

Roll Call

A regular meeting of the Kalamazoo City Commission was held on Monday, May 17, 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, Deputy City Attorney Richard Cherry, and City Clerk Scott Borling.

Invocation

The invocation was given by Michele Gossman from the Congregation of St. Joseph.

Proclamations
2021-00

Commissioner Hess read a proclamation designating Kalamazoo as a *“Talking is Teaching” City*. Dave Campbell, Sarah Drumm, and Jen Stroven from the Kalamazoo Regional Education Service Agency received the proclamation.

2021-00

Commissioner Cunningham proclaimed June 4th *National Gun Violence Awareness Day*. Reverend Linda MacDonald and Rick and Martha Omilian from Moms Demand Action received the proclamation.

2021-00

Commissioner Praedel proclaimed June 2021 *Justice Against Bullying @ School (J.A.B.S.) Awareness Month*.

Adoption of the Agenda

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

Public Comments

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

Greg Woods, City resident, expressed concerns about people who were homeless and the problems they were creating for his business, Grubb ‘N Stuff, and other businesses near Hotop Avenue. Mr. Woods asked when the City was going to do something about the homeless.

Jeff Messer, City resident, asked that Item G-9, first reading of an ordinance to amend Chapter 24, be moved to the Regular Agenda. Mr. Messer read from the agenda report on this item and urged people who wanted to have input on the proposed ordinance to speak up.

Shardae Chambers, City resident, expressed concerns about how federal stimulus funds would be used and asked that the City use these funds wisely to address residents’ needs.

Mayor Anderson stated Item G-9 on the Consent Agenda would be moved to the Regular Agenda at the request of Mr. Messer.

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 contract with Balkema Construction for improvements at Martin Luther King Jr. Park in the amount of \$178,178. **2021-00**
- approval of a contract with Peerless-Midwest Company to perform well rehabilitation and associated maintenance in 2021 in the amount of \$183,100. **2021-00**
- approval of a contract supplemental and change order with LD Docsa in the amount of \$210,782.50 to provide helical piers to structurally support the centrifuge platform at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. **2021-00**
- the appointment of Aaron Powers as City Assessor under the provisions of Charter Section 51, effective June 1, 2021 and approval of a two-year contract extension with Wayne County Appraisal, LLC d/b/a WCA Assessing for City Assessor/Assessor of Record services in the amount of \$233,790. **2021-00**
- approval of a cooperative purchase of a TruVac Vactor hydro excavation truck from Jack Doheny Company in the amount of \$462,924.65. **2021-00**
- approval of a sole source purchase with Ferguson Water Works to provide and install Neptune Water Meters in the amount of \$1,130,783.05. **2021-00**
- approval of a contract extension with Wayne County Appraisal, LLC d/b/a WCA Assessing for assessing services in the amount of \$643,710. **2021-00**
- approval of a one-year contract extension with Waste Management of Michigan for loading, hauling, and disposal of belt press solids in the amount of \$6,208,710. **2021-00**
- approval of the appointments of Mayor David Anderson, Mr. Sid Ellis and Mr. Jim Escamilla to the Utility Policy Committee. **2021-00**

Commissioner Hess, seconded by Commissioner Praedel, 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.

Regular Agenda

2021-00

First Reading of an Ordinance to Amend Chapter 24 re: Pawnbrokers and Secondhand Dealers

City Attorney Robinson explained the proposed ordinance to amend Chapter 24 of the Code of Ordinances resulted from an ongoing review of the entire Code by his office. City Attorney Robinson stated Chapter 24 needed to be updated due to changes in both statute and case law.

In response to questions from Commissioner Praedel, City Attorney Robinson reaffirmed the review of Chapter 24 was part of the ongoing Code review by the City Attorney's Office. City Attorney Robinson stated sections of the Code were assigned to different attorneys for review, and Chapter 24 was assigned to Assistant City Attorney Sarah Wenzlick. City Attorney Robinson stated he did not know whether industry representatives were consulted regarding the proposed ordinance changes.

Commissioner Urban, seconded by Commissioner Cunningham, moved to offer for first reading an ordinance to amend Chapter 24 of the Kalamazoo City Code regarding Pawnbrokers, Secondhand Dealers, and Junk and Recycling Dealers.

Prior to a vote on the motion, Commissioner Praedel urged people in the Pawnbroker industry to reach out and provide input on the proposed ordinance.

