

Roll Call

A business meeting of the Kalamazoo City Commission was held on Monday, August 1, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Commission Chambers at City Hall, 241 W. South Street.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Mayor Bobby Hopewell
Vice Mayor Don Cooney
David Anderson
Erin Knott
Matt Milcarek
Jack Urban

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Shannon Sykes

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

Commissioner
Excused

Commissioner Milcarek, seconded by Commissioner Urban, moved to excuse the absence of Commissioner Sykes. With a voice vote the motion passed.

Invocation/Pledge

The invocation, given by Minister Doreen Gardner of Mt. Zion Baptist Church, was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Adoption of the
Agenda

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

Commissioner Urban requested that Item F-1, contract for a Group Violence Intervention program, be moved to the Regular Agenda.

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:

- approval of a Memorandum of Agreement with Kalamazoo Public Schools for the Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety to provide School Resource Officer Services for the 2016-2017 school year.
- approval of a *Contract for Independent Contractor Services* with Comstock Public Schools for the Law Enforcement Education for Employment Program for the 2016-2017 school year.
- approval of the minutes from the City Commission meetings on July 18, 2016.

Vice Mayor Cooney, seconded by Commissioner Anderson, 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, Urban, Vice Mayor Cooney, Mayor Hopewell

NAYS:

None

Regular Agenda items were considered next.

Commissioner Urban asked for a public discussion of the Group Violence Intervention Program.

Public Safety Chief Jeff Hadley described the Group Violence Intervention Program and thanked the local foundations that were funding the program.

An opportunity was given for citizens to comment on an agreement for the Group Violence Intervention Program, but no comments were offered.

Commissioner Knott, seconded by Commissioner Urban, moved to approve an agreement with the Research Foundation of The City University of New York for the Group Violence Intervention Program through the National Network for Safe Communities - John Jay College of Criminal Justice.

Prior to a vote on the motion, Commissioner Anderson noted this program was 80% funded by local foundations. Commissioner Anderson expressed hope that the program would combine a national, best practices framework with the ability to work with local partners.

Commissioner Urban commented that time was needed to adapt the Group Violence Intervention program to the Kalamazoo environment, and he thanked Chief Hadley for his hard work to prepare for the program.

With a roll call vote, the motion passed.

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

NAYS: None

Deputy City Manager Chamberlain distributed and reviewed a memo entitled *Single Hauling Contract – Garbage* and asked the City Commission for direction on how to proceed.

Mayor Hopewell recommended that Commissioners wait to discuss this issue until after they had the opportunity to read the memo.

Next, an opportunity was given for general citizen comments.

Corey Smith, City resident, shared his ideas for involving citizens in the work of the City and asked the Commission to reduce the number of crimes that were misdemeanors.

Frank Warren, City resident, announced that August 11th was "Veterans' Day" at the Kalamazoo County Fair.

Frank Murray, non-resident, expressed dismay that a gesture made by a Public Safety Officer (PSO) had become such a news item and point of focus in the community.

Regular Agenda

Contract for a
Group Violence
Intervention
Program

City Manager's
Report

Citizen Comments

Citizen Comments
(cont'd)

Thelma Fry, City resident, expressed concern about the actions of PSO Tim Millard in her neighborhood and asked for an investigation into his use of a finger-pointing gesture over the weekend.

Kathi Valeii, City resident, spoke about the problem of vicious, off-leash dogs in the City.

Mattie Jordan-Woods, City resident, invited Commissioners to the Northside National Night Out event. Ms. Jordan-Woods commented on the Foundation for Excellence and expressed trust in the City Attorney to develop a Memorandum of Understanding that would protect the City's interests. Ms. Jordan-Woods spoke about the incident with PSO Millard and asked people to give young black men the benefit of the doubt when they were accused of doing something threatening.

Gwendolyn Hooker, City resident, spoke about the hand-gesture incident with PSO Millard and stated he should have been more sensitive to recent national events and the community he routinely patrolled.

Nathan Dannison, City resident, expressed support for the Foundation for Excellence. Mr. Dannison expressed concern about the death of Mr. James Dunigan while in the custody of the Public Safety Department.

