

Roll Call

A regular meeting of the Kalamazoo City Commission was held on Monday, May 3, 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

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Jack Urban*

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, Deputy City Attorney Richard Cherry, and City Clerk Scott Borling.

Commissioner Excused

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

Moment of Silence

Mayor Anderson asked for a moment of silence to remember victims of gun violence.

Proclamation
2021-00

Commissioner Hess proclaimed the third week in May *Department of Public Services Week*. Public Services Director James Baker received the proclamation.

Adoption of the Agenda

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

2021-00
Public Hearing re: a
Resolution Approving
EDC Bonds for
Friendship Village

At 7:12 p.m. Mayor Anderson opened a public hearing to receive comments on a resolution approving the project plan and issuance of bonds for Friendship Village of Kalamazoo to refinance existing 2010 EDC bonds, and to finance additional capital improvements in the project area through the issuance of Series 2021 Bonds.

Jamie McCarthy, staff liaison to the Economic Development Corporation, introduced Tom Colis, legal counsel for Friendship Village, who provided an overview of the project plan and the timeline for issuance of the bonds. Mr. Colis noted the EDC was the conduit for the bonds, and neither the City nor the EDC would be liable for the debt.

Betsy Bale, CEO for Friendship Village, reviewed the improvement projects that would be funded with the bond proceeds.

In response to questions from Commissioner Praedel, Mr. Colis provided the following information: the bond amount would be no greater than \$20,000,000; the costs for issuing the bonds would be paid for by Friendship Village; there were approximately 335 residents at Friendship Village; none of the residents would be displaced by the development projects; and the development projects would create 10 permanent jobs for maintenance, housekeeping, and additional programming.

*Commissioner Urban arrived at 7:19 p.m.

In response to a question from Mayor Anderson, Mr. Colis explained Friendship Village was a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, and the Economic Development Corporation (EDC) Act gave organizations like Friendship Village access to tax-exempt bonds through the municipal bond market. Mr. Colis indicated there were many types of organizations that could benefit from EDC bonds.

An opportunity was given for public comments, but no comments were offered on this item. Alan Dixon and Ashante Collins offered comments on different topics.

At 7:24 p.m. Mayor Anderson closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Hess, seconded by Commissioner Knott, moved a **RESOLUTION** approving the project plan and issuance of bonds for Friendship Village of Kalamazoo to refinance existing 2010 EDC bonds, and to finance additional capital improvements in the project area through the issuance of Series 2021 Bonds.

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:

Alan Dixon, co-chair of ISAAC Anti-Racism Task Force, thanked officials who participated in the ISAAC public meeting on October 22nd and expressed support for organizations doing anti-racism work in the community. Mr. Dixon referenced an “ask” that was made of local officials at that meeting.

Ashante Collins, intern for the ISAAC Anti-Racism Task Force, stated elected officials at the ISAAC public meeting on October 22nd were invited to attend a workshop entitled *Latinex Communities: Cultural Struggles and More*. Ms. Collins announced the workshop was offered on March 25 and April 14, with another workshop being offered in May. Ms. Collins announced the names of local officials who had already attended the workshop and thanked El Concilio for being the organizer and facilitator.

Maggie Adams, City resident and a member of the ISAAC Anti-Racism Task Force, spoke about the need for collaboration between law enforcement agencies, the criminal justice system, and the community to build trust and legitimacy. Ms. Adams thanked officials who had met with the Task Force to share what was being done in their organizations to address racism, trust and transparency.

Charlae Davis, Executive Director of ISAAC, stated elected officials at the ISAAC public meeting on October 22nd were asked to commit to attending an anti-racism, equity, empowerment, and accountability workshop. Ms. Davis stated this workshop was offered on April 14th and April 29th, with the third and final opportunity taking place on May 20th. Ms. Davis announced the

2021-00

Public Hearing re: a Resolution Approving EDC Bonds for Friendship Village (cont'd)

2021-00

Resolution 21-27 Approving EDC Bonds for Friendship Village

Public Comments

Public Comments
(cont'd)

names of local officials who had already attended the workshop and asked that these officials share publicly and verbally what they had learned and the commitments they were making around anti-racism and accountability.

Wendy Flora, City resident and a Group Violence Intervention (GVI) board member, described the work of GVI.

Zachary Lassiter, City resident, spoke about how the Public Services Department was late in notifying the community that PFAS had been dumped into the Kalamazoo River.

Charlae Davis, a member of the GVI community team and governance board, spoke about the importance of addressing trauma and systemic racism. Ms. Davis described the work of GVI. Ms. Davis stated the presentation at the Committee of the Whole meeting was arranged at the last minute, and she stated she would like all GVI partners to be able to participate in the next presentation.

