

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COMMISSION
CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

Regular Meeting Held May 6, 2013

Mayor Seibold called the meeting to order at 6:01 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; Finance Director Mushong; Zoning Administrator Faasse; City Clerk Brower

2013-49. Brian Ellis, 45 Brooktree Lane, was present on behalf of the EGRNow! Campaign to announce the launch of their 2013 campaign to raise funds to offset the \$1.5 million budget shortfall for the EGR Schools. Mayor Seibold thanked the EGR Schools Foundation for their willingness to assist with improving the quality of life for those in East Grand Rapids.

2013-50. Commissioners Dills, Miller, Goebel, Johnson and Skaggs complimented members of the city staff who worked to contain the flood waters and the damage to private property during the historic flooding in April. Many noted stories from residents who were very grateful for the assistance and the periodic updates provided by the City on the situation.

Commissioner Skaggs thanked the Swaney family for their contribution to the renovations at the Remington softball field. Mr. Skaggs voiced his support for the EGRNow campaign and encouraged citizens to educate themselves on the school funding situations and get involved in the solution. Commissioner Skaggs announced he would be running for election in November.

Mayor Seibold thanked the Public Safety Department, the Public Works Department and other employees who worked tirelessly during the recent flooding to help residents deal with flood waters, power outages and other issues. Mayor Seibold welcomed Finance Director Karen Mushong to the city, and announced that Gary Veldhof had returned to work following his medical leave.

2013-51. A zoning variance hearing was held regarding the request of Todd & Lori Terpstra of 917 Princeton to allow the construction of a new home with a building height at the rear walkout of 27' instead of the allowed 25.'

Zoning Administrator Faasse explained this request was being presented to the City Commission because of substantial changes from the plans presented in December 2012. The new plans propose a building height of 27' at the walkout level. Mr. Faasse noted this building height required City Commission approval because the lot did not meet street frontage requirements.

Lori Terpstra, 917 Princeton, explained the differences between the prior request and the current proposal. She noted the rear elevation had been changed to include only a partial walkout due to their engineer's recommendations. She further noted the attached garage was enlarged to avoid having a separate accessory building.

Mayor Seibold opened a public hearing. The following communications were received at City Hall concerning this variance request:

- Lawrence & Shirley Manning, 928 Princeton

No objection.

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

- A. Graham-Skaggs. That the request of Todd & Lori Terpstra of 917 Princeton to allow the construction of a new home with a building height at the rear walkout of 27' instead of the allowed 25' be approved.

Commissioner Dills thanked the applicants for purchasing and improving the property and expressed his support for the request.

Commissioner Miller expressed appreciation for the change to include a partial walkout to preserve the slopes behind the home. Commissioner Johnson agreed.

Commissioner Skaggs stated he supported the variance because this was a large lot and only required the variance due to the frontage issue.

Mayor Seibold thanked Mr. and Mrs. Terpstra for reconfiguring the plans for their new home.

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

2013-52. Johnson-Miller. Motion to approve the consent agenda as follows:

- A. Minutes of the regular meeting held April 15, 2013.
- B. Payroll disbursements of \$187,883.03; county and school disbursements of \$-0-, and total remaining disbursements of \$379,598.01.
- C. A hearing date of June 3, 2013 for public hearings on the proposed FY 2013-14 budget and the placement of delinquent accounts on the summer property tax bill.
- D. A contract with Video TechTronics of Comstock Park to install card access security and release buttons at the Community Center in the amount of \$5,590.00.
- E. A contract with Med 1 of Grand Rapids in the amount of \$12,320.00 for the completion of physical exams for sworn personnel of the Public Safety Department.
- F. A report on the Public Safety Department's decision to eliminate the paid-on-call firefighter program.

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:22 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until May 20, 2013.

Karen K. Brower, City Clerk