

Roll Call

A regular meeting of the Kalamazoo City Commission was held on Monday, October 5, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. This meeting was held as an electronic meeting under the authority of Executive Order 2020-154 (COVID19) 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.

Invocation

In lieu of an invocation, the City Commission observed a moment of silent reflection.

Adoption of the Agenda

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

2020-0

Presentation on the
FY2021 Foundation for
Excellence Budget

Foundation for Excellence Manager Steve Brown presented the proposed FY 2021 budget for the Foundation for Excellence (FFE) and delivered a PowerPoint presentation entitled *The Kalamazoo Foundation for Excellence 2021 Budget Presentation, October 5, 2020*. A copy of the presentation slides was filed with the papers for this meeting.

Mayor Anderson thanked Mr. Brown for his report and for his work with the FFE.

In response to a question from Commissioner Hess, Mr. Brown indicated approximately half of the Access for All internet hot spots were loaned out. Mr. Brown stated people should contact the Kalamazoo Public Schools administration office if they needed internet access.

In response to a question from Vice Mayor Griffin, Mr. Brown explained the Shared Prosperity Kalamazoo High Impact Fund was pre-funded with an estimated dollar amount because of uncertainty around the demand for services and the scope of the services that would be provided. Mr. Brown indicated the High Impact Fund still had resources to deploy, and the plan was to deploy considerable funds in 2021.

Public Comments

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

Joe Byers, City resident, expressed displeasure that Nathan Dannison was removed from the Citizens Public Safety Review and Appeal Board. Mr. Byers called for City Manager Ritsema to resign.

Jill Bland, Managing Partner with Southwest Michigan First, expressed support for the proposed tax abatement for Zoetis.

Amber Adams-Fall, non-resident, spoke about comments made by Commissioner Knott on August 17th concerning Nathan Dannison. Ms. Adams-Fall called for an apology and a correction of the record.

Stephen Tabaraz, City resident, expressed displeasure that Nathan Dannison was removed from the Citizens Public Safety Review and Appeal Board.

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 one-year contract for analytical services from Trace Analytical Laboratories, Incorporated for a total amount not to exceed \$168,117.73.
- approval of the purchase of emergency equipment to be installed in ten (10) Public Safety fleet vehicles by Canfield Equipment Service, Inc. through cooperative pricing with the City of Dearborn in the amount of \$156,225.79.
- approval of a professional service agreement with Jones & Henry Engineers, LTD for the design and creation of permit, bidding, and construction documents for the Kalamazoo Water Reclamation Plant Interceptor Biofiltration Odor Control & Mitigation Project in the amount of \$215,000.
- approval and acceptance of an easement amendment with American Village Development II, LLC for water main that was installed as part of the American Village Development II, LLC Walden Woods Phases 4 & 5 construction projects.

Commissioner Hess, 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 unanimously.

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

NAYS: None

Regular Agenda Items were considered next.

Community Development Manager Antonio Mitchell offered remarks on the tax abatement approval process and provided an overview of the proposed tax abatement being recommended for Zoetis, LLC at 2605 E. Kilgore Road.

Mark Callahan, Director of Engineering for Zoetis, described the building project and investment being made at the Kilgore Road facility.

Commissioner Urban suggested the local agreement give the City the ability to audit the annual reports submitted by the company.

Public Comments
(cont'd)

Consent Agenda

2020-0

2020-0

2020-0

2020-0

Regular Agenda

2020-0

Resolution 20-52 Setting a Public Hearing re: a Tax Abatement for Zoetis at 2605 E. Kilgore Road

2020-0

Resolution 20-52 Setting
a Public Hearing re: a
Tax Abatement for
Zoetis at 2605 E. Kilgore
Road (cont'd)

Mayor Anderson asked whether Commissioners wanted another presentation on this item on October 19th.

Vice Mayor Griffin requested information on the impacts to the community from this project.

Mayor Anderson suggested there be a presentation on the 19th to address the issues raised by Commissioners.

Commissioner Urban, seconded by Commissioner Knott, moved to adopt a **RESOLUTION** setting a public hearing on October 19, 2020, to consider a request from Zoetis LLC, for a PA 198 Industrial Facilities Tax Exemption Certificate (IFEC) for 12 years for real property valued at \$47,859,166.

Prior to a vote on the motion, and in response to a question from Commissioner Hess, City Attorney Robinson suggested the resolution be amended to read that the City Commission shall meet “in a format and place to be determined by Monday, October 12th.”

Commissioner Hess, seconded by Commissioner Knott, moved to amend the proposed resolution to replace “at City Hall” with “in a format and place to be determined by Monday, October 12th.”

With a roll call vote the motion to amend the resolution passed unanimously.

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

NAYS: None

With a roll call vote the motion to adopt the resolution, as amended, passed unanimously.