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 with Rieth-Riley Construction Co. for Stockbridge Avenue Pavement Replacement in the amount of \$209,568.92.

2021-00

- approval of a contract extension and purchase order with Rathco Safety and Supply, Inc. for sign installation, maintenance, and removals in the amount of \$234,475.

2021-00

- approval of a professional service agreement with CDM Smith for Phase 2 of the Downtown Streets Project in the amount of \$289,840.

2021-00

- approval of a contract with Niswander Environmental LLC for the removal of the Milham Park Dam and restoration of Portage Creek in the amount of \$381,200.

2021-00

- approval of a one-year contract with ETNA Supply for the purchase of miscellaneous water inventory, sections 3 and 6, in the amount of \$174,507.50.

2021-00

- approval of a one-year contract with Ferguson Waterworks for the purchase of miscellaneous water inventory, sections 1, 2, 4, 5, and 7, in the amount of \$428,065.36.

2021-00

- approval and acceptance of an easement with Palmira Properties, LLC for water main installed as part of the 5100 East ML Avenue Building Construction Project.

2021-00

- approval of the minutes from the City Commission meetings on February 15, March 1, March 15, and April 19, 2021.

Commissioner Knott, 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

Mayor Anderson reported John Hilliard had submitted correspondence in support of Item G-4, a contract for the removal of Milham Park Dam.

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

Commissioner Cunningham noted the City Commission had just approved a contract for design work for Phase II of the Downtown Streets Project. Commissioner Cunningham stated he wanted to see traffic calming on North Park Street and North Westnedge Avenue. Commissioner Cunningham stated he was not concerned whether these streets were one-way or two-way streets, but he did not know how traffic calming would happen without converting them to two-way traffic. Commissioner Cunningham indicated there would be more dialogue, and City staff would engage community to see what they wanted.

Commissioner Knott reported the Trump administration regulations against sanctuary city policies had been officially rescinded.

Commissioner Praedel urged people to watch the Committee of the Whole meeting and the presentation on the Group Violence Intervention initiative. Commissioner Praedel indicated Commissioners were receiving input from the community on uses for the federal stimulus funds the City would receive, and he asked how the people could submit their suggestions to the City. Commissioner Praedel noted it was Teacher Appreciation Week, and he talked about the important relationships and impacts teachers had with their students. Commissioner Praedel reported he was working on the following projects: bike safety with Bike Friendly Kalamazoo; a public input session on voting accessibility for May 17th with Clerk Borling; and communicating with residents about water quality and safety with Director Baker.

City Manager Ritsema remarked there was much interest around the stimulus funds, but the City was still waiting to receive federal guidelines on how the funds could be used. City Manager Ritsema indicated people could submit their ideas through Commissioners, and staff would compile those suggestions and send them to the entire Commission.

Commissioner Hess remarked that GVI was a powerful collaborative, and she was very grateful for everyone involved. Commissioner Hess expressed gratitude for everyone involved with the styrofoam recycling project and announced the next recycling event would take place on July 31st. Commissioner Hess stated she was looking forward to making progress on the street design work for downtown. Commissioner Hess noted she was hearing people express gratitude for the City's work, which brought joy to her as a Commissioner.

Vice Mayor Griffin reported on her involvement with the following events and projects: the Environmental Justice Regional Roundtable sponsored by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and the Energy (EGLE); the work of ISAAC and Truth, Racial Healing, and Transformation (TRHT) to expand

Consent Agenda (cont'd)

Commissioner
Comments

Commissioner
Comments (cont'd)

the City's Fair Housing Ordinance throughout Kalamazoo County; a virtual session sponsored by the Area Leaders for Police and Community Trust (ALPACT) that featured City staff talking about Kalamazoo's Civil Rights Ordinance; an Introduction to Anti-Racism training provided by ERACCE and TRHT on May 12-14; a "Real Talk, Real Careers" discussion with 7th graders at Maple Street and Linden Grove Middle Schools; ongoing conversations with the Disability Network of Southwest Michigan regarding accessibility; and a Community Jam event at Farrell Park to celebrate black women. Vice Mayor Griffin stated she would attend the ISAAC training being offered in late May.

Mayor Anderson reported he had attended the ISAAC training, and he highly recommended it. Mayor Anderson spoke about his membership and work on various boards and committees. Mayor Anderson highlighted the need for the community to do the work of the community together.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott A. Borling
City Clerk

For City Commission approval on September 7, 2021

Approved by: _____
David F. Anderson, Mayor
Dated: September 7, 2021

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