

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COMMISSION  
CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

**Regular Meeting Held December 17, 2012**

Mayor Seibold called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the City Commission Chamber at the Community Center. Cub Scout Troop 3301 from Breton Elementary 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; Parks & Recreation Director Bunn; Zoning Administrator Faasse; City Clerk Brower

2012-143. No public comment was received.

2012-144. Commissioners Miller, Goebel and Johnson thanked the Cub Scouts for attending the meeting and for leading the Pledge of Allegiance.

City Manager Donovan reported the Fitch Rating Agency had reviewed the bond rating issued to East Grand Rapids and had agreed to maintain the AAA bond rating for the City.

Mayor Seibold congratulated City Manager Donovan and Finance Director Dood on the bond rating news as it reflected a lot of hard work on their part to implement the fiscal controls and policies needed to attain this high standing.

Mayor Seibold also reported the city's annual Employee Appreciation Luncheon was held earlier in the day. She thanked all the City employees who do such an outstanding job every day of the year in making East such a great place to live and work.

2012-145. A zoning variance hearing was held regarding the request of Michael Plimpton, owner of 2600 Richards, to allow the construction of a detached garage with a side yard setback of 1.6' instead of the required 3.0' and a separation from the house of 4.8' instead of the required 10.0.'

Zoning Administrator Faasse explained the applicant wished to replace the former garage with a new garage of the same size in the same location.

Commissioner Goebel asked whether the reduced separation between the home and the garage would create problems for the Public Safety Department. Mr. Faasse responded the fire crews were generally able to access any locations deemed necessary.

Commissioner Dills questioned the location of the easement at the rear of the property. Mr. Faasse showed the location of the easement and explained the easement did require the garage to be placed farther from the rear lot line than EGR ordinance required.

Pat Bell, 1511 Pinecrest, was present on behalf of the owner. He stated the old garage had been torn down and requested permission to put a new garage in the same location.

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

A. Graham-Miller. That the request of Michael Plimpton, owner of 2600 Richards, to allow the construction of a detached garage with a side yard setback of 1.6' instead of the required 3.0' and a separation from the house of 4.8' instead of the required 10.0' be approved.

Commissioner Dills noted that most garages in the immediate vicinity would need some type of variance to be reconstructed because of the lot sizes. In light of the circumstances, he did not feel there was a reason to deny the request.

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

2012-146. Johnson-Goebel. Motion to approve the consent agenda as follows:

- A. Minutes of the regular meeting held December 3, 2012.
- B. Payroll disbursements of \$196,325.20; county and school disbursements of \$42,746.46, and total remaining disbursements of \$317,987.40.
- C. A contract with Dixon Engineering in the amount of \$4,100.00 to provide professional services and preliminary engineering for refurbishing the elevated water tank.
- D. The hiring of M.E. Simpson Co., Inc. to perform a water leak detection survey of the City's water distribution system in the amount of \$7,353.00.
- E. The preliminary minutes of the Joint Facilities Committee meeting held October 11, 2012.
- F. The preliminary minutes of the Parks & Recreation Commission meeting held November 14, 2012.

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:12 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until January 7, 2012.

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Karen K. Brower, City Clerk