Angela O'Day, City resident, described how Public Safety Officers used mace on her on July 6th.

Mark Liddle, City resident, thanked the City for its work on the Foundation for Excellence.

Emily Demorest, City resident, discussed reforms that needed to be made with the Citizens Public Safety Review and Appeal Board.

Gerry Albertson, City resident, spoke about his work with the Kalamazoo Parks Foundation and expressed support for the Foundation for Excellence.

Aikeem Abdul-Mutakallim, City resident, stated he was a Kalamazoo Promise recipient and asked what he could do for the City to give back. Mr. Abdul-Mutakallim also asked what could be done to get more people of color and young people involved.

Peter Battani, City resident, expressed support for the Foundation for Excellence and noted the most important element of this proposal was the seed funding needed for a long-term solution.

Zachary Lassiter, City resident, expressed support for the Foundation of Excellence and trust in Public Safety Chief Jeff Hadley that he would investigate the PSO Millard incident.

Cody Dekker, City resident, raised concerns about the Foundation for Excellence and stated it was fine for City Commissioners and citizens to be asking questions about it. Mr. Dekker requested a public forum on the issue and offered that residents should have to vote to approve the creation of a foundation. Mr. Dekker expressed support for Northside Neighborhood residents and their concerns about PSO Millard.

Citizen Comments
(cont'd)

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

Commissioner
Comments

Commissioner Milcarek offered remarks on the CPSRAB, the incident with PSO Millard, and off-leash dogs. Commissioner Milcarek indicated he was not opposed to accepting money or setting up foundations, but his first priority was fixing the City's long standing structural revenue problem in a way that was sustainable and would protect the City from future structural deficits.

Commissioner Urban acknowledged the expressions of gratitude and enthusiasm for the Foundation for Excellence but stated an income tax would keep the City in full control of its destiny. Commissioner Urban noted the \$70 million donation would only cover three years and stated people were not going to invest in the community if taxes could go up in three years. Commissioner Urban commented on the level of investment that would be needed to generate the annual replacement revenue necessary to cover the proposed property tax reduction.

Commissioner Knott expressed support for decriminalizing dog ordinances. Commissioner Knott expressed support for the Foundation for Excellence and explained the donors were giving now because the City dared to ask them. Commissioner Knott indicated she was confident the City Attorney would develop a good MOU, and she urged the Commission to talk about the opportunity of the Foundation and not the possible strings. Commissioner Knott stated an income tax would not help rebuild neighborhoods.

Commissioner Anderson thanked Commissioner Knott for attending the press conference about the PSO Millard situation and offered remarks about, and he assured people that information about the situation was shared among Commissioners. Commissioner Anderson compared the Foundation of Excellence to the Kalamazoo Promise and stated the Foundation offered an opportunity for the community to dream and invest in itself after years of disinvestment.

Vice Mayor Cooney asked Chief Hadley to talk with Ms. Valeii about her concerns. Vice Mayor Cooney invited people to LaCrone Park on August 6th for the Mothers of Hope Ultimate Family Reunion. Vice Mayor Cooney spoke about the situation with PSO Millard and the need for people to choose community over chaos.

Mayor Hopewell offered remarks on the incident with PSO Millard and the City's commitment to improving relationships between the community and the Public Safety Department. Mayor Hopewell stated the off-leash dog problem was complicated. Mayor Hopewell reported staff had been

Commissioner
Comments (cont'd)

looking at models for the creation of the Foundation for Excellence, especially foundations associated with universities. Mayor Hopewell explained that when people questioned the ethics of the Foundation for Excellence they were questioning the ethics of the Mayor, City Manager and City Attorney. Mayor Hopewell asked Commissioners and the public to give staff the space to get work done, and he noted there was no fail-safe solution to the structural revenue problem.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott A. Borling
City Clerk

For City Commission approval on September 6, 2016

Approved by: _____

Bobby J. Hopewell, Mayor
Dated: September 6, 2016

*This page was left
blank intentionally.*