

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COMMISSION  
CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

**Regular Meeting Held July 5, 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 Duncan, Hamrick, Skaggs, Zagel, and Mayor Seibold

Absent: Commissioners Dills and Miller

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

2016-63. No public comment was received.

2016-64. Commissioner Skaggs thanked everyone involved in the 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration yesterday, especially Mary Free Bed Hospital for sponsoring the activities.

Commissioner Hamrick noted the parade was great and the Trail Blazer had another successful year.

Mayor Seibold noted the great weather yesterday and stated the new parade route seemed to work out very well. She stated she would be working to find a solution to the kids who get so close to the vehicles to pick up candy. Mayor Seibold thanked Communications Specialist Brian Greenleaf for all his communication efforts over the last few weeks on several projects and stated he was a great addition to the team.

2016-65. Review of a special land use application and site plan approval request by Calvin College.

Zoning Administrator Faasse explained that part of Calvin College lies in East Grand Rapids and the college wants to expand the use of the Ravenswood house to include student housing. Since the entire portion of the college in EGR is zoned residential, the commission is asked to designate the Calvin property as a special land use and approve the site plan provided by the college.

Matt Zimmerman, attorney for Calvin College, outlined the plans for the use of the Ravenswood building. Mr. Zimmerman stated the college's proposed use of the property met the standards in Section 5.73 of the city code. He felt most East Grand Rapids residents would not even notice the difference.

Phil Beezhold, Calvin facilities manager, went over the floor plans for the home and its layout on the property.

Sarah Visser, director of student life, stated the Ravenswood house would be used to house eight students that were the first in their families to attend college. Students would be assisted with financial aid, cultural obstacles, mentoring, etc.

2016- -A. Duncan-Skaggs. That the request of Calvin College for a special land use designation be set for a public hearing and final decision at the regular city commission meeting on July 18, 2016.

Yeas: Duncan, Hamrick, Skaggs, Zagel and Seibold – 5

Nays: -0-

2016-66. Adoption of a policy on sewer backup claims.

City Attorney Huff explained the need to adopt a formal policy for staff to use that incorporates state laws regarding the city's limited liability for sewer backups to situations where the city knew of a problem and took no action to fix the issue.

2016- -A. Duncan-Zagel. That a policy outlining the city's new policy on sewer backup claims be approved as set forth in Exhibit "A" attached hereto.

Commissioners Duncan and Zagel asked that this policy be well publicized to the residents, both now and for people who move into the city in the future.

Commissioner Hamrick felt the policy was very thorough and would provide consistency for future claims.

Mayor Seibold also noted that staff will also appreciate a written policy with which to handle claims.

Yeas: Duncan, Hamrick, Skaggs, Zagel and Seibold – 5

Nays: -0-

2016-67. Election of President for FY 2016-17.

2016- -A. Zagel-Hamrick. That Commissioner Dills be elected President of the East Grand Rapids City Commission to assume leadership duties in the absence of the Mayor for FY 2016-17.

Yeas: Duncan, Hamrick, Skaggs, Zagel and Seibold – 5

Nays: -0-

2016-68. Duncan-Hamrick. To approve the consent agenda as follows:

2016- -A. To approve the minutes of the regular meeting held June 20, 2016.

2016- -B. Report of Finance Committee on disbursement of funds: payroll disbursements of \$219,522.33; county and school disbursements of \$-0-, and total remaining disbursements of \$220,180.44.

2016- -C. Ratification of expenses related to street, sidewalk and storm sewer work on Lake Grove in the amount of \$12,370.25 with Lodestar Construction, to be shared with DTE Energy.

2016- -D. Ratification of expenses with City Services Inc. in the amount of \$5,200 for the emergency repair of a water system insertion valve on Berwyk at Danby.

2016- -E. Payment to the Kent County Road Commission in the amount of \$33,606.49 for improvements to unpaved gravel roads in East Grand Rapids.

Yeas: Duncan, Hamrick, Skaggs, Zagel and Seibold – 5

Nays: -0-

The meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until July 18, 2016.

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Karen K. Brower, City Clerk