

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COMMISSION
CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

Regular Meeting Held April 16, 2012

Mayor Seibold called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. in the City Commission Chamber at the Community Center and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Commissioners Dills, Goebel, Graham, Johnson, Miller, Skaggs and Mayor Seibold

Absent: None

Also Present: City Manager Donovan; City Attorney Huff; Public Works Director Feldt; Finance Director Dood; Public Safety Director Herald; Zoning Administrator Faasse; City Clerk Brower

2012-40. No public comment was received.

2012-41. No commissioner comment was received.

2012-42. Introduction of an ordinance amendment to amend Section 7.50 of Chapter 74 of Title VII of the City Code pertaining to requirements for Tavern licenses.

City Manager Donovan explained a new business was seeking approval to serve alcohol in conjunction with art classes at a location in Gaslight Village, but that current ordinances prohibit non-restaurant uses from obtaining liquor licenses. After working with the applicant, an ordinance amendment was crafted to permit non-restaurant uses to apply for a tavern (beer and wine) license. Mr. Donovan explained the process for transferring licenses into East Grand Rapids and answered questions about the types of businesses that could qualify for a tavern license with the proposed changes. He stated the intent was to allow beer and wine as a complement to other uses, but not to allow bars or other uses where alcohol constituted the majority of sales.

The City Commission discussed many aspects of the proposed ordinance and the tavern license application from Brush Studio in particular, including approval of future applications, the requirement of serving food to promote responsible drinking, how other cities handle these types of businesses, and the ability to require financial statements to measure compliance with the ordinance.

Lisa Jabara and Heather Callahan, co-owners of Brush Studio, were present. They stated the focus of the instruction art studio would be on group entertainment, with the alcohol as a complement making up approximately 30% of revenue. They stated Gaslight Village was their preferred location, but the high rent necessitated serving alcohol to create enough revenue.

Ms. Callahan reported the tentative class schedule would include Fridays at 2 pm and 6 pm and Saturdays from 10 am until 8:30 pm, with the studio open other hours for local art sales. The bar area will be combined with the front desk, but will not have any seating area. Employees will walk around during classes offering drink and food service, or clients can approach the bar area to order a drink. Ms. Jabara announced Brush Studio was partnering with Ramona's Table to offer appetizers during classes. She stated the bar would be available any time the studio is open, regardless of whether classes are being offered, so it is possible someone would order a drink that wasn't attending a class. However, since there is no bar seating area, and alcohol cannot leave the premises, Ms. Jabara felt it was doubtful anyone not attending a class would order a drink.

Commissioner Johnson spoke in support of this unusual business venture and wished them well.

City Manager Donovan noted the tavern license ordinance would need a final reading and adoption at the next meeting, and the liquor license application would also be presented for action at the next meeting.

- A. Graham-Johnson. That an ordinance amendment to amend Section 7.50 of Chapter 74 of Title VII of the City Code pertaining to requirements for Tavern licenses be introduced as set forth in Exhibit "A" attached hereto.

Commissioner Dills reported the Finance Committee had worked with staff and the applicant on this proposed ordinance.

Yeas: Dills, Goebel, Graham, Johnson, Skaggs, Miller and Seibold – 7
Nays: -0-

- 2012-43. Consider request to approve a Special Use Permit for placement of cellular antennas at the East Grand Rapids High School.

Zoning Administrator Faasse explained that AT&T Mobility had applied to the city for permission to upgrade the existing antennas on the tower at the EGR High School. While processing this request, it was determined that a Special Use Permit for these antennas had not been applied for or granted for the installation of the original equipment. Therefore the applicant is seeking a Special Use Permit and approval for the upgrade in equipment. Mr. Faasse noted the proposed upgrades would replace the antennas on the tower, but not the equipment on the ground. He further noted the proposal met all the standards of the City's ordinances.

Mayor Seibold opened a public hearing.

Michael Snyder, AT&T representative, explained the upgrades would increase signal strength and data speeds and reviewed the configuration of the new antennas.

No other public comment was received. Mayor Seibold closed the public hearing.

- A. Johnson-Dills. That a Special Use Permit be granted to AT&T Mobility for the installation and operation of cellular antennas at the 110-foot level of the existing tower at the East Grand Rapids High School and the placement of ancillary equipment on the ground.

Commissioner Johnson felt the changes were minimal and expressed her support.

Commissioner Miller liked the fact that multiple providers used the same tower instead of having separate poles in one area.

Commissioner Skaggs questioned whether the City anticipated other wireless carriers making similar changes to upgrade their services. City Manager Donovan felt it was very likely other vendors would follow suit.

Yeas: Dills, Goebel, Graham, Johnson, Skaggs, Miller and Seibold – 7
Nays: -0-

- 2012-44. Miller-Skaggs. Motion to approve the consent agenda as follows:

- A. Minutes of the rescheduled regular meeting held March 26, 2012.
- B. Payroll disbursements of \$193,712.81; county and school disbursements of \$3,794.89, and total remaining disbursements of \$215,851.67.
- C. The quarterly financial reports for the period ending March 31, 2012.
- D. The preliminary minutes of the Parks & Recreation Commission meeting held March 12, 2012.
- E. The preliminary minutes of the Traffic Commission meeting held March 26, 2012.

Yeas: Dills, Goebel, Graham, Johnson, Skaggs, Miller and Seibold – 7
Nays: -0-

- 2012-45. City Manager Donovan and Finance Director Dood gave an overview of the upcoming budget process and

highlighted certain areas of the budget that will be addressed in future meetings.

The meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until May 7, 2012.

Karen K. Brower, City Clerk

Attachments: A – Ordinance amendment to Section 7.50 pertaining to tavern licenses.

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