

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COMMISSION
CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

Regular Meeting Held September 19, 2016

Mayor Seibold called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. in the City Commission Chambers at the East Grand Rapids Community Center and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Commissioners Dills, Duncan, Hamrick, Miller, Skaggs and Mayor Seibold

Absent: Commissioner Zagel

Also Present: City Attorney Huff; City Manager Donovan; Assistant City Manager LaFave; Public Safety Director Herald; Zoning Administrator Faasse; City Clerk Brower

2016-94. Peter Dimitrio, 2621 Inverness spoke about climate change and the need for more renewable energy.

Justin Present, 1442 Sherwood, asked the city to consider making the intersection of Sherwood and Maplewood a 4-way stop following an accident at that corner over the weekend.

2016-95. Commissioner Hamrick noted that city historian Mary Dersch is a fantastic asset to the city with her knowledge of so much of the city's past.

Commissioner Duncan congratulated Mayor Seibold and Commissioner Zagel on their first and second place finishes in the celebrity division of the recent snowplow rodeo driving event at the City of Wyoming. She also noted the EGR employees Jeff Stults and Ben Poll had placed 8th of 32 teams in the professional division.

Commissioner Duncan also thanked the Public Works Department for coordinating all of the road construction projects this summer and for the preventative maintenance work completed by staff.

Commissioner Skaggs noted that the annual leaf pickup program would begin in only a few weeks.

Mayor Seibold thanked DPW employee Jeff Stults for giving her lessons on driving the snowplow and urged commissioners to arrange for an opportunity to ride with one of the drivers this winter to see how much work is involved in driving and plowing.

2016-96. A zoning variance hearing was held regarding the request of Stacy & Karl Roberts of 1118 Pinecrest to allow the replacement of the existing detached garage with side yard setback of 1.1' instead of the required 3.0' and a building separation of 7.3' from the home instead of the required 10.0.'

Zoning Administrator Faasse explained the request to build a new garage in almost exactly the same footprint of the dilapidated garage. He noted a building separation variance for the distance between the home and the garage had been granted several years ago.

Rob Sears of Sears Architects outlined the plan to rebuild the garage and match it to the house.

Mayor Seibold opened a public hearing. No public comment was received. The following communications were received at City Hall concerning this variance request:

- Karl & Sherri Mead, 1147 Pinecrest	In Favor.
- John & Patty Woodhouse, 2208 Burchard	In Favor.
- Kim Carey, 2220 Burchard	In Favor.
- Hester Erlank, 1063 Orchard	In Favor.
- Lucy Lafleur, 1124 Pinecrest	In Favor.
- Sara & David Kugler, 2130 Burchard	In Favor.

2016- -A. Miller-Duncan. That the request of Stacy & Karl Roberts of 1118 Pinecrest to allow the replacement of the existing detached garage with side yard setback of 1.1' instead of the required 3.0' and a building separation of 7.3' from the home instead of the required 10.0.' be approved.

Yeas: Dills, Duncan, Hamrick, Miller, Skaggs and Seibold – 6

Nays: -0-

2016-97. A zoning variance hearing was held regarding the request of Joshua Hall of 653 Gladstone and David Emdin of 655 Gladstone to allow the construction of two detached garages with side yard setbacks of 1' instead of the required 3.0' and rear yard setbacks of 2' instead of the required 3.'

Dave Emdin, 655 Gladstone, explained the request to build two separate garages utilizing a reduced setbacks to allow vehicles to maneuver around the houses.

Mayor Seibold opened a public hearing. No other public comment was offered. Mayor Seibold closed the public hearing. The following communications were received at City Hall concerning this variance request:

- Petition signed by 16 residents. In Favor.

2016- -A. Duncan-Hamrick. That the request of Joshua Hall of 653 Gladstone to allow the construction of a detached garage with a side yard setback of 1' instead of the required 3.0' and a rear yard setback of 2' instead of the required 3' be approved.

Mayor Seibold thanked the applicants for working together on this project. She felt it made sense for the two homes and the neighborhood.

Commissioner Dills noted the rear yard setbacks would not affect the Clark Home property behind them.

Yeas: Dills, Duncan, Hamrick, Miller, Skaggs and Seibold – 6

Nays: -0-

2016- -B. Miller-Duncan. That the request of David Emdin of 655 Gladstone to allow the construction of a detached garage with a side yard setback of 1' instead of the required 3.0' and a rear yard setback of 2' instead of the required 3' be approved.

Yeas: Dills, Duncan, Hamrick, Miller, Skaggs and Seibold – 6

Nays: -0-

2016-98. Final Reading of an ordinance amendment to repeal Section 10.7 of Chapter 101 of Title X of the City Code pertaining to the Traffic Commission.

Assistant City Manager LaFave explained the proposal to transition from a citizen board researching and discussing traffic requests to having staff utilize the Michigan Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices to standardize the solutions to various issues.

2016- -A. Skaggs-Duncan. That an ordinance amendment to repeal Section 10.7 of Chapter 101 of Title X of the City Code pertaining to the Traffic Commission be adopted as set forth in Exhibit "A" attached hereto.

Commissioner Miller spoke in favor of the change as the Traffic Commission had not met regularly the last several years due to lack of agenda items. He felt this new method would better match the current practice. He did not feel the new procedure would reduce transparency and would add more standards to the process.

Commissioner Dills felt this would reduce the emotions from the process while utilizing more scientific approaches.

Yeas: Dills, Duncan, Hamrick, Miller, Skaggs and Seibold – 6
Nays: -0-

2016-99. Introduction of an ordinance amendment to Article VII of Chapter 2 of Title I of the City Code pertaining to the Department of Public Safety.

City Attorney Huff reviewed each the changes being introduced at this meeting and explained the majority of changes were to change the titles of Police Department and Fire Department and related officials to the Public Safety Department.

2016- -A. Skaggs-Miller. That an ordinance amendment to Article VII of Chapter 2 of Title I of the City Code pertaining to the Department of Public Safety be introduced as set forth in Exhibit “B” attached hereto.

Yeas: Dills, Duncan, Hamrick, Miller, Skaggs and Seibold – 6
Nays: -0-

2016-100. Introduction of an ordinance amendment to Chapter 6 of Title I of the City Code pertaining to the Emergency Management Department.

2016- -A. Dills-Miller. That an ordinance amendment to Chapter 6 of Title I of the City Code pertaining to the Emergency Management Department be introduced as set forth in Exhibit “C” attached hereto.

Yeas: Dills, Duncan, Hamrick, Miller, Skaggs and Seibold – 6
Nays: -0-

2016-101. Introduction of an ordinance amendment to Chapter 13 of Title I of the City Code pertaining to appearance tickets issued by the Public Safety Department.

2016- -A. Miller-Duncan. That an ordinance amendment to Chapter 13 of Title I of the City Code pertaining to appearance tickets issued by the Public Safety Department be introduced as set forth in Exhibit “D” attached hereto.

Yeas: Dills, Duncan, Hamrick, Miller, Skaggs and Seibold – 6
Nays: -0-

2016-102. Introduction of an ordinance amendment to Chapter 14 of Title I of the City Code pertaining to municipal civil infractions.

2016- -A. Dills-Hamrick. That an ordinance amendment to Chapter 14 of Title I of the City Code pertaining to municipal civil infractions be introduced as set forth in Exhibit “E” attached hereto.

Yeas: Dills, Duncan, Hamrick, Miller, Skaggs and Seibold – 6
Nays: -0-

2016-103. Introduction of an ordinance amendment to Chapter 25 of Title II of the City Code pertaining to public utility emergency response.

2016- -A. Dills-Miller. That an ordinance amendment to Chapter 25 of Title II of the City Code pertaining to public utility emergency response be introduced as set forth in Exhibit “F” attached hereto.

Yeas: Dills, Duncan, Hamrick, Miller, Skaggs and Seibold – 6
Nays: -0-

2016-104. Miller-Skaggs. To approve the consent agenda as follows:

- 2016- -A. To approve the minutes of the regular meeting held September 6, 2016.
- 2016- -B. Report of Finance Committee on disbursement of funds: payroll disbursements of \$206,743.86; county and school disbursements of \$138,482.43, and total remaining disbursements of \$1,436,335.75.
- 2016- -C. That the sidewalk funding policy and cost allocation contained in the 2015 streets and sidewalks millage be amended to provide that the City Commission may—on a project-by-project basis—decide to allocate funding above the normal \$50,000 per year for new sidewalks up to 80% of the project cost in order to reduce the percentage charged to the property owners through a special assessment, providing that the total allocated to new sidewalks during the 2015-2025 millage cycle not exceed the allocated \$500,000 aggregate total from the Streets & Sidewalk millage.
- 2016- -D. The purchase of three work/plow trucks through the MiDeal program from Gorno Ford of Woodhaven, Michigan, Truck & Trailer Specialties of Dutton, Michigan and Berger Chevrolet of Grand Rapids in the total amount of \$124,001.60.
- 2016- -E. A contract with Groundhawg Excavating and Landscaping LLC of Lowell in the amount of up to \$150,000 for sidewalk repair and replacements according to the sidewalk replacement map.
- 2016- -F. The appointment of Aaron Smith of 1645 Laurel and Ren Brander of 2648 Lake Drive to the Parks & Recreation Commission for terms ending June 30, 2017.
- 2016- -G. The preliminary minutes of the Parks & Recreation Commission meeting held August 8, 2016.

Yeas: Dills, Duncan, Hamrick, Miller, Skaggs and Seibold – 6

Nays: -0-

The meeting adjourned at 6:31 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until October 3, 2016.

Karen K. Brower, City Clerk

Attachments: A – Ordinance amendment to repeal Section 10.7 pertaining to the Traffic Commission
B – Ordinance amendment to Article VII of Chapter 2
C – Ordinance amendment to Chapter 6 of Title I
D – Ordinance amendment to Chapter 13 of Title I
E – Ordinance amendment to Chapter 14 of Title I
F – Ordinance amendment to Chapter 25 of Title II

Attachments listed above are available for inspection at the office of the City Clerk.