

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COMMISSION
CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

Regular Meeting Held February 2, 2015

Commission President Graham called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the City Commission Chambers at the East Grand Rapids Community Center and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Commissioners Dills, Duncan, Graham, Johnson, Miller and Skaggs

Absent: Mayor Seibold

Also Present: City Manager Donovan; City Attorney Huff; Assistant City Manager LaFave; Finance Director Mushong; Zoning Administrator Faasse; City Clerk Brower

2015-15. Commissioner Dills noted the recent news stories about the statewide sales tax proposal for the May ballot and felt the City Commission took the right approach by offering residents the choice to approve a local street millage without completely relying on the State proposal.

Commissioner Miller thanked the Public Works crews for their work to clear streets and sidewalks following the weekend snowstorm, and thanked Assistant City Manager LaFave for keeping everyone updated on the progress of cleanup efforts.

Commissioner Johnson thanked Mr. LaFave for the graphic depicting how residents can clear driveways to minimize the snow piles left by the plows. Commissioner Johnson also thanked City Engineer Slonecki for his work with the Michigan Department of Transportation on the Reeds Lake Trail bridge project funding.

President Graham noted the new fencing along the Reeds Lake Trail near Hodenpyl Rock had been installed and looks very nice.

2015-16. Continuation of zoning variance request of Cree Unit Properties, owner of 2604 Albert to allow the construction of a one-stall garage creating an overall lot coverage of buildings and pavement of 46.3% instead of the maximum allowable 40%.

City Attorney Huff explained that Commissioner Duncan needed to cast her vote on this issue to break the tie from the last meeting.

Commissioner Duncan stated she had reviewed the application materials and listened to the recording of the previous meeting. She then cast her vote against of approving the variance request.

Final vote on 2015-08-A, as amended:

2015-08-A. Dills-Miller. That the request of Cree Unit Properties, owner of 2604 Albert to allow the construction of a one-stall garage creating an overall lot coverage of buildings and pavement of 46.3% instead of the maximum allowable 40% be approved with the condition that 170 square feet of pervious pavers be used in the driveway and apron area to reduce the lot coverage to 44.6%.

Yeas: Johnson, Miller and Seibold – 3

Nays: Dills, Duncan, Graham, Skaggs – 4

2015-17. Request to adopt a resolution accepting a Michigan Department of Transportation grant for the Reeds Lake Trail Boardwalk project.

Assistant City Manager LaFave reported staff had worked with the Department of Transportation staff over the last several months to provide more information on the project and had secured additional funding for the Reeds Lake Trail Boulevard Bridge project.

- A. Dills-Johnson. That a resolution accepting Michigan Department of Transportation funds and committing to matching funds and future maintenance of trail be adopted as set forth in Exhibit "A" attached hereto.

City Manager Donovan thanked the East Grand Rapids Community Foundation for their continued efforts to raise the matching funds needed for this project.

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

2015-18. Discussion of Spring Break meeting.

- A. Miller-Johnson. That the meeting scheduled for April 6, 2015 be moved to Monday, March 30, 2015 at 6:00 pm.

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

2015-19. Duncan-Johnson. Motion to approve the consent agenda as follows:

- A. To approve the minutes of the regular meeting held January 19, 2015.
- B. To approve payroll disbursements of \$204,187.90; county and school disbursements of \$83,377.50, and total remaining disbursements of \$480,576.21.
- C. Quarterly financial report for the period ending December 31, 2014.
- D. The purchase of two v-plows from B&B Truck Equipment in the amount of \$10,500.00.
- E. Six-month appointments to advisory boards as follows: John Arendshorst of 2056 Wilshire to the Planning Commission, Betsy Brown of 1410 Sherwood to the Library Commission, and Jeff Stoltz of 1118 Orchard to the Construction Board of Appeals.

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

2015-20. Taylor Stonehouse of Cree Unit Properties asked if there was a lot coverage percentage that the city commission would be willing to accept for a variance request if his company could revise their plans further. City Manager Donovan stated that a subcommittee was being formed to research this issue and that until that was finished, it was not possible to offer direction on a specific percentage.

The meeting adjourned at 6:13 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until February 16, 2015.

Karen K. Brower, City Clerk

Attachments: A – Resolution accepting MDOT funding for the Reeds Lake Trail Boulevard Bridge project.

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