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

Approval of Shared Prosperity Kalamazoo High Impact Fund Recommendations and Budgets

Shared Prosperity Kalamazoo Coordinator Keven Ford delivered a presentation entitled *Shared Prosperity Kalamazoo (SPK) High Impact Fund Recommendations*. A copy of the slides from this presentation was filed with the papers for this meeting.

In response to a question from Mayor Anderson, Mr. Ford listed the members of the SPK Organizing Committee.

In response to a question from Commissioner Praedel, Mr. Ford indicated he was working with the W.E. Upjohn Institute to develop and refine metrics to measure post-implementation outcomes. Mr. Ford remarked that human service delivery was typically siloed by generations, and it was difficult to find a platform that could handle both adults and children.

Commissioner Praedel stated it would be great to hear the success stories coming from the High Impact Fund initiatives.

Vice Mayor Griffin thanked Mr. Ford for his presentation. Vice Mayor Griffin noted the SPK Organizing Committee had been receiving helpful presentations, and she encouraged people to watch the SPK Organizing Committee meetings from the past few months. Vice Mayor Griffin expressed support for using the two-generation approach as the City looked for ways to invest its federal stimulus funds.

In response to a question from Mayor Anderson, Mr. Ford confirmed that funding awards for two years meant that the total dollar amount would be disbursed over two years rather than one year.

Commissioner Urban, seconded by Commissioner Hess, moved to accept the recommendations of the Shared Prosperity Kalamazoo (SPK) Organizing Committee and approve the Organizing Committee proposals and budgets for the SPK High Impact Fund.

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

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Commissioner Praedel

City Manager Ritsema reported the Public Safety Department and Community Planning and Economic Development Department would be following up with Mr. Woods regarding his concerns. City Manager Ritsema recognized Deputy City Manager Patsy Moore for her service to the City and announced she would be retiring at the end of the month.

Deputy City Manager Moore offered remarks on her years of public service and stated she knew the City Commission and City Administration had the best interests of the community at heart.

Mayor Anderson stated Deputy City Manager Moore had been a deep, quiet, driving force in the City organization, and he thanked her for her years of service.

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

Commissioner Urban commented on the importance of the work Mr. Ford was doing and expressed support for the two-generation approach.

Commissioner Cunningham stated the two-generation approach demonstrated the City was investing for the long-term. Commissioner Cunningham thanked Deputy City Manager Moore for her years of service to the community. Commissioner Cunningham apologized for missing the Committee of the Whole meeting. Commissioner Cunningham asked that the City Manager provide a report on Mr. Wood's concerns about his business. Commissioner Cunningham invited men to attend the weekly Run This Town events at Mayors' Riverfront Park.

Commissioner Knott expressed well-wishes to Deputy City Manager Moore.

Commissioner Praedel encouraged people to watch the Committee of the Whole meeting to hear City Clerk Borling's presentation about local elections, and he shared statistics from the November 2020 election. Commissioner Praedel wished a speedy recovery to Commissioner Hess's husband Jim. Commissioner Praedel expressed well-wishes to Deputy City Manager Moore. Commissioner Praedel encouraged people to submit their ideas for using federal stimulus funds. Commissioner Praedel observed the community and City Commission would need to decide whether the stimulus funds should be used to meet many smaller needs, or whether they should be used to implement one or two transformational ideas. Commissioner Praedel thanked KRESA for their Talking is Teaching initiative.

2021-00

Approval of Shared Prosperity Kalamazoo High Impact Fund Recommendations and Budgets (cont'd)

City Manager's Report

Commissioner Comments

Commissioner
Comments (cont'd)

Vice Mayor Griffin expressed well-wishes to Deputy City Manager Moore.

Commissioner Hess expressed gratitude for Deputy City Manager Moore, the Farmer's Market improvements, park improvements, and the Family Literacy Walk. Commissioner Hess remarked that Commissioners had voted that night on several items that showed their values. Commissioner Hess noted her husband had recently experienced emergency open heart surgery.

Mayor Anderson remarked on EMS Week, the YWCA Women of Achievement awards, and former Mayor Bobby Hopewell receiving the Michael A. Guido Leadership and Public Service Award from the Michigan Municipal League. Mayor Anderson commented on the need for the City use its federal stimulus funds well.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:47 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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