

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COMMISSION
CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

Regular Meeting Held October 20, 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, Johnson, Skaggs and Mayor Seibold

Absent: Commissioner Miller

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

2014-126. Commissioner Skaggs reminded everyone to vote on Tuesday, November 4th!

City Manager Donovan announced the Lakeside Drive construction project is nearing completion. The line painting will be done Tuesday or Wednesday and then the road will reopen to vehicle traffic.

Mayor Seibold thanked those who volunteered for and attended the Pioneer Spaghetti Dinner on Friday, October 17th. The dinner was hosted by the East Grand Rapids Community Foundation as a fundraiser for the Reeds Lake Trail Boulevard Bridge Project.

2014-127. A zoning variance hearing was held regarding the request of Catherine Giguere of 2628 Richards to allow the construction of a detached garage creating a rear garage setback of 1.7' instead of the required 3.0', a side garage setback of 1.8' instead of the required 3.0' and to allow a nonconforming structure to be reconstructed.

City Attorney Huff outlined the request to build a new garage in the same footprint as the structure that collapsed under the ice and snow last winter. The applicant plans to reuse the foundation and concrete from the former garage. He noted the applicant is in the process of getting written approval from Consumers Energy to place the structure in an easement owned by Consumers Power and recommended that the City Commission condition variance approval on written agreement by Consumers Energy for this project.

Catherine Giguere, 2628 Richards, explained she has hired an attorney to work with Consumers Energy on the necessary approval. She also noted that many garages in her neighborhood are located very close to the property lines.

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

- Ardy Frey, 2641 Albert	In Favor.
- Glenn Hendrix, 2621 Richards	In Favor.
- Jill Willey, 2624 Richards	In Favor.
- Patrick VanderVeen, 2615 Albert	In Favor.
- Jack Greene, 2645 Richards	In Favor.

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

- A. Graham-Duncan. That the request of Catherine Giguere of 2628 Richards to allow the construction of a detached garage creating a rear garage setback of 1.7' instead of the required 3.0', a side garage setback of 1.8' instead of the required 3.0' and to allow a nonconforming structure to be reconstructed be approved with the condition that written acknowledgement from Consumers Energy to allow the garage to be constructed in the previous location within the easement be submitted to the Public Works Department before a building permit is issued.

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

- 2014-128. Doug Vredeveld of Vredeveld-Haefner presented the FY 2013-14 audited financial statements and answered questions from the City Commission.

Mayor Seibold thanked Finance Director Mushong, City Manager Donovan and all employees for their careful spending and monitoring of the city's financial resources.

- 2014-129. Skaggs-Johnson. Motion to approve the consent agenda as follows:

- A. To approve the minutes of the regular meeting held October 6, 2014.
- B. To approve payroll disbursements of \$221,077.34; county and school disbursements of \$34,441.96, and total remaining disbursements of \$286,564.46.
- C. The purchase of fitness equipment for the employee fitness room from American Home Fitness in the amount of \$6,306.46.
- D. A contract with ASR Corporation to provide health benefit administration services for the employee benefit plans.
- E. The preliminary minutes of the Planning Commission meeting held September 9, 2014.

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

- 2014-130. Aaron Cline, 540 Rosewood, expressed his opposition to the City's placement of a fence alongside the Public Works building to block access to the channel between Reeds Lake and Fisk Lake. He felt this was a navigable waterway and should be available for public use. City Attorney Huff answered that Fisk Lake was a private lake with no public access and that the City was simply reconstructing a fence that existed for many years but was taken down during the renovations to the Public Works building a few years ago. The channel is likely not a navigable waterway since there are two culverts which would impede travel and commerce. Mr. Cline argued that there was no city ordinance prohibiting access to the channel and therefore the city should allow people to use the channel to access Fisk Lake.

The meeting adjourned at 6:41 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until November 3, 2014.

Karen K. Brower, City Clerk