

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COMMISSION
CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

Regular Meeting Held March 7, 2016

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: Assistant City Attorney Buchanan; City Manager Donovan; Assistant City Manager LaFave; Parks & Recreation Director Bunn; Zoning Administrator Faasse; City Clerk Brower

2016-23. No public comment was received.

2016-24. Commissioner Dills commented on how different it was to chair the last meeting as opposed to participating without being in charge of the meeting.

Commissioners Hamrick and Skaggs reminded everyone to vote on Tuesday, March 8.

Commissioner Zagel urged caution when venturing onto the ice with the recent warmer temperatures.

City Manager Donovan announced the city would be starting the yard waste pickup program early on Monday, March 14 due to recent windstorms causing downed limbs and because of the recent warm weather.

Mayor Seibold thanked the Public Works crews for their work during recent snow storms and water main breaks. She noted Commissioner Skaggs was present during a presidential campaign stop by Hillary Clinton earlier in the day.

2016-25. A zoning variance hearing was held regarding the request of Andrew & Sara Baudo, owners of 725 Croswell, to allow the construction of a new home with a front yard setback of 8.2' instead of the required 25.0.'

Zoning Administrator Faasse reviewed the request to build a new home closer to the front setback than allowed by ordinance. He noted the City Commission had amended a motion at the last meeting to allow the home to be built at 8.2' from the front yard setback to better match the adjacent properties.

Joel Peterson of J. Peterson Homes, stated the proposed home would meet all other zoning requirements. He felt building the home closer to the front setback would create a better aesthetic look to the street.

Mayor Seibold opened a public hearing. No public comment was received. Mayor Seibold closed the public hearing.

2016- -A. Skaggs-Miller. That the request of Andrew & Sara Baudo, owners of 725 Croswell, to allow the construction of a new home with a front yard setback of 8.2' from the front-porch canopy instead of the required 25.0' be approved as amended at the meeting held February 15, 2016.

Commissioner Skaggs thanked the applicants for their patience and stated he looked forward to seeing the new home built.

Commissioner Duncan spoke in favor of the amended request as she felt it would look much better than building the home 25' from the sidewalk.

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

Nays: -0-

- 2016-26. A zoning variance hearing was held regarding the request of Paul & Kerry Hegele of 2073 Hall to allow the construction of a front porch creating a front yard setback of 26.7' instead of the established setback of 28.5' and the construction of a new detached garage with a side setback of 0.8' instead of the required 3.0.'

Zoning Administrator Faasse explained the plan to build a new garage farther back on the lot but with the same side setback as the existing garage. The applicants also wish to add a front porch to the home.

Jeff Stoltz, builder for the applicant, showed photos of the existing front door and explained the proposal to add a better front porch with a seating area and to maximize the back yard space by moving the garage closer to the rear property line.

Mayor Seibold opened a public hearing. No public comment was received. Mayor Seibold closed the public hearing.

- 2016- -A. Zagel-Miller. That the request of Paul & Kerry Hegele of 2073 Hall to allow the construction of a front porch creating a front yard setback of 26.7' instead of the established setback of 28.5' be approved.

Commissioner Zagel felt the front porch request was reasonable and would add a nice useable space.

Mayor Seibold stated her support to allow the front porch encroachment because it was impractical to move the whole house to allow a new porch.

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

- 2016- -B. Hamrick-Dills. That the request of Paul & Kerry Hegele of 2073 Hall to allow the construction of a new detached garage with a side setback of 0.8' instead of the required 3.0' be approved.

Commissioner Dills did not support the request because of the difficulties in building and maintaining a structure so close to the property line. He felt there was enough space behind the house to allow vehicles to maneuver without placing the garage so close to the lot line.

Commissioner Duncan agreed and stated the side setback requirements were in place to prevent buildings so close to the lot lines for this very reason.

Commissioner Miller spoke against placing the garage so close to the lot line because it would be hard to maintain in the future.

Mayor Seibold noted the city commission tried to be consistent across the entire city and did not generally grant variances where structures were being demolished and rebuilt when there was enough room to comply.

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

- 2016-27. Final Reading of an ordinance amendment to add Chapter 99A to Title IX of the City Code pertaining to preliminary emergency ground ambulance service.

City Manager Donovan explained the agreement reached by several communities to formalize arrangements for ambulance service. He stated the agreements would continue the great working relationships already in place and allow the standardization of procedures and reporting.

Mayor Seibold asked if the ambulance consortium would report to the local governments periodically on the process. Mr. Donovan stated the KEMS group would be able to make presentations and submit regular reports. Mr. Donovan further noted the agreements provide a procedure to work through service issues and to rebid the services if necessary.

Patrick Lickiss of AMR was present to support the agreements and the very collaborative process that had developed the service areas, standards and procedures. He stated the new agreements would allow the ambulance companies to better plan for staffing and to streamline some areas of their operations.

2016- -A. Miller-Skaggs. That an ordinance amendment to add Chapter 99A to Title IX of the City Code adopting an agreement for ground ambulance services be introduced as set forth in Exhibit "A" attached hereto.

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

2016-28. Final Reading of an ordinance amendment to add Section 9.703 to Chapter 99A of Title IX of the City Code pertaining to the primary ambulance service area.

2016- -A. Zagel-Duncan. That an ordinance amendment t to add Section 9.703 to Chapter 99A of Title IX of the City Code pertaining to the primary ambulance service area be introduced as set forth in Exhibit "B" attached hereto and the agreement approved as set forth in Exhibit "C" attached hereto.

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

2016-29. Duncan-Miller. To approve the consent agenda as follows:

2016- -A. To approve the minutes of the regular meeting held February 15, 2016.

2016- -B. Report of Finance Committee on disbursement of funds: payroll disbursements of \$422,547.37; county and school disbursements of \$369,843.97, and total remaining disbursements of \$689,265.26.

2016- -C. Resolution authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to sign project contracts with the Michigan Department of Transportation for the Lake Drive/Breton project as set forth in Exhibit "D" attached hereto.

2016- -D. List of FY 2016-17 meeting dates for the City Commission and advisory boards.

2016- -E. Approval of a fireworks permit for Great Lakes Fireworks on behalf of the City of East Grand Rapids for the July 4, 2016 fireworks show.

2016- -F. The purchase of computer hardware from Southern Computer Warehouse in the amount of \$8,998.00 for routine computer replacements.

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:41 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until March 21, 2016.

Karen K. Brower, City Clerk

Attachments: A – Ordinance Amendment to Chapter 99A regarding ambulance service
B – Ordinance Amendment to Section 9.703 regarding ambulance service
C – Contract for ambulance service
D – Resolution for Lake Drive/Breton Rd project

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