

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COMMISSION
CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

Regular Meeting Held July 6, 2021

Mayor Favale called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the City Commission Chambers at the East Grand Rapids Community Center and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present in Person: Commissioners Duncan, Hamrick, Hecksel, Pachla, Walters and Mayor Favale

Absent: Commissioner Arendshorst

Also Present: City Attorney Huff; City Manager Charles; Deputy City Manager LaFave; City Clerk Brower; Finance Director Seath; Interim Parks & Recreation Director Fasbender; Zoning Administrator Gianotti; Public Safety Director Herald, Account Clerk Ritzke, Planning Consultant LeBlanc

2021-131. The agenda was approved as published.

2021-132. No public comment was received.

2021-133. Commissioner Walters thanked staff for holding three input sessions for the parks millage to give people an opportunity to give feedback on the proposal.

Commissioner Hamrick reported the Trail Blazer 5K event went well on Sunday and thanked all those who put on the race. She noted it was good to see so many people enjoying organized events again.

Commissioner Pachla thanked the Parks & Recreation and Public Safety Departments for all their work on the Reeds Lake Run on June 26 and the 4th of July events.

City Manager Charles commended the employees of all the departments that have worked to put on events in the last two weeks, including Public Safety, Public Works and Parks & Recreation.

Mr. Charles introduced Derek Melville, the new Parks & Recreation Director that would be starting employment next week. Mr. Melville thanked everyone for the warm welcome and stated he was excited to begin his new position.

2021-134. Election of President for FY 2021-22.

2021-0134-A. Duncan-Pachla. That Commissioner Hamrick be elected President of the East Grand Rapids City Commission to assume leadership duties in the absence of the Mayor for FY 2021-22.

Yeas: Duncan, Hamrick, Hecksel, Pachla, Walters and Favale – 6

Nays: -0-

2021-135. Parks Improvement Debt Millage.

City Manager Charles reported there had been two additional public input sessions for residents to hear about the proposal and ask questions. He presented a joint resolution with the EGR School District spelling out the parameters for placing city-owned playground equipment on school property and a resolution setting the ballot language for November 2 for consideration by the commission. Mr. Charles noted the ballot language had been modified slightly from the last version to add “parks within Gaslight Village” to the description of possible uses for the bond proceeds.

Commissioner Pachla questioned how the proposed list of projects would move forward if approved by voters. Mr. Charles noted projects would be reviewed individually by staff, consultants and resident groups prior to final design and bidding. In the case of the school playgrounds, the city will work with school staff and parent groups to plan each location.

2021-0135-A. Pachla-Hecksel. That a resolution setting preliminary expectations and understandings relating to the November 2021 Parks Improvement Debt Millage proposal be adopted as attached in Exhibit "A."

Yeas: Duncan, Hamrick, Hecksel, Pachla, Walters and Favale – 6
Nays: -0-

2021-0135-B. Pachla-Hecksel. That the updated resolution authorizing ballot proposal language for park improvement bonds be adopted as attached in Exhibit "B."

Commissioner Walters supported this proposal that would let the residents decide on the parks and playground improvements. He noted the city's discretionary funding for these types of projects was limited due to millage rollbacks, meaning it would take many years to implement this list of projects without additional funding. He felt this proposal would allow residents to support improvements important to them. Mr. Walters stated he would have preferred to seek an amount lower than \$7 million, but noted the full amount may not be needed and projects would be carefully reviewed and subject to public input before using the bond funding.

Commissioner Pachla gave his strong support to the parks improvement millage. He noted the Parks & Recreation Master Plan set the vision for improvements, but these projects would cost more than the city will have available for several years. He felt this millage was an opportunity to invest in the community and looked forward to working on the projects if approved by voters.

Commissioner Duncan also supported this opportunity to let the voters decide on improvements.

Yeas: Duncan, Hamrick, Hecksel, Pachla, Walters and Favale – 6
Nays: -0-

2021-136. Duncan-Hamrick. To approve the consent agenda as follows:

2021-0136-A. Minutes of the regular meeting held June 21, 2021.

2021-0136-B. Payroll disbursements of \$248,242.84; county and school disbursements of \$152.00, and total remaining disbursements of \$568,147.75.

2021-0136-C. Purchase and installation of security system upgrades from Engineered Protection Systems of Grand Rapids in the amount of \$9,546.00.

2021-0136-D. Preliminary minutes of the Parks & Recreation Commission meeting held June 14, 2021.

Yeas: Duncan, Hamrick, Hecksel, Pachla, Walters and Favale – 6
Nays: -0-

2021-137. Walters-Pachla. Motion to enter into an executive session to discuss the acquisition of real estate and to discuss an attorney's opinion in accordance with Sections 8(d) and 8(h) of the Open Meetings Act. A roll call vote was taken.

Yeas: Duncan, Hamrick, Hecksel, Pachla, Walters and Favale – 6
Nays: -0-

The meeting adjourned at 6:29 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until July 19, 2021.

Karen K. Brower, City Clerk

Attachments: A – Joint Resolution with EGR Schools regarding playground equipment replacement
B – Resolution Setting Ballot Language for Parks Improvement Millage

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