

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COMMISSION
CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

Regular Meeting Held February 3, 2014

Mayor Seibold called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. in the City Commission Chamber at the Community Center and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Commissioners Duncan, Goebel, Graham, Miller, Skaggs and Mayor Seibold

Absent: Commissioner Dills

Also Present: City Attorney Huff; Public Works Director Feldt; City Clerk Brower; Finance Director Mushong; Parks & Recreation Director Bunn; Zoning Administrator Faasse

2014-13. John Decker, 5879 Stonecrop Dr, Belmont, was present to introduce himself as a candidate for the 73rd District House of Representative seat on the August ballot.

2014-14. Commissioner Skaggs reported he had used the City's website to report an issue in his neighborhood and that the problem was addressed very quickly.

Commissioner Graham thanked the public Works crews for their snow removal efforts in recent weeks. He noted East Grand Rapids neighborhoods are much easier to navigate than other parts of the metropolitan area.

Mayor Seibold also thanked the Public Works crews for their work to keep the roads clear recently. She noted a new sidewalk plow has just been received and would be put into service as soon as possible. She thanked the residents for their understanding while the city was waiting for a replacement.

2014-15. A zoning variance hearing was held regarding the request of Jim & Maryam Trout of 519 Edgemere to allow the expansion of a nonconforming portion of the home by adding a partial second story.

Zoning Administrator Faasse explained a variance was needed to expand a nonconforming structure.

Commissioner Skaggs asked if the second platted lot owned by the applicant was a buildable lot. Mr. Faasse responded it did not appear to contain enough square footage, but that he had not looked at it closely.

Jim & Maryam Trout, 519 Edgemere, were present to explain the request and answer questions. Mr. Trout stated the next door neighbor had given them verbal support of his plans but had not put it in writing.

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

- Ken & Michele Ross, 1945 Wealthy No objection.

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

Mayor Seibold asked Public Works Director Feldt to explain how an upcoming proposal for a new waterfront ordinance would affect this property and this expansion project. Mr. Feldt explained that the ordinance being drafted would include a requirement for any addition of more than 100 square feet within 50' of the high water mark to implement some type of stormwater management. He noted that since this property was near one of the many inlets emptying into the lakes, the proposed regulations would apply to this project. Mayor Seibold explained to the applicants that some type of vegetative strip or landscaping to filter stormwater was likely the type of stormwater management that would be required.

Mayor Seibold requested, if approved, a condition be added to the variance to require the homeowners to work with city staff to comply with whatever ordinance requirements are adopted by the City Commission.

- A. Goebel-Miller. That the request of Jim & Maryam Trout of 519 Edgemere to allow the expansion of a nonconforming portion of the home by adding a partial second story be approved with the condition that the applicant must work with city staff to comply with any new regulations forthcoming from the Shoreline Buffer Subcommittee.

Commissioner Miller noted the footprint of the home was changing only slightly and only behind the home where it would not impact neighbors. He did not feel the second story addition would affect the neighboring property significantly.

Commissioner Skaggs expressed concern about the second-story addition so close to the property line, and felt other options might be available. He stated he would support the variance, but had reservations.

Mayor Seibold did not feel the addition would impact the neighbors as there was already a garage with a pitched roof along the property line.

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

- 2014-16. Graham-Skaggs. Motion to approve the consent agenda as follows:

- A. To approve the minutes of the regular meeting held January 20, 2014.
- B. To approve payroll disbursements of \$195,349.14; county and school disbursements of \$76,195.72, and total remaining disbursements of \$369,728.91.
- C. The appointment of Ann Nowak to the Board of Review for a term ending June 30, 2014.
- D. The quarterly financial reports for the period ended December 31, 2013.
- E. Request to approve the closure of the Streets & Utilities Building Fund and the transfer of remaining amounts to other funds as recommended by the Finance Director.
- F. The recommendation of the Finance Director that no changes be made to water and sewer rates at this time.
- G. Ratification of the emergency purchase of a tool cat machine from the Bobcat Company of West Fargo, North Dakota in the amount of \$49,181.17 and approval of a budget amendment in the amount of \$27,121.20 from the MERF fund balance to cover costs not covered by insurance coverage.

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:34 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until February 17, 2014.

Karen K. Brower, City Clerk