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

NAYS: None

2020-0

MOU with the United
Way for Continuum of
Care Operations

Deputy City Manager Lam provided introductory remarks on proposed funding for, and a Memorandum of Understanding with, the United Way of Greater Kalamazoo & Battle Creek Region to support Continuum of Care operations.

Alyssa Stewart, Vice President of Impact and Engagement for the United Way, and Sara Jacobs, Continuum of Care Director, described the role of the Continuum of Care, reviewed the proposed Memorandum of Understanding, and discussed two pilot programs involving funding for rental housing security deposits and low-barrier shelter beds.

Commissioner Praedel thanked Ms. Stewart, Ms. Jacobs, and Deputy City Manager Lam for their good work.

Vice Mayor Griffin thanked Ms. Stewart and Ms. Jacobs for their presentation and the collaboration that was taking place to improve community outcomes.

Commissioner Urban, seconded by Commissioner Cunningham, moved to approve a memorandum of understanding with the United Way of Greater Kalamazoo & Battle Creek Region to support Continuum of Care operations and related programs in the amount of \$450,000.

Prior to a vote on the motion, Mayor Anderson announced he would be abstaining because the low barrier shelter work would be done by his area at ISK.

With a roll call vote this motion passed 6-0 with one abstention.

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Mayor Anderson

Commissioner Knott, seconded by Commissioner Cunningham, moved to adopt an **ORDINANCE** amending Chapter 2 Article X - Employee Retirement System, § 2-243 and § 2-245.

With a roll call vote this motion passed unanimously.

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

NAYS: None

City Clerk Borling provided an update on preparations for the November 3rd election. City Clerk Borling reported the branch office at Western Michigan University was open, and four new ballot drop boxes had been installed and were available for use.

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

Commissioner Cunningham congratulated Public Safety Chief Vernon Coakley on his appointment. Commissioner Cunningham stated neither City Manager Ritsema nor Mayor Anderson were white supremacists.

Commissioner Knott thanked local businesses for continuing to maintain mask and social distancing requirements.

Commissioner Praedel congratulated Chief Coakley. Commissioner Praedel thanked City Clerk Borling, Deputy Clerk Shelby Moss, and Election Specialist Lisa McNeas for their hard work on the election. Commissioner Praedel thanked community partners for their work against gun violence. Commissioner Praedel remarked on the tax savings for City residents as a result of the FFE.

Commissioner Hess thanked City staff for their good work. Commissioner Hess welcomed Chief Coakley and stated she was ready to work with him and KDPS. Commissioner Hess asked people to stay safe while trick-or-treating. Commissioner Hess noted October was Suicide Awareness Month and Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

2020-0

MOU with the United Way for Continuum of Care Operations (cont'd)

2020-0

Ordinance 2016 re: The Employees Retirement System and Duty Disability Benefits

City Clerk's Report

City Commissioner Comments

City Commissioner
Comments (cont'd)

Vice Mayor Griffin urged people to become informed and vote. Vice Mayor Griffin noted information about expanded voting services was available on the City's website and on social media.

Mayor Anderson remarked on the good work being done in the City through partnerships. Mayor Anderson stated he was honored and humbled to be able to offer remarks at the oath of office ceremony for Chief Coakley. Mayor Anderson stated the City Commission had an opportunity to work with the Public Safety Chief like never before, and he urged Commissioners to do this right now, from the very beginning. Mayor Anderson observed there were issues on the horizon, with the Michigan Supreme Court decision against Governor's authority to issue emergency orders. Mayor Anderson stated the City should support county health officers to promote mask wearing and social distancing. Mayor Anderson noted the health officer has made statement that he was prepared to issue emergency health orders. Mayor Anderson stated City Commissioners were committed to making sure everyone in City could safely vote, and he remarked on the available voting options. Mayor Anderson explained that City Manager Ritsema had a unique relationship to the Citizen Public Safety Review and Appeals Board (CPSRAB) compared to other City boards, and it was his prerogative to appoint and reappoint members.

Closed Session

Commissioner Hess, seconded by Commissioner Cunningham, moved that the City Commission go into closed session to discuss labor negotiations.

Prior to a vote on the motion, Mayor Anderson noted the City Commission would return to open session to take action.

With a roll call vote this motion to go into closed session passed unanimously.

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

NAYS: None

At 9:23 p.m. the City Commission went into closed session.

At 9:37 p.m. the City Commission returned to open session.

2020-00

Authorization to Enter
into Negotiations with
the KMEA

Commissioner Praedel, seconded by Commissioner Urban, moved to authorize the Human Resources and Labor Relations Director to enter into negotiations with the Kalamazoo Municipal Employees Association (KMEA) to extend the current collective bargaining agreement for 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

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott A. Borling
City Clerk

For City Commission approval on

Approved by: _____
David F. Anderson, Mayor
Dated: