

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COMMISSION
CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

Regular Meeting Held November 2, 2015

Mayor Seibold 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, Skaggs and Mayor Seibold

Absent: None

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

2015-112. No public comment was received.

2015-113. Commissioner Johnson reminded everyone to vote in tomorrow's important city election.

Commissioner Graham congratulated Blodgett Hospital on being named one of the 50 Greenest Hospitals in America by Beckett's Hospital Review. He also announced that the website homesnacks.com had named East Grand Rapids as the Happiest City in Michigan.

Mayor Seibold also encouraged residents to voice their opinions in tomorrow's city election.

Commissioner Skaggs reminded kids and adults to be safe by wearing their bike helmets. Mayor Seibold added that wearing lights and reflective clothing would also help visibility in the dark.

2015-114. Zoning variance request by Judy Maggini of 1916 Lake Drive to allow the construction of a new single-family home with a front yard setback of 104.3' instead of the required average setback of 135.3'.

Zoning Administrator Faasse explained the setback request had been revised from 94.3' to 104.3' and the house had been reversed so that the garage was now on the west side of the property.

Robert Sears of Sears Architects reported the home would be moved 10' farther from the street and that the mass of house would still be located behind the setback line with only the garage needing the variance.

Mayor Seibold opened a public hearing. The following people were present to express their opinions:

- John McCullough, 1874 Lake Drive Spoke about the history of the entire development and the promises made during that process. Would prefer that no home be built, but especially opposed to having the garage next to their home and so close to the property line.

The following communications were received at City Hall concerning this variance request:

- Jacqueline & Donald McCulloch, 1874 Lake Opposed.

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

2015- -A. Dills-Duncan. That the revised request of Judy Maggini of 1916 Lake Drive to allow the construction of a new single-family home with a front yard setback of 104.3' instead of the required average setback of 135.3' be approved.

Commissioner Dills asked that the original condominium documents be reviewed to make sure that this new home did not violate any of those agreements. Mr. Dills stated he would support the setback variance since the applicant had made the effort to comply with the commission's discussions at its last meeting.

Mayor Seibold thanked the architect and new property owners for revising the request to reduce the front setback variance needed.

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

2015-115. Doug Vredevelde of Vredevelde Haefner reviewed the audited financial statements for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2015 and answered questions from the City Commission. Mr. Vredevelde and Finance Director Mushong explained the unfunded pension liability now shown in the financial statements and how this issue was affecting other municipalities.

2015-116. Acquisition of property from the East Grand Rapids Public Schools for reconstruction of Lake Drive at the Breton-Lakeside intersection.

Assistant City Manager LaFave explained the plans to reconstruct the Lake Drive-Breton/Lakeside intersection in 2016 and the need for additional right-of-way to allow standard 11'-wide lanes. He noted the city would also be responsible for moving the school sign and planting new trees if needed. Utility companies are being contacted about moving utility poles.

2015- -A. Duncan-Johnson. That the acquisition of 15' of right-of-way from the East Grand Rapids Public Schools in the amount of \$1.00 and the execution of a temporary grading easement adjacent to the Lake Drive entrance of the East Grand Rapids Middle School be approved as set forth in Exhibits "A" and "B" as set forth in Exhibit "A" attached hereto.

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

2015-117. Peter Varga, Chief Executive Officer of The Rapid gave an update on operations and future plans, including new routes in Cascade Township and to the Allendale campus of Grand Valley State University, new technology being implemented, and conversion of some equipment to compressed natural gas.

2015-118. Graham-Johnson. To approve the consent agenda as follows:

2015- -A. To approve the minutes of the regular meeting held October 19, 2015.

2015- -B. Report of Finance Committee on disbursement of funds: payroll disbursements of \$208,031.28; county and school disbursements of \$82,418.87, and total remaining disbursements of \$1,112,530.74.

2015- -C. Extension of the contract with Corby Energy Services of Bellevill, MI in the amount of \$260,731 for sewer main lining of Audobon, Elmwood, Wilshire, Conlon, Lake Drive and Frederick.

2015- -D. A contract with Plummer's Environmental Services for televising, limited cleaning and pipeline assessment and certification of sanitary and storm system infrastructure with partial funding from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.

2015- -E. The purchase of hardware, software and consulting services of i3 Business Solutions to upgrade the City's server infrastructure and implement a storage area network at a cost not-to-exceed \$31,999.00.

2015- -F. Appraisal services from Heinowski Appraisal and Consulting for a tax tribunal appeal in the amount of \$6,900.00.

2015- -G. Contracts for employee benefit plan components as follows:

2015- -H. Contracts with Symetra for stop loss insurance, Physicians Care as the PPO provider and Madison National Life for life/ADD insurance and long-term disability, and with ASR Corporation for third-party administration for the employee benefit programs as outlined in the agenda materials memo dated October 20, 2015.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:08 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until November 16, 2015.

Karen K. Brower, City Clerk

Attachments: A – Warranty Deed for right-of-way acquisition from EGR Public Schools.
 B – Temporary Permit to change land contours.

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