commission to act on the motion and not wait two weeks, noting that another action could be taken in the future if the situation changed.

Vice Mayor Griffin thanked Commissioner Knott for her motion. Vice Mayor Griffin stated minority-owned businesses were an afterthought during the conversations around COVID-19. Vice Mayor Griffin stated a person or an organization either believed in equity, and their actions supported that belief, or they did not. Vice Mayor Griffin remarked that SWMF did not align with the culture of the community, and that would continue to be the case. Vice Mayor Griffin expressed support for taking away funding from SWMF until they changed.

Commissioner Urban indicated he was prepared to act, and he questioned why an economic development organization would cut itself off from the capacity to build human potential. Commissioner Urban stated SWMF would need to come to the City Commission to regain its support.

Commissioner Praedel stated the proposed action was not the City turning its back on SWMF; rather the intent of the action was to provide leadership and speak clearly about the community's values. Commissioner Praedel commented that the City Manager might experience some backlash for this action, but he noted Commissioner Knott had laid out the economic case for equity and diversity.

Commissioner Hess remarked that the City had done a lot of work towards becoming a diverse community, and that work needed to continue.

Commissioner Knott stated SWMF was a large player in the region, but the City of Kalamazoo was the largest City in their seven-county area of operation. Commissioner Knott noted \$10,000 was negligible amount of money and stated the propose action was principles and values, not the money. Commissioner Knott stated work would need to be done after the vote to change the minds of SWMF board members and the Council of 100.

Mayor Anderson offered support for the motion and thanked Commissioner Knott for her work on this issue. Mayor Anderson commented on the need to continue the dialogue with SWMF and expressed his willingness to help. Mayor Anderson stated SWMF was a private entity, and their funding came from contributors who cared about the community.

With a roll call vote this motion passed unanimously.

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

NAYS: None

Commissioner Praedel requested an update from the subcommittee working on the appointee evaluation process.

Update from the
Appointee Evaluation
Subcommittee

Mayor Anderson noted the subcommittee included himself, Commissioner Cunningham, and Commissioner Hess.

Commissioner Cunningham explained he had been organizing the work to redesign the evaluation tool and process for City Commission appointees in a way that was tailored to each position and that created measurable outcomes. Commissioner Cunningham indicated the subcommittee was also working on changes to the process to enable evaluation of the appointees throughout the year, which was of particular interest to Commissioner Hess. Commissioner Cunningham reported the subcommittee had identified an evaluation tool for 2020, and they were finishing the criteria for hiring a consultant to develop the appointee evaluation tool and process for 2021 and beyond.

Commissioner Hess stated the goal was to get the 2020 evaluation process finished as soon as possible and then move on to the 2021 process.

Commissioner Praedel expressed appreciation to Commissioner Cunningham for his work towards a rating system with quantitative measures in addition to qualitative elements. Commissioner Praedel expressed support for an evaluation process that occurred throughout the year.

Mayor Anderson thanked Commissioner Cunningham for being specific and intentional about this work and remarked that progress was being made for both 2020 and 2021.

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

City Commissioner
Comments

Commissioner Cunningham remarked on the recent passing of Pastor James Moore and Bishop CG Charles. Commissioner Cunningham stated he stood on the backs of heroes, like Arthur Washington Jr. who became first black City Commissioner in 1959 and whose name was on the Public Safety headquarters and District Court facility on Crosstown Parkway. Commissioner Cunningham expressed support for Public Safety Chief Vernon Coakley, who was the first African American Chief for the Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety (KDPS). Commissioner Cunningham stated the City was looking to broaden its diversity, and he expressed excitement about the direction the organization was heading.

Commissioner Knott thanked Commissioners for supporting her motion. Commissioner Knott questioned how the City was going to communicate the action regarding the Council of 100 to SWMF.

In response to Commissioner Knott, City Manager Ritsema stated the City Commission's action would be communicated to SWMF in a letter from the Mayor on behalf of the City Commission. City Manager Ritsema offered to have the letter posted on the City's social media accounts.

Commissioner Cunningham suggested someone make a personal phone call to SWMF as well.

City Commissioner
Comments (cont'd)

Commissioner Praedel stated he was enjoying the Committee of the Whole format, and he thanked Vice Mayor Griffin and Dorla Bonner, Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, for arranging the accessibility presentation during the Committee of the Whole meeting. Commissioner Praedel noted former County Commissioner Stephanie Moore had come to the City Commission a year ago requesting help with the X-Train/mobile parties. Commissioner Praedel reported he had asked Chief Coakley to keep this issue in focus, and he was pleased that KDPS would be hosting a community forum on February 22nd to talk about the X-Train. Commissioner Praedel stated Commissioners would hear concerns about the utility rate increases, but he noted there had been decades of infrastructure neglect. Commissioner Praedel remarked that the City need to address infrastructure issues now and not pass along the costs and consequences to the next generation. Commissioner Praedel offered encouraging words to the parents of young children, to hang on during the COVID-19 pandemic and not be too hard on themselves.

Commissioner Hess congratulated City Clerk Borling on his reclassification. Commissioner Hess spoke about the importance of housing and fair housing. Commissioner Hess offered remarks on Mark Riley, the former tennis coach for Kalamazoo College.

Vice Mayor Griffin stated the City's pursuit of equity would require more decisions like the one made tonight regarding SWMF. Vice Mayor Griffin thanked Commissioner Knott for leading the Commission to take this action.

Mayor Anderson thanked Commissioner Praedel for his remarks on the Committee of the Whole. Mayor Anderson recognized Commissioner Knott for her appointment to the state's Protect Michigan Commission, to raise awareness of the safety and effectiveness of the COVID-19 vaccine. Mayor Anderson thanked KDPS for their teamwork with the YWCA to address domestic violence intervention.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott A. Borling
City Clerk

For City Commission approval on April 5, 2021

Approved by: _____

David F. Anderson, Mayor

Dated: April 5, 2021

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