

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COMMISSION
CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

Regular Meeting Held April 21, 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 Dills, Duncan, Graham, Miller, Skaggs and Mayor Seibold

Absent: Commissioner Goebel

Also Present: City Manager Donovan; City Attorney Huff; Acting Public Works Director Lark; Finance Director Mushong; City Clerk Brower; City Assessor Mesik, Engineer Slonecki

2014-46. Steve Edison, 2855 Elmwood, spoke on behalf of the EGR School Board regarding the May 6th Bond Proposal Election. He outlined the \$30.9 million request which would address safety concerns, and update technology and replace building items such as boilers and roofing materials.

Joseph Becker, 433 Cambridge, presented 61 signatures relating to a "Petition to Conduct a History Study" and asked the City Commission to establish a study committee and to enact a six-month moratorium on the demolition of structures until a study can be conducted. Mr. Becker stated the proposed district should be bordered by Wealthy, Cambridge, Lake Drive and Briarwood.

Miriam Aukerman, 425 Briarwood, presented maps showing support and opposition from property owners within the proposed district. She also asked for a moratorium preventing the demolition of homes within the proposed district.

Jennifer Metz, 303 Briarwood, asked about the status of the preliminary study approved by the City Commission at its last meeting. She stated transparency was important in this process and complained that the tone of City Commission meetings was unfriendly and unwilling to listen to the residents. She also questioned whether a company already on retainer with the City for other matters would submit a neutral report on the benefits of establishment of a historic district.

2014-47. Miller-Dills. Motion to add to the consent agenda a request to adopt a resolution designating a new Street Administrator for Michigan Department of Transportation purposes. A roll call vote was taken.

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

Nays: -0-

2014-48. Mayor Seibold showed a flowchart detailing the process of establishing a historic district. She stated that the entire process referred to in the chart would begin only after a decision was made to go ahead with setting up a historic district and that no such decision had been made yet. She reported she had heard from many residents in the last several weeks with various opinions and questions, and the City Commission was currently gathering information on the legal requirements, the process involved, and the benefits and drawbacks of the entire issue before taking any action toward forming a committee to form a historic preservation district. She reiterated that the committee being formed was being asked to research the process involved and make a report to the City Commission before a decision is made on whether or not to move forward. She announced the following residents are being appointed to the study committee: Fil Iorio, Lynn Goede, James Bill and Ellen Schendel, along with City Commissioners Phil Skaggs, Claudine Duncan, Brian Miller and City Manager Brian Donovan. She stated she would be contact these people to confirm the appointments and to work on setting up the first meeting of the group. Mayor Seibold noted that the City Commission had declined to take action on earlier requests to enact a moratorium on the demolition of homes and that none of the commissioners had spoken to her about revisiting this issue at this time.

Commissioner Skaggs asked the residents to stay informed about this issue and to withhold judgment until the committee finalizes its research and reports.

Commissioner Duncan stated she looked forward to beginning the research and to working with all the interested residents.

2014-49. Dills-Duncan. Motion to approve the consent agenda as follows:

- A. To approve the minutes of the regular meeting held March 31, 2014.
- B. To approve payroll disbursements of \$403,481.91; county and school disbursements of \$-0-, and total remaining disbursements of \$160,081.78.
- C. A one-year contract with Olameter Inc. for water meter reading service at a unit price of \$0.885 per meter read, and authorization for staff to renew the contract for up to four additional one-year terms at the same price if the service is satisfactory.
- D. The quarterly financial report for the period ended March 31, 2014.
- E. A resolution naming Engineer Joseph Slonecki as the East Grand Rapids Street Administrator for Michigan Department of Transportation purposes as set forth in Exhibit "A" attached hereto.

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

2014-50. Finance Director Mushong, City Assessor Mesik and Engineer Slonecki gave an overview of the upcoming budget process and highlighted some of the financial issues facing the City in the future.

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until May 5, 2014.

Karen K. Brower, City Clerk

Attachments: A – Resolution designating a Street Administrator to the Michigan Department of Transportation.

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