

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COMMISSION
CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

Regular Meeting Held August 1, 2016

Mayor Seibold called the meeting to order at 6:01 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 Hamrick, Miller, Skaggs, Zagel, and Mayor Seibold

Absent: Commissioners Dills and Duncan

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

2016-74. Peter Dimitriou, 2621 Inverness, spoke about drought and efforts to develop new crops and plants that will grow in warmer climates.

Lance Werner spoke on behalf of the Zoo & Museum millage that will be on the ballot in November asking for a millage of .44 mils for the next 10 years.

2016-75. Commissioner Miller thanked the Kent County Chiefs of Police for the joint letter put out recently about events across the country.

Commissioner Hamrick reminded everyone to vote tomorrow.

Commissioner Zagel announced the annual Taste of East event was scheduled for Thursday, August 18 from 5:30 to 8:30 pm in Gaslight Village. He noted the EGR Public Safety officers would be present to meet members of the public and show the fire truck.

2016-76. Kent District Library Director Lance Werner, KDL Board Member Craig Wilson and EGR Branch Manager Dawn Lewis were present to give an update on KDL operations and statistics for 2015. Mr. Wilson reported on improvements to the materials available to the blind and handicapped. Ms. Lewis thanked the city for keeping the building in such great shape and thanked the Parks & Recreation Department for all their assistance with room reservations, setup and equipment storage.

2016-77. Lee Mueller, arborist with Davey Resource Group, was present to review the results of the tree inventory project completed in May. The project cataloged 7,082 trees in city parks and right-of-ways. The most common species are Norway maples, sugar maples, red maples and thornless honeylocust. A plurality (44%) of the urban forest is in the established 9-17" diameter class, and the majority of the tree population classified in good condition. Mr. Mueller highlighted several areas of the report, including recommendations for varying the types of tree offered during the yearly tree planting cycle to reduce the overall percentage of maple trees in the city.

Assistant City Manager LaFave reported the tree inventory data had been entered into the geographical information system and will be used by city staff when planning for future planting programs, annual tree trimming, construction projects, etc. City Manager Donovan suggested the inventory be done again in 5-10 years to keep the information as updated.

2016-78. A zoning variance hearing was held regarding the request of Bryan & Heidi Krannitz of 2360 Lake Drive to allow the construction of a roof over the existing front porch with a front yard setback of 38.5,' instead of the 58.4' allowed.

Zoning Administrator Faasse noted the request to construct a roof over the existing porch was the only part of a larger remodeling project that required a variance due to a portion of the roof line being within the front yard setback. He stated the roof would overhang the concrete by 1'2" to allow for the columns to support the roof.

Bryan Krannitz, 2360 Lake Drive, explained the intent to add a covered wrap-around porch and an addition over the garage to improve the aesthetics of the home and provide an outdoor seating area in the absence of a back yard.

Mayor Seibold opened a public hearing. No other public comment was received. Mayor Seibold closed the public hearing. The following communications were received at City Hall concerning this variance request:

- Mona Erickson, 931 Breton In Favor.

- 2016- -A. Miller-Hamrick. That the request of Bryan & Heidi Krannitz of 2360 Lake Drive to allow the construction of a roof over the existing front porch with a front yard setback of 38.5,' instead of the 58.4' allowed be approved with the condition that the porch remain unenclosed with open sides.

Commissioner Skaggs stated he would support the variance if the space remains open on the sides. He noted it was good to see the improvements at this very visible intersection.

Commissioner Miller thanked the applicants for planning improvements that would fit into the surrounding area so well.

Commissioner Hamrick agreed this would be a welcome addition to this intersection.

Mayor Seibold also supported the renovation plans and the upgrade to a home in such close proximity to Gaslight Village and the community center.

Yeas: Hamrick, Miller, Skaggs, Zigel and Seibold – 5
Nays: -0-

- 2016-79. Adoption of modified METRO Act right-of-way telecommunications permit and cell license agreement for Distributed Antenna Systems (DAS).

City Attorney Huff explained the new technology trend of locating smaller antennas on existing or new utility poles in urban areas to increase data coverage. This new technology necessitates a special METRO Act permit and a licensing agreement for the issues that fall outside the METRO Act permit. No ordinance change is required at this time. Mr. Huff noted there would likely be updates to these documents over time as additional issues arise.

- 2016- -A. Skaggs-Miller. That a special METRO Act right-of-way telecommunications permit and cell license agreement for Distributed Antenna Systems (DAS) be approved as set forth in Exhibits "A" and "B" attached hereto.

City Manager Donovan stated the permits and agreements were a good way to balance the aesthetics of having more antennas in the area with consumer need for more coverage.

Commissioner Hamrick stated she would prefer the telecommunications company use utility poles that run in the rear of properties. City Attorney Huff stated that while that would be preferable, it cannot be required. He also noted that the state may take control of this issue at some point.

Assistant City Manager LaFave stated the new permit and license documents will allow city staff to work with telecommunications companies. He also noted that many area municipalities were working together to provide uniform guidelines to make things easier for the telecommunications companies.

Yeas: Hamrick, Miller, Skaggs, Zigel and Seibold – 5
Nays: -0-

- 2016-80. Zigel-Hamrick. To approve the consent agenda as follows:

- 2016- -A. To approve the minutes of the regular meeting held July 18, 2016.
- 2016- -B. Report of Finance Committee on disbursement of funds: payroll disbursements of \$226,018.53; county and school disbursements of \$-0-, and total remaining disbursements of \$ \$400,181.17.
- 2016- -C. The purchase of two Freightliner dump/plow trucks through Tri-County International Trucks of Dearborn and dump boxes, spreaders plows controllers, hydraulics systems and lighting from Truck & Trailer Specialties of Dutton for a total of \$158,000 per vehicle through the MIDeal purchasing program.
- 2016- -D. The purchase of two 2017 Ford Interceptors with related equipment and outfitting as requested in the Assistant City Manager memo dated July 15, 2016 in the amount of \$51,600 for each vehicle.