

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COMMISSION
CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

Regular Meeting Held October 15, 2012

Mayor Seibold called the meeting to order at 6:00 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; City Clerk Brower

2012-122. Sally Scripps, 1601 Alexander, spoke on behalf of Consumers Energy and urged residents to vote NO on Proposal 3 on the November ballot.

Peter MacGregor, 73rd State House Representative, reported the pension flexibility legislation had passed the State House and would be considered in the Senate next. He asked for continued support of EGR representatives as the Senate considered the bill.

2012-123. Mayor Seibold announced the Public Works Department had received the “Pride of the Fleet” award in the annual American Public Works Association’s Snowplow Roadeo recently. Public Works Director Feldt explained the event allowed driver’s to compete against other municipalities for awards.

Commissioner Dills reported the parade and community spirit at last week’s homecoming festivities made the event enjoyable for the whole family.

Commissioner Miller reminded everyone to vote both sides of the ballot in November as local school board candidates and proposals were on the back side of the ballot.

2012-124. Steve Early of Inspired Business Development informed the City Commission about the energy audit program being offered to East Grand Rapids residents by DTE Energy. Representatives will be going door-to-door in East over the next several weeks telling residents about the program and potential savings.

2012-125. A zoning variance hearing was held regarding the request of Prevo’s Family Markets on behalf of D&W of 2181 Wealthy, to allow the construction of a fenced enclosure at the northwest corner of the store instead of the enclosure required by ordinance.

Zoning Administrator Faasse explained the ordinance regulations enacted in 2010 and the variances requested by the D&W store for a taller fence than normally allowed, and to permit use of the store building walls to provide part of the screening. He asked the Commission to limit any approval on the current configuration of the service drive and trash collection areas, and to place a deadline on the completion of the work.

Commissioner Skaggs questioned whether fire equipment would have sufficient access to needed water and shut-off controls for the building. Mr. Faasse stated the valves were located outside the enclosure area.

Dave Hendershot of Paradigm Design, was present to explain the request and answer questions.

Commissioner Dills questioned why compliance had taken over two years to achieve. Mr. Hendershot stated it took considerable time for the store and owners to understand the regulations and work with the City on a proposed solution given the constraints of the site.

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

- Tim Strickler, 550 Lovett
- Judy Strickler, 550 Lovett

Supported improving the area.
Concerned about odor from dumpsters.

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

- A. Dills-Miller. That the request of Prevo's Family Markets on behalf of D&W of 2181 Wealthy, to allow the construction of a fenced enclosure at the northwest corner of the store instead of the enclosure required by ordinance be approved subject to the following conditions:
- A. The approvals granted are for a limited duration and will expire if there is substantial alternation of the current site that makes greater compliance with ordinance requirements feasible; and
 - B. The fenced enclosure as outlined in the plans submitted to the City Commission on October 15, 2012 be completed by December 1, 2012.

Commissioner Dills thanked D&W for submitting the revised plan.

Commissioner Graham expressed concern about gates being left open to impede traffic and asked D&W to monitor these gates to make sure they were kept closed.

Mayor Seibold relayed the concern of the neighbors about odor from the dumpsters. Mr. Faasse agreed it is occasionally a problem, but noted D&W has been very responsive to complaints when notified of issues.

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

- 2012-126. Doug Vredeveld of Vredeveld-Haefner presented the audited financial statements for the year ending June 30, 2012 and answered questions from the City Commission.

Mayor Seibold congratulated Finance Director Dood, City Manager Donovan and the rest of the staff for their efforts in controlling costs while maintaining city services. Commissioners Goebel and Johnson also thanked staff members for their hard work on the budget and audit processes.

- 2012-127. Johnson-Skaggs. Motion to approve the consent agenda as follows:

- A. Minutes of the regular meeting held October 1, 2012.
- B. Payroll disbursements of \$195,934.16; county and school disbursements of \$62,090.73, and total remaining disbursements of \$523,343.08.
- C. The reappointment of Aaron Smith to the ITP Board of Directors for a two-year term ending December 31, 2014.
- D. The purchase of two tamps for the Public Works Department from Frederickson Supply of Wyoming in the amount of \$6,090.62.
- E. Approval of an extended maintenance agreement with L3 Communications/Mobile-Vision, Inc. for the Public Safety Department's in-car video systems in the amount of \$3,730.00 for the period of September 7, 2011 through September 7, 2013.
- F. A contract with CenterPoint Energy for the purchase of natural gas for various city facilities.

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until November 5, 2012.

Karen K. Brower, City Clerk