

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COMMISSION
CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

Regular Meeting Held July 17, 2023

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: Commissioners Arendshorst, Burdick, Hamrick, Schulz, Wessely and Mayor Favale.

Absent: Commissioner Schwartz.

Also Present: City Manager Charles; Deputy City Manager LaFave; City Attorney Huff; Finance Director Seath; Parks & Recreation Director Melville; Public Safety Chief Herald; City Clerk Parmenter

2023-137. The agenda was approved as submitted.

2023-138. Public comment: None.

2023-139. Mayor and City Commission comments, including committee liaison reports.

Commissioner Arendshorst mentioned that they reviewed the revised Manhattan Park plan in the Infrastructure meeting.

Commissioner Schulz spoke about the Artisan Village on July 27th to be held in Big Bobs parking lot.

City Manager Charles said that the August postcards for the Manhattan Park survey would be going out this week and mentioned the input sessions on August 2 and 3.

2023-140. Public Safety quarterly report.

Public Safety Chief Herald reviewed the report.

2023-141. Consider authorizing staff to purchase a kayak rental kiosk in the amount of \$18,000.

Parks and Recreation Director Melville highlighted the request.

Commissioner Arendshorst asked if the fee was an annual fee. Director Melville stated that it was a one time fee.

Commissioner Burdick asked if Rent.Fun would do advertising for East, where the kayaks would be stored and if the City has legal liability when storing the kayaks.

Director Melville stated that EGR would be added to their website and mobile app. The kayaks would be stored at the DPS garage and Rent-Fun was listed first as holding liability on the equipment.

Commissioner Hamrick inquired if we can add kayaks at any time and receive the \$13,000 price.

Director Melville stated that he assumed it would go up after the initial agreement.

There was much discussion regarding the number of kayaks and paddle boards that the City should initially start with.

2023-0141-A. Schulz-Arendshorst. To approve the purchase of a four-unit kayak rental kiosk from Rent.Fun in the amount of \$18,000.

Yeas: Arendshorst, Burdick, Hamrick, Schulz, Wessely and Favale – 6

Nays: -0-

2023-142. Consider the addition of a loan option to the employees 457(b) plan.

Finance Director Seath reviewed the details of the loan option.

Commissioner Schulz asked what happened if the employee defaulted on the loan.

Director Seath said that Mission Square would handle that and that it would be treated as an early withdrawal.

2023-0142-A. Arendshorst-Hamrick. To approve adding a loan option to the city employee's 457(b) plan.

Yeas: Arendshorst, Burdick, Hamrick, Schulz, Wessely and Favale – 6

Nays: -0-

2023-143. Consider a resolution to create a Social District in Gaslight Village.

City Manager Charles reviewed the resolution and the options for the district and commons area boundaries.

Commissioner Arendshorst feels it is more valuable if the district is opened up to include John Collins Park.

Commissioner Wessely stated it made sense to include the park.

Commissioner Hamrick is leaning towards including the park also.

Commissioner Burdick is leaning the same way also.

Mayor Favale initially wanted to start smaller, but after thinking about it, she feels that it will bring more people to East.

Commissioner Wessely asked about logo stickers for cups.

City Manager Charles stated that Sabo was already working on that. He also noted that at the next meeting they would see an amendment for the park rules and an ordinance amendment relating to the Social District also.

2023-0143-A. Wessely-Burdick. To adopt a resolution to create a Social District in Gaslight Village and to include John Collins Park and Regatta Plaza.

Yeas: Arendshorst, Burdick, Hamrick, Schulz, Wessely and Favale – 6

Nays: -0-

2023-144. Hamrick-Arendshorst. To approve the consent agenda as follows:

2023-0144-A. Minutes of the regular and special meetings held June 19, 2023.

2023-0144-B. Disbursement of funds: payroll disbursements of \$263,952.19 county and school disbursements of \$-0-, and total remaining disbursements of \$1,142,453.34.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until August 7, 2023.

Lori A Parmenter, City Clerk