

Roll Call

A regular meeting of the Kalamazoo City Commission was held on Monday, December 7, 2020 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 228 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 Deputy City Manager Laura Lam, City Attorney Clyde Robinson, Deputy City Manager Jeff Chamberlain, and City Clerk Scott Borling.

Introduction of the
O.I.R. Group

Michael Gennaco, Principal of the O.I.R. Group, introduced himself and the O.I.R. Group as the consultant selected to perform a use of force study and an independent review of the Public Safety Department's handling of events between May 30th and June 2nd and on August 15th. Mr. Gennaco described the O.I.R. Group's current projects and stated it would be critical for the study to go beyond a review of documents and engage the community. Mr. Gennaco noted the O.I.R. Group would come to Kalamazoo with no prior commitments or connections, which had both benefits and drawbacks.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Director Dorla Bonner provided an overview of the selection process that resulted in the O.I.R. Group being awarded the contract for the use of force study. Director Bonner reported the Citizen Public Safety Review and Appeal Board had played a considerable role in the selection process, and the choice of O.I.R. Group was unanimous.

Adoption of the Agenda

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

2020-00
Imagine Kalamazoo
2025 Three-Year Update

Community Planning and Development Director Rebekah Kik, City Planner Christina Anderson, Foundation for Excellence Manager Steve Brown, Community Investment Manager Antonio Mitchell, Public Services Director James Baker, Shared Prosperity Kalamazoo Coordinator Kevin Ford, Parks and Recreation Director Sean Fletcher, and Director Bonner delivered a presentation entitled *Kalamazoo Imagines, Kalamazoo Acts: Celebrating 3 Years of Progress*. A copy of the slides from this presentation were filed with the papers for this meeting.

Commissioners Cunningham and Hess expressed appreciation to staff for their work.

Commissioner Urban noted the Planning Commission was very appreciative for the all the work that had been done to implement the Master Plan.

In response to a question from Commissioner Urban, City Planner Anderson stated the results that were presented were just for 2020.

Commissioner Praedel remarked on how exciting it was to be able to dream and do the work, and he wondered at the amount of aspirational work the City would be able to do over the next 5-10 years.

Mayor Anderson noted the City Commission would continue to hear about work that was not being done, but he stated the City was focused on the work and residents would feel the impact of that work eventually. Mayor Anderson stated this work being done was a direct result of the Imagine Kalamazoo 2025 community engagement process.

At 7:45 p.m. Mayor Anderson opened a public hearing to receive comments on a resolution approving an amendment to the Kalamazoo Downtown Economic Growth Authority (DEGA) Development and Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Plan.

Andrew Haan, Executive Director of Kalamazoo Downtown Partnership (DKP), provided an overview of the TIF Plan and explained property values for the sake of the TIF determinations were calculated across the entire district, which led to situations where a significant reduction in property values in one part of the district pulled down the property values for the entire district. Director Haan stated the proposed amendments would allow the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority (BRA) to step in and capture the incremental increase in tax revenue, because the BRA could capture that revenue on a parcel-by-parcel basis. Director Haan noted the DEGA Board would review the proposed projects first before they were reviewed by the BRA Board.

Jessica Wood, legal counsel for the DEGA, commented that the proposed amendment incorporated into the Plan a process for excluding parcels rather than requiring amendments to the plan each time a parcel need to be excluded.

An opportunity was given for public comments, but no comments were offered.

At 7:52 Mayor Anderson closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Hess, seconded by Commissioner Cunningham, moved to adopt a **RESOLUTION** approving an amendment to the Kalamazoo Downtown Economic Growth Authority (DEGA) Development and Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Plan.

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:

Sholanna Lewis, City resident, expressed support for the proposed actions to address gun violence.

2020-00

Imagine Kalamazoo
2025 Three-Year Update
(cont'd)

2020-00

Public Hearing re: an
Amendment to the DEGA
Development and TIF Plan

2020-00

Resolution 20-62
Approving an Amendment
to the DEGA Development
and TIF Plan

Public Comments

Public Comments
(cont'd)

Matt Clysdale, non-resident, spoke about the littering and dumping that took place along Nazareth Road due to the City's neglect of the Schipper's Crossing property. Mr. Clydesdale read correspondence he had sent to City officials.

Scott Markham, non-resident and a City employee, spoke about the sediment released at Morrow Lake by the operators of the Morrow Lake Dam, Eagle Creek Renewable Energy. Mr. Markham asked the City to hold Eagle Creek accountable.

Sharon Dever, City resident, asked the City to hold the Morrow Lake Dam operators accountable for the environmental damage they had caused.

Sandy Barrylochen, City resident, urged the City Commission to address the problem of gun violence.

Gwendolyn Hooker, City resident, expressed support for the allocation of funds to address gun violence, and she asked about the basis for the breakdown of that allocation.

Ryan Baker from the Kalamazoo River Alliance expressed support for the proposed letter from the City to Eagle Creek Renewable Energy regarding the failure of the Morrow Lake dam.

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:

2020-0

- authorization for the payment of \$159,434.00 to Eagle Claims Management for the 2021 excess workers compensation premium.

2020-0

- approval of a ten-year cooperative contract with 123Net for the lease of dark fiber under contract pricing that was established with the City of Westland in the amount of \$1,174,260.

2020-0

- approval of a contract with USA Construction to build a splash pad at LaCrone Park in the amount of \$496,563.72.

2020-0

- approval of a 60-month lease with Enterprise, Inc. for 58 light duty fleet vehicles, including maintenance, in the amount of \$1,440,029.40.

2020-0

- first reading of an ordinance to amend Chapters 22 and 33 to permit consumption of alcoholic beverages in public places and parks.

2020-0

Resolution 20-63

- adoption of a **RESOLUTION** adopting and approving an Act 381 Brownfield Plan for a redevelopment project located at 266 E. Michigan Avenue.

2020-0

Resolution 20-64

- adoption of a **RESOLUTION** acknowledging there were no new Homestead Neighborhood Enterprise Zone (NEZ) certificate applications received in 2020; and approving the revocation of one NEZ certificate.

2020-0

- approval of a snow melt easement with Catalyst Development Co. 12, L.L.C. at the former Lot 9 located at the southwest corner of Water and Edwards Streets.

- | | |
|--|---------------|
| - authorization for the City Manager to execute the acceptance of Good Faith Written Offers from the Michigan Department of Transportation to acquire easements and fee title to City-owned parcels adjacent to, and within, the I-94 right of way within the City limits. | 2020-0 |
| - approval of the following appointments and reappointments to boards and commissions: | 2020-0 |
| - the appointment of Rob Liekis to the Environmental Concerns Committee for a term expiring on January 1, 2022. | |
| - the reappointment of Chris Bol to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board for a term expiring on January 1, 2022. | |
| - the reappointment of John Johnson to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board for a term expiring on January 1, 2022. | |
| - the reappointment of Pam Roland to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board for a term expiring on January 1, 2022. | |
| - the appointment of Joseph Buckman to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board for a term expiring on January 1, 2024. | |
| - the appointment of Michael Harrison to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board for a term expiring on January 1, 2024. | |
| - the appointment of Benjamin Stanley to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board for a term expiring on January 1, 2024. | |
| - approval of the Mayor's appointments and reappointments to the following boards and commissions: | 2020-0 |
| - the appointment of Vice Mayor Patrese Griffin to the Civil Rights Board as an ex-officio member. | |
| - the appointment of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Director Dorla Bonner to the Civil Rights Board as an ex-officio member. | |
| - the reappointment of Dana Underwood to the Historic District Commission for a term expiring on January 1, 2024. | |
| - the appointment of Kyle Hibbard to the Historic Preservation Commission for a term expiring on March 31, 2024. | |

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

City Manager's
Report

Deputy City Manager Lam announced the City Commission would hold a work session on Monday, December 14th at 6:00 p.m. to discuss the City's proposed budget for fiscal year 2021.

New Business

Items of New Business were considered next.

2020-0
Appropriation of
Funds for Gun
Violence Reduction
Efforts

Mayor Anderson introduced a recommendation to approve the use of \$100,000 from the City Commission Initiatives line item to support gun violence reduction efforts; direct the City Manager to provide periodic updates to the full City Commission on program development and implementation; and authorize the City Manager to sign all documents. Mayor Anderson reported this recommendation was coming from a task force of Commissioners that included himself, Vice Mayor Griffin, and Commissioner Hess.

Vice Mayor Griffin read the names of people who had lost their lives to gun violence in the City in 2020. Vice Mayor Griffin remarked that the community had never seen this level of gun violence. Vice Mayor Griffin noted the recommendations were an initial step to address the factors and impacts of gun violence.

Commissioner Hess stated the City Manager's Office and Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety had assisted with the development of the proposed recommendation. Commissioner Hess stated the response needed to be a holistic, community response. Commissioner Hess explained the City Commission had \$100,000 to spend on an initiative – any initiative, and gun violence was the most important issue the Commission could address.

Mayor Anderson emphasized this was a first step to respond to gun violence, and more work would need to be done. Mayor Anderson explained the funds being discussed were in the 2020 budget but were not allocated for any specific initiatives, which made them available to be allocated at this time.

Vice Mayor Griffin presented the following breakdown of how the funds would be used:

1. Investing in the community (community mobilization & cohesion: engaging community leaders actively working to reduce violence; develop and grow block clubs)
2. Addressing trauma (community healing: mental health services for survivors/victims of gun violence)
3. Home repairs (housing rehabilitation: support to repair homes involved in gun violence)
4. Security (increased security systems, such as Ring Security Cameras, to deter criminal activity)

Vice Mayor Griffin stated these initiatives needed to be community-led, and she identified Gwendolyn Hooker, Tami Rey, Tammy Wilder, and Ed Genesis as some of the people who were already doing the work on the ground.

Commissioner Hess asked that the reading of the names of the victims of gun violence be considered the invocation for the meeting.

Commissioner Urban moved to approve the use of \$100,000 from the City Commission Initiatives line item to support gun violence reduction efforts; direct the City Manager to provide periodic updates to the full City Commission on program development and implementation; and authorize the City Manager to sign all documents related to these efforts. The motion failed for lack of a second.

2020-0
Appropriation of
Funds for Gun
Violence Reduction
Efforts

In the discussion that followed, Commissioners raised the following questions, comments, and concerns:

- was the City Commission being asked to approve specific amounts for each of the four initiatives or a general allocation of \$100,000 for the City Manager to use towards gun violence intervention? (Commissioner Knott)
- would any of the funds be spent on the administration of these initiatives? Will the City Administration come back to the City Commission for a second approval, when more details are known, before expending funds? (Commissioner Cunningham)
- the City Commission can earmark the initiative funds for gun violence prevention, but the metrics for these initiatives are missing; the City Administration should come back to the City Commission with details and recommendations when more information is available. (Commissioner Knott)
- the City should explore what other communities are doing to use surveillance technology to detect the sound of gun shots. (Commissioner Knott)
- the annual budget would be an opportunity to direct more resources to address gun violence, beyond the initiative funds. (Commissioner Praedel)
- what is the timeline for the execution of the initiatives? Perhaps the Commission should delay action until December 14th when Commissioners might have a better idea of the resources dedicated to gun violence response and prevention in the 2021 budget. (Commissioner Cunningham)
- the City needs to shift funding from enforcement (law enforcement, code enforcement) to investment in the community. The City is behind in this area. The City Commission has the ability to set the timelines for these initiatives; what will those timelines be? (Vice Mayor Griffin)
- there is a sense of urgency for this work, but it must be done wisely; there is a huge opportunity to make gun violence response and prevention a priority in the 2021 budget. (Commissioner Knott)
- there should be a work session on gun violence. (Commissioner Praedel)
- how soon can the initiative funds be spent? (Commissioner Cunningham)

2020-0

Appropriation of
Funds for Gun
Violence Reduction
Efforts

The following answers/responses were offered to the above questions and concerns:

- if approved, the recommendation would authorize the City Manager to spend \$100,000 in the four areas identified, as requested by the task force. (Vice Mayor Griffin)
- regarding administrative costs, there were many details that needed to be worked out, including metrics and definitions of success. Staff will report on the progress of the initiatives periodically through the City Manager Reports. If the specific budget numbers fluctuate, the City Administration would bring a recommendation to the City Commission. If the City Commission wanted to require a second approval before funds were spent, the current motion would need to be restructured to reflect that. (Deputy City Manager Lam)
- regarding the 2021 budget, the intent of the task force was that additional dollars would be spent on gun violence beyond the initiative funds, and those dollars would come from departmental budgets. (Commissioner Hess)
- regarding the implementation timeline, some of the initiatives, like community mobilization and housing rehabilitation, could be started relatively soon, while others, like community healing and increased security systems could take some time. Delaying the decision on this item until December 14th would not delay implementation of the initiatives. (Deputy City Manager Lam)
- regarding the speed of implementation, each initiative would be on its own timeline, with the housing rehabilitation and community mobilization initiatives possibly being ready in two or three weeks. The initiative that would benefit most from additional Commissioner involvement was the trauma/community healing initiative, with input needed on how to engage partners to do the work. Substantial progress could be made on all four initiatives by the end of the year. (Deputy City Manager Lam)

Discussion took place about potential changes to the motion language, whether action should be taken at this meeting or postponed until a future meeting, and the need to address both immediate and long-term needs.

Commissioners expressed a desire to take some type of action at this meeting and also have a conversation on December 14th about addressing gun violence in the 2021 budget.

Commissioner Knott shared the following potential motion language: “a motion to allocate the City Commission’s \$100,000 towards the issue of gun violence intervention and request that the City Manager’s Office continue to investigate program details and report back to the full City Commission.”

Commissioner Urban indicated he was satisfied with Commissioner Knott’s motion language.

Mayor Anderson read the recommended action from the agenda and noted the agenda language seemed to capture what Commissioners were requesting.

Commissioner Praedel suggested using the recommended action from the agenda and adding language to reference the four priorities/recommendations of the subcommittee.

Commissioner Knott stated she wanted more accountability than updates in the City Manager's weekly emails to the City Commission; she wanted real time updates where Commissioners could respond and provide feedback. Commissioner Knott noted the agenda report did not include information on metrics, outcomes, outputs, or the leveraging of additional resources, and she wanted that information.

Commissioner Cunningham expressed support for having defined parameters for the proposed initiatives, including an understanding of administrative costs and an implementation timeline. Commissioner Cunningham noted these items were needed to address concerns in the African American community about resources actually reaching the community in a timely fashion.

In response to a question from Mayor Anderson, Deputy City Manager Lam stated the block club initiative could move quickly, as significant groundwork had already been done, including the identification of metrics. Deputy City Manager Lam stated it would be helpful to have guidance from the Commission on its desires/expectations regarding the identification of partners for trauma support services. Deputy City Manager Lam explained the tradeoff between a direct partnership with one provider (quick implementation, but potentially limited access to services) and opening the initiative to multiple providers through a request for proposal (slower implementation, but potentially increased access to services).

Vice Mayor Griffin spoke about the need to identify people who were already doing the work of trauma support in the community and the need to deploy these services as quickly as possible. Vice Mayor Griffin asked Commissioners to think about their networks and their knowledge of work already being done, and she urged them to share that information with staff right now.

Commissioner Cunningham indicated he was not prepared to identify trauma support service providers, but he noted TRAP and Kalamazoo Empowerment Services offered services that would be beneficial for African Americans. Commissioner Cunningham stated Commissioners should have at least a week to identify potential service providers, and he highlighted the need for an open conversation about who the City would partner with and the metrics, outcomes, and verification process for this work.

Mayor Anderson suggested the City Commission set expectations on the selection of service providers and let staff do the work, rather than selecting partners based on Commissioners' personal desires and relationships.

Commissioner Hess, seconded by Commissioner Urban, moved to approve the use of \$100,000 from the City Commission Initiatives line item to support gun violence reduction efforts; direct the City Manager to provide periodic updates to the full City Commission on program development and implementation; and authorize the City Manager to sign all documents related to these efforts, given community mobilization and cohesion, community healing, housing rehabilitation, and increased security systems.

2020-0

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Funds for Gun
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2020-0

Appropriation of
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Prior to a vote on the motion, Commissioner Knott expressed support for the motion but observed it did not clarify the issues of reporting or what, exactly, the City Commission was proposing to do.

Vice Mayor Griffin suggested the motion be more specific about the reporting requirement.

Commissioner Hess offered to amend her motion to say “weekly” reporting.

Mayor Anderson stated the Commission could either amend the current motion, vote on the motion and let the result stand, or vote on the current motion and then make other motions.

In response to a question from Mayor Anderson, City Attorney Robinson observed that Commissioners’ ideas and suggestions were amorphous and difficult to reduce to language that would satisfy all Commissioners.

In response to a question from Commissioner Cunningham, Deputy City Manager Lam stated the City Administration would be able to provide a greater level of detail on December 14th regarding timelines and project scope, and she remarked that she was hearing Commissioners request more details on the projects and more direct, timely reporting of progress and results.

Commissioner Cunningham encouraged Commissioners to move forward with the motion as stated with the expectation that the City Administration would present a more detailed report on December 14th.

Vice Mayor Griffin expressed frustration at the requests for more data and information, considering the problem of gun violence had been pronounced for almost a year, giving ample time to gather data. Vice Mayor Griffin noted the committee working on a gun violence response was formed because of each of those Commissioners had been making suggestions to the City Manager separately. Vice Mayor Griffin urged Commissioners to give Deputy City Manager Lam guidance about the trauma support component.

Commissioner Urban requested the vote be taken.

With a roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

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

NAYS: None

2020-0

Approval of a
Letter to Eagle
Creek Renewable
Energy re: the
Morrow Dam
Failure

Commissioner Praedel reviewed the history and impact of the Morrow Lake Dam failure and subsequent release of sediment into the Kalamazoo River. Commissioner Praedel thanked State Senator Sean McCann and State Representative Jon Hoadley for their work to address this issue. Commissioner Praedel stated this letter was more than just symbolism: media coverage of the Morrow Lake Dam failure had increased significantly since the previous City Commission meeting, and Eagle Creek Renewable Energy had suddenly become more responsive.

Commissioner Hess thanked Commissioner Praedel for his leadership.

Commissioner Praedel thanked Commissioner Hess for her work on this issue with the Environmental Concerns Committee.

Commissioner Urban, seconded by Commissioner Knott, moved to approve a letter to Eagle Creek Renewable Energy regarding the impacts of the Morrow Dam spillway gate failure, and direct the City Clerk to send the letter.

Prior to a vote on the motion, and in response to a question from Commissioner Cunningham, Commissioner Praedel stated the letter would be signed by Commissioners and sent by the Clerk.

With a roll call vote this motion passed unanimously.

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

NAYS: None

City Attorney Robinson provided an overview of his memo to the Commission dated December 1, 2021 with the subject *Committee of the Whole Synopsis*. City Attorney Robinson suggested four questions for the City Commission to consider when thinking about reviving Committee of the Whole (CoW) meetings:

1. What is the purpose of the meetings? What is the desired outcome of meeting?
2. How often should a CoW meet? What time of day & day of the week?
3. What rules should govern Public Comment at a CoW?
4. May substantive (final) action be taken on items while meeting as a CoW?

Commissioner Urban reported he had sent correspondence to City Commissioners in response to the City Attorney's memo. Commissioner Urban provided the following answers to the City Attorney's questions: 1) the purpose of the CoW meetings would be to replace the current small group meetings; 2) CoW meetings should occur as often as the small group meetings were occurring; 3) the Commission should look to the City Attorney to create rules for CoW meetings, but there should not be too many rules; and 4) substantive action should not be taken at CoW meetings, but motions to schedule a vote, postpone indefinitely, and postpone discussion to a future CoW meeting should be allowed. Commissioner Urban requested that the City Commission try CoW meetings for one year.

Commissioner Cunningham indicated his thoughts on the CoW idea were split, and it was his expectation that small group meetings continue.

Commissioner Praedel noted small group meetings used a full day of senior leadership's time, and he felt guilty about that. Commissioner Praedel questioned what was legal with regard to small group meetings

Commissioner Hess expressed concern about the staff time required to have both CoW and small group meetings. Commissioner Hess remarked on the number of important discussions that needed to take place. Commissioner Hess expressed support for CoW meetings on a trial basis at a time that worked for everyone.

2020-0

Approval of a Letter to Eagle Creek Renewable Energy re: the Morrow Dam Failure (cont'd)

2020-0

Discussion re: Committee of the Whole Meetings

2020-0

Discussion re:
Committee of the
Whole Meetings
(cont'd)

Vice Mayor Griffin stated she wanted to do what was best for the community to get the work done. Vice Mayor Griffin expressed doubt about the feasibility of having both CoW and small group meetings.

Commissioner Knott noted the City Commission used to have regularly scheduled work sessions for in-depth discussions of specific topics.

Commissioner Urban stated regular work sessions were an alternative to CoW meetings, but there were a lot of small topics that needed to be discussed. Commissioner Urban stated he wanted to be “in on the ground floor” for those discussions.

Commissioner Cunningham agreed having both CoW and small group meetings would be excessive, and he indicated he still might need to meet with staff if small group meetings were eliminated.

Mayor Anderson stated the current practice of meeting in small groups was compliant with the Open Meetings Act. Mayor Anderson remarked that CoW meetings would not meet the needs of every Commissioner, and it seemed like the Commission was trying to accomplish a lot with this idea. Mayor Anderson noted there were downsides to CoW meetings, too.

Commissioner Praedel stated he was interested in having regular work sessions, as he seemed to understand more after work sessions than after small group meetings. Commissioner Praedel offered the suggestion of a CoW format meeting on one of the open Monday's each month and a work session on the other open Monday.

Commissioner Cunningham noted there were benefits and drawbacks with all options. Commissioner Cunningham asked about the appointees' opinions.

Commissioner Urban asked Commissioners to agree to CoW meetings or a hybrid of CoW/work session meetings.

Commissioner Knot observed that a lot of ideas had been brought forward without input from staff, and she suggested the Commission wait to take action.

City Commissioner
Comments

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

Commissioner Urban indicated he was very disappointed with the letter sent by Eagle Creek Renewable Energy to the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) and noted such actions gave industry a bad name.

Commissioner Cunningham stated the City Commission should be doing appointee evaluations soon, and he recommended the use of benchmarks and the comparison of appointees' actual accomplishments against the goals that had been set at the beginning of the year. Commissioner Cunningham suggested there be more discussion about Schippers Crossing. Commissioner Cunningham thanked the Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Commissioner Hess for their work on gun violence.

Commissioner Knott announced former Mayor Bobby Hopewell's mother was in the hospital with COVID-19. Commissioner Knott thanked Governor Whitmer for extending COVID-19 restrictions, and she encouraged small businesses to push the state legislature for COVID relief.

Commissioner Praedel noted the letter from Eagle Creek Renewable Energy to EGLE was a response to violation notices EGLE had sent to Eagle Creek. Commissioner Praedel observed there were 10 positive cases in Kalamazoo County during the first week of COVID-19, and in the first week of December there were over 600 positive cases. Commissioner Praedel urged people to show unprecedented support for small businesses. Commissioner Praedel stated the Kalamazoo Community Foundation Relief Fund was taking applications again, and the Greater Kalamazoo United Way Disaster Relief Fund was available as a resource. Commissioner Praedel encouraged people to donate to Toys for Tots.

Commissioner Hess encouraged people to shop downtown, and she thanked downtown businesses and the workers who put up the holiday decorations. Commissioner Hess urged people to support healthcare workers by wearing masks. Commissioner Hess announced former Hillside Middle School principal Dorothy Young had passed away from COVID-19.

Vice Mayor Griffin reported the ISAAC Gun Violence Task Force was doing good work, and she recommended Commissioners watch "It's a Trip," a recorded event on gun violence available through ISAAC. Vice Mayor Griffin thanked Commissioner Praedel for bringing forward the Eagle Creek letter and Mayor Anderson for his work on housing issues. Vice Mayor Griffin expressed support for using benchmarks with appointee evaluations. Vice Mayor Griffin asked people to be gracious with each other.

Mayor Anderson expressed appreciation for the opportunity to work with his colleagues on the City Commission. Mayor Anderson stated he was shaken by the news of former Mayor Hopewell's mother being in the hospital, and he asked people to pray for her. Mayor Anderson related that his mother had recently shared her memories of December 7, 1941. Mayor Anderson spoke about Dorothy Young and how she pushed him into community service and leadership.

The meeting adjourned at 10:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott A. Borling
City Clerk

For City Commission approval on

Approved by: _____

David F. Anderson, Mayor

Dated:

City Commissioner
Comments (cont'd)

Adjournment