

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COMMISSION  
CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

**Regular Meeting Held April 15, 2013**

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; Public Safety Director Herald; City Assessor Mesik; Zoning Administrator Faasse; City Clerk Brower

2013-44. Linda Williams, 2125 Lake Drive, stated her home had been severely damaged from the work going on at the Bagley Townhomes project and asked the City Commission who is responsible for this damage. City Manager Donovan answered this would be a private matter between the property owners and she should contact the owner and/or developer about the damage.

2013-45. Commissioners Miller and Skaggs noted the thoughts and prayers of all residents of East Grand Rapids go out to those affected by the attack on the Boston Marathon.

City Manager Donovan reported he had attended the annual meeting of the ICMA Retirement Corporation advisory board in Washington DC in early April and gathered information on their plans and services as well as updates on the economy and pending legislation.

Mayor Seibold announced City Manager Brian Donovan had been presented with an Outstanding Achievement Award from the Michigan Municipal League last week in appreciation of his assistance with legislative efforts that would benefit many municipalities. The City Commission congratulated Mr. Donovan on this award and thanked him for his efforts.

2013-46. A zoning variance hearing was held regarding the request of Richard Sprague of 2332 Burchard to allow the construction of a two-story addition to the rear of the home creating an side yard setback of 3.1' instead of the required 6.1,' combined side yard setbacks of 11.9' instead of the required 15.7,' and a rear yard setback of 18.7' instead of the required 25.0'.

Zoning Administrator Faasse explained this was a non-conforming lot with reduced setbacks proportional to the lot size.

Richard and Deb Sprague, 2332 Burchard, were present to explain the request and answer questions.

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

The following communications were received at City Hall concerning this variance request:

- Terry & Rebecca Stockton, 2355 Burchard	In Favor.
- Allen & Samantha Greeson, 2337 Burchard	In Favor.
- Howard & Gloria Stuit, 2326 Burchard	In Favor.

- A. Miller-Graham. That the request of Richard Sprague of 2332 Burchard to allow the construction of a two-story addition to the rear of the home creating an side yard setback of 3.1' instead of the required 6.1,' combined side yard setbacks of 11.9' instead of the required 15.7,' and a rear yard setback of 18.7' instead of the required 25.0' be approved.

Commissioner Graham expressed support for the variance as this property backed up to the school and the addition would not affect any neighbors to the rear. Commissioner Goebel agreed.

Commissioner Miller noted variances have to be tolerated on these smaller lots and felt this was an acceptable request given the circumstances. Commissioner Skaggs concurred.

Commissioner Johnson felt there was sufficient greenspace behind the property and stated she would support the variance.

Commissioner Dills noted the house would triple in size and push the house too close to the lot lines in several areas. He felt this was just too much for an already undersized lot and stated he could not support this request.

Yeas: Goebel, Graham, Johnson, Miller, Skaggs and Seibold – 6  
Nays: Dills – 1

- 2013-47. Johnson-Skaggs. Motion to approve the consent agenda as follows:

- A. Minutes of the regular meeting held March 25, 2013.
- B. Payroll disbursements of \$185,694.47; county and school disbursements of \$-0-, and total remaining disbursements of \$231,355.77.
- C. A permit for a fireworks show on July 4, 2013 provided by Great Lakes Fireworks.
- D. Ratification of a contract with SonSeeker Pool Masonry of Grand Rapids to complete repairs to Wealthy Pool in the amount of \$5,100.00.
- E. The preliminary minutes of the Traffic Commission meeting held February 25, 2013. The City Commission took no action on the Traffic Commission's motion to adjust traffic signal flash schedules from 10 pm to 6:00 am each day. The motion will take effect immediately
- F. The preliminary minutes of the Parks & Recreation Commission meeting held February 11, 2013.
- G. The preliminary minutes of the Parks & Recreation Commission meeting held March 11, 2013.

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

- 2013-48. City Manager Donovan and City Assessor Mesik 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 6:53 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until May 6, 2013.

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Karen K. Brower, City Clerk