

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COMMISSION
CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

Regular Meeting Held July 1, 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, Miller, Skaggs and Mayor Seibold

Absent: Commissioner Johnson

Also Present: City Manager Donovan; City Attorney Huff; Public Works Director Feldt; Public Safety Director Herald; Parks & Recreation Director Bunn; Finance Director Mushong; City Clerk Brower

2013-73. No public comment was received.

2013-74. Commissioner Skaggs expressed condolences to the families of the firefighters killed in the Arizona wildfires and reminded everyone of the sacrifices the men and women in the public safety profession make every day. Mr. Skaggs also thanked those who serve on advisory boards for their service and commitment.

Commissioner Graham looked forward to a great 4th of July with all the events and fireworks planned by the City and the Community Foundation.

Commissioner Dills thanked the volunteers and staff who made the Reeds Lake Run such a fantastic event last Saturday, and thanked Kevin Philips at the school district for working on the Mehney Field turf replacement.

Commissioner Miller reminded everyone of the Reeds Lake Trail Blazer on July 4th and urged the community to sign up and walk around the lake to support the Reeds Lake Trail.

Commissioner Goebel thanked the staff members and volunteers who make all the wonderful summer events possible with their hours of hard work.

Mayor Seibold noted the Huntington Reeds Lake Run brought athletes from all over the world to East Grand Rapids, and the first ever Doggie Dash 5K was well received and a lot of fun for everyone.

2013-75. A zoning variance hearing was held regarding the request of Jennifer Beckett of 855 Bellclaire to allow:
A. the expansion of a nonconforming structure;
B. the construction of an addition creating a side yard setback of 7.0' instead of the required 20';
C. a front yard setback of 25.0' instead of the required 29.3'; and
D. a lot coverage of 39% instead of the allowed 35%.

Public Works Director Feldt explained the property owner had requested this application be postponed to a future meeting.

Mayor Seibold opened a public hearing. The following people were present to express their opinions:

- Jennifer Beckett

Explained she would be revising her request to address some of the concerns voiced by neighbors and would resubmit for a future meeting.

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

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| - Don & Sue Condit, 2555 Frederick | Opposed. |
| - James Black, 861 Bellclaire | Opposed. |
| - Ray Loeschner, 2565 Frederick | Opposed. |
| - Holly Goulet, 2602 Frederick | Opposed. |
| - Julie & Brad VanHoose, 2545 Frederick | Opposed. |
| - Jennifer Beckett, 855 Bellclaire | Request to postpone hearing until future meeting. |

No other public comment was received. Mayor Seibold adjourned the public hearing until a revised request is received. She asked staff to make sure new notices were sent to surrounding homeowners when the request is scheduled for a hearing.

- 2013-76. Adoption of an emergency ordinance amendment to Section 9.57E of Chapter 93 of Title IX of the City Code pertaining to fireworks regulations.

City Attorney Huff explained State law had recently been revised to allow local governments to prohibit the discharge of fireworks between the hours of 1:00 am and 8:00 am; therefore, the City is updating its ordinance to incorporate these hours. He recommended the City adopt this as an emergency ordinance amendment due to the 4th of July holiday this week being the biggest time of the year for fireworks.

- A. Graham-Skaggs. That an emergency ordinance amendment to Section 9.57E of Chapter 93 of Title IX of the City Code prohibiting the discharge of fireworks between the hours of 1:00 am and 8:00 am on the days allowed by State law be adopted as set forth in Exhibit "A" attached hereto.

Commissioner Miller questioned why other communities were enacting ordinances prohibiting fireworks beginning at midnight. Mr. Huff noted the State law only allowed large communities over a certain size to use the midnight prohibition and all others were restricted to 1:00 am.

City Manager Donovan reminded the public that fireworks were still illegal at all times on City property, school property and church property.

Public Safety Director Herald suggested the following safety procedures for those using fireworks: discharge by adults only, having a water supply close at hand in case of fire, keeping a safe distance from structures and bystanders, and keeping all fireworks out of the reach of children. He asked people to call the Public Safety Department with any problems that may occur.

Commissioner Graham expressed his support for the amendment as a way to allow residents to avoid being disturbed at all hours by loud fireworks.

Yeas: Dills, Goebel, Graham, Miller, Skaggs and Seibold – 6
Nays: -0-

- 2013-77. Consider request to approve a payment plan for pension liabilities.

Christian Veenstra from Watkins Ross Consulting explained the options available for funding the City's unfunded pension liabilities and the methodology used for the various scenarios. He recommended the MERS Alternate DB Cost option and suggested the City ask MERS for a plan to address what adjustments would be needed if the investment income projections are not met.

City Manager Donovan also recommended the MERS Alternate DB Cost option plan and stated this schedule would put the City in a good financial position for budgeting future defined benefit pension costs.

- A. Miller-Graham. That the “MERS Alternate DB Costs” plan for payment of liabilities relating to the City’s closed defined benefit plan be approved as outlined in the Finance Director’s memo dated June 20, 2013.

Yeas: Dills, Goebel, Graham, Miller, Skaggs and Seibold – 6
Nays: -0-

- 2013-78. Consider request to approve the placement of a statue of President Gerald R. Ford at the Community Center.

City Manager Donovan announced that residents Marty & Susan Allen wished to donate a 23” statue of President Ford for display at the Community Center. After walking around the site with the donor and the artist, the circular area at the north end of the Community Center was selected as a good site for the statue. The City will work with the artist to design a base and signage for the statue.

- A. Goebel-Miller. That a bronze statue of President Ford be placed on the circular plaza in front of the north end of the Community Center.

Yeas: Dills, Goebel, Graham, Miller, Skaggs and Seibold – 6
Nays: -0-

- 2013-79. Election of President for FY 2013-14.

- A. Skaggs-Dills. That Commissioner Graham be elected President of the East Grand Rapids City Commission to assume leadership duties in the absence of the Mayor for FY 2013-14.

Yeas: Dills, Goebel, Graham, Miller, Skaggs and Seibold – 6
Nays: -0-

- 2013-80. Dills-Goebel. Motion to approve the consent agenda as follows:

- A. Minutes of the regular meeting held June 17, 2013.
- B. Payroll disbursements of \$231.92; county and school disbursements of \$-0-, and total remaining disbursements of \$585,675.32.
- C. Advisory board appointments as follows:

Planning Commission	Kevin Brant, 721 Croswell Tom Getz, 655 Plymouth Mary Mapes, 2405 Elmwood	Three-year terms ending 6/30/16
Parks & Recreation Comm.	Brad Andrzejewski, 3105 Bonnell Judith Baxter, 3060 Hall Dirk Buth, 1900 San Lu Rae Richard Sprague, Jr., 2332 Burchard Pam Witting, 1019 Floral Stacey Wykoski, 2311 El Dorado	One-year terms ending 6/30/14
Library Commission	Carol Donovan, 2944 Hall Micki Benz, 817 Gladstone Jennifer Khorey, 2656 Boston Ellen Schendel, 429 Briarwood Joel Schultze, 933 Pinecrest Azizah Hines, 2244 Hall Judy Freeman, 425 Cambridge	One-year terms ending 6/30/2014
Board of Review	Patsy Dodgson, 1045 Conlon Martin Green, 2463 Oakwood Sam Helmrick, 984 Gladstone Paul Howland, 2809 Woodcliff Circle	One-year terms ending 6/30/2014

Traffic Commission

Janyce Huff, 2310 Anderson
Bob Saltsman, 2905 Reeds Lake Blvd
Camille Donnelly, 2153 Wealthy
Hunter Meriwether, 526 Lovett
Laura Roy, 1119 Lakeside

One-year terms ending 6/30/2014

- D. Reclassifications of the four department directors with a five percent increase in their salary range as outlined in the City Manager's memo of June 17, 2013.

City Manager Donovan noted he had studied other West Michigan communities and found EGR department director salary ranges should be adjusted by 5% to keep pace with other cities. He noted the department directors would not receive an automatic increase but would be eligible for up to 2% increases per year depending on their performance evaluations until they reach the top of the new pay scale.

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

Nays: -0-

The meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until July 15, 2013.

Karen K. Brower, City Clerk

Attachments: A – Ordinance amendment to Section 9.57E regarding fireworks regulations.

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