

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COMMISSION
CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

Regular Meeting Held October 21, 2013

Commission President Graham 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 and Skaggs

Absent: Mayor Seibold

Also Present: City Attorney Huff; City Manager Donovan; Public Works Director Feldt; Finance Director Mushong; Public Safety Director Herald; City Clerk Brower; Zoning Administrator Faasse; Captain Lark

2013-110. No public comment was received.

2013-111. Commissioner Skaggs commended the Public Works Department for their work fixing the pavement on Lake Drive following the water main break and working with residents on the detour route during the work.

Commissioner Johnson thanked the Public Safety Department for taking members of the commission to the shooting range for a demonstration of the various weapons used in the department.

2013-112. A zoning variance hearing was held regarding the request of William & Hilda Pearl of 2912 Beechwood to allow the construction of an addition to the home creating combined side yard setbacks of 14.3' instead of the required 18.0.'

Zoning Administrator Faasse explained the unusual shape lot with easements along one side limiting the options of adding on to the home.

David Kwekel of Kwekel Construction in Cedar Springs, was present to explain the request and answer questions.

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

- Richard & Mary Stevens, 2920 Beechwood In Favor.

No other public comment was received. President Graham closed the public hearing.

A. Miller-Skaggs. That the request of William & Hilda Pearl of 2912 Beechwood to allow the construction of an addition to the home creating combined side yard setbacks of 14.3' instead of the required 18.0' be approved.

Commissioner Miller supported the variance as it was a very small difference from what already existed. Commissioner Johnson agreed that extending the side of the home made sense and did not create problems for the neighbors.

Commissioner Dills felt these improvements would be a nice addition to the neighborhood.

President Graham agreed the addition would fit well with neighboring homes in spite of the odd-shaped lot.

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

Nays: -0-

- 2013-113. Doug Vredeveld of Vredeveld-Haefner presented the audited financial statements for the year ending June 30, 2013 and answered questions from the City Commission.
- 2013-114. Public Safety Director Herald presented the Public Safety Department's 2012 Annual Report. He noted the local and nationwide downward trend in crime rates and the major technology changes made within the department over the last year.
- 2013-115. Introduction of an ordinance amendment to amend Chapter 23 of Title II of the City Code pertaining to the City Sewer Service.

Public Works Director Feldt explained East Grand Rapids is a wholesale customer of the City of Grand Rapids and is required to mirror their policies and requirements. City Attorney Huff noted that while the new ordinance mostly deals with industrial and commercial sewer use, there are several areas that are specific to East Grand Rapids definitions and policies regarding residential sewer service.

- A. Johnson-Goebel. That an ordinance amendment to amend Chapter 23 of Title II of the City Code pertaining to the City Sewer Service be introduced as set forth in Exhibit "A" attached hereto.

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

- 2013-116. Introduction of an ordinance amendment to amend Section 1.211 and 1.212 of Chapter 5 of Title I of the City Code regarding purchases and contracts.

City Manager Donovan reported the \$2,500 purchasing authority for the City Manager had not been changed in over 20 years. He requested the limit be raised to \$5,000 to allow for inflation and to reduce the number of small capital items or basic services that need to wait for City Commission approval.

- A. Miller-Goebel. That an ordinance amendment to amend Section 1.211 and 1.212 of Chapter 5 of Title I of the City Code regarding purchases and contracts be introduced as set forth in Exhibit "B" attached hereto.

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

- 2013-117. Goebel-Johnson. Motion to approve the consent agenda as follows:

- A. Minutes of the regular meeting held October 7, 2013.
- B. Payroll disbursements of \$405,390.24; county and school disbursements of \$130,936.92, and total remaining disbursements of \$442,244.94.
- C. Approval of a debit card and related procedures as outlined in the Finance Director's memo of October 10, 2013.
- D. A contract with Kushner & Company to evaluate and make recommendations concerning the City's health plan and employee benefits at a cost not-to-exceed \$35,000.
- E. A five-year extension of the Water and Sanitary Sewer Service Agreement with the City of Grand Rapids until December 31, 2043.
- F. A resolution approving to the Grand Valley Metro Council's Articles of Incorporation adding the Village of Sand Lake as set forth in Exhibit "C" attached hereto.
- G. A resolution endorsing the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council's application on behalf of the West Michigan Prosperity Alliance for a Regional Prosperity Initiative grant as set forth in Exhibit "D" attached hereto.

- H. Quarterly financial reports for the period ended June 30, 2013.
- I. Preliminary minutes of the Planning Commission meeting held August 13, 2013.
- J. Preliminary minutes of the Joint Facilities Committee meeting held September 9, 2013.
- K. Preliminary minutes of the Parks & Recreation Commission meeting held September 9, 2013.
- L. Preliminary minutes of the Library Commission meeting held September 23, 2013.

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:39 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until November 4, 2013.

Karen K. Brower, City Clerk

Attachments: A – Ordinance Amendment to Chapter 23 regarding City Sewer Service.
B – Ordinance Amendment to Section 1.211 and 1.212 pertaining to purchases and contracts.
C – Contract extension with the City of Grand Rapids for Water and Sewer Service
D – Resolution approving Amendment #37 to the GVMC Articles of Incorporation.
E – Resolution supporting GVMC Regional Prosperity Initiative grant application

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