

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COMMISSION  
CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

**Regular Meeting Held December 21, 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, Hamrick, Miller, Skaggs, Zagel and Mayor Seibold

Absent: None

Also Present: City Attorney Huff; City Manager Donovan; Assistant City Manager LaFave; Public Safety Director Herald; Finance Director Mushong; Public Safety Director Herald; City Clerk Brower; Communications Specialist Greenleaf

2015-133. No public comment was received.

2015-134. Mayor Seibold asked commissioners to review the city's street and sidewalk plowing guidelines so they could answer resident questions this winter.

2015-135. Discussion of Breton/Lake Drive intersection crosswalks.

Assistant City Manager LaFave reviewed the reconstruction planned for the Lake/Lakeside/Breton intersection and the options for crosswalks for this project: asphalt intersection with painted crosswalks (currently included in the project estimate of \$1,515,000), asphalt intersection with brick paver crosswalks in a concrete ribbon (added cost of \$40,000); or a concrete intersection with brick paver crosswalks (added cost of \$65,000). He noted the brick pavers may require additional maintenance in the future if they are damaged by plow blades. He further noted the concrete intersection would be more expensive to repair in the event of utility work, such as repairs to the 36" water main that runs under Lake Drive. City Manager Donovan reported the federal funding available on this project has been capped at \$600,000, so any additional costs approved by the commission would be the responsibility of the city through its road funding. The additional \$40,000 - \$65,000 would mean less money for local street resurfacing projects.

Commissioner Miller questioned how other cities are approaching intersection design and maintenance. Mr. LaFave stated he has not noticed a consistent theme or policy regarding amenities at intersections.

2015- -A. Miller-Duncan. To direct staff to proceed with the asphalt intersection with brick paver crosswalks in a concrete ribbon as for the Lake/Lakeside/Breton intersection for the 2016 construction season.

Commissioner Miller stated the city has invested in these same amenities in other locations in and around Gaslight Village and doing the same here will create the gateway to the central area of the city. He felt the brick crosswalks would also encourage people to pay more attention to the crosswalks which would improve safety. He also felt the city's resurfacing program was slightly ahead of schedule after last year's cost savings and that this addition was worth the investment.

Commissioner Duncan agreed, stating she felt these improvements were appropriate since this was a major intersection in our community.

Commissioner Skaggs reported he had found some research indicating brick crosswalks do improve safety due to higher visibility and the surface texture difference. Mr. Skaggs agreed the additional funding seems reasonable given that will extend the aesthetics of Gaslight Village. He felt saving the funding on other projects allowed financial flexibility and stated the slight increase in maintenance costs were not significant.

Commissioner Dills favored function over fashion and felt this intersection was not a part of Gaslight Village. He suggested bidding the brick pavers as an alternate during the bid process to see if we can afford them and making a decision when the bids come in.

Commissioner Hamrick supported the brick crosswalks because they may increase safety in an area heavily used by students and other pedestrians.

Mayor Seibold stated that while she agreed the brick crosswalks would look better and may possibly increase safety, she felt the added cost and maintenance were not worth reducing the funding for other projects.

Yeas: Duncan, Hamrick, Miller, Skaggs and Zagel – 5  
Nays: Dills and Seibold – 2

2015-136. Discussion of Breton/Lake Drive intersection traffic signal options.

Assistant City Manager LaFave outlined three options for traffic signal poles at this intersection: steel/wood poles with wires; basic black metal tubes with a mast arm, or decorate black metal tubing with mast arm. The basic black metal poles/arms are included in the engineering estimate at the present time, so using the first option would save money and upgrading to the decorative poles would increase the cost of the project. The metal pole/arm are more expensive but have a much longer service life.

2015- -A. Duncan-Skaggs. To direct staff to proceed with the decorative metal signal poles/arms for the Lake/Lakeside/Breton intersection for the 2016 construction season at an additional cost of approximately \$50,000.

Commissioner Duncan felt the decorative poles would complete the nicer look for this intersection, especially since these same poles are used less than a quarter mile away at the Wealthy intersection.

Mayor Seibold felt the decorative poles were not necessary and no one would notice them. Commissioner Skaggs supported the upgrade to decorative poles to complete the look and feel of this gateway intersection leading to the community center, schools and Gaslight Village. He noted the city had invested in the ornamental street lighting through this area and this would complete the look.

Commissioner Dills spoke against the decorative posts for cost reasons.

Commissioner Hamrick supported consistency with the surrounding decorative traffic signals and lighting.

Yeas: Duncan, Hamrick, Miller, Skaggs – 4  
Nays: Dills, Zagel and Seibold – 3

Commissioner Dills again suggested bidding these amenities as upgrades so that the commission could make changes at a later date if necessary.

2015-137. Zagel-Miller. To approve the consent agenda as follows:

2015- -A. To approve the minutes of the regular meeting held December 7, 2015.

2015- -B. Report of Finance Committee on disbursement of funds: payroll disbursements of \$213,114.69; county and school disbursements of \$62,223.08, and total remaining disbursements of \$323,028.16.

2015- -C. The reappointment of Mayor Anna Seibold to the Interurban Transit Partnership Board for a two-year term ending December 31, 2017.

2015- -D. The Public Safety Department's quarterly report for the period ending September 30, 2015.

Yeas: Dills, Duncan, Hamrick, Miller, Skaggs, Zagel and Seibold – 7  
Nays: -0-

The meeting adjourned at 7:18 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until January 4, 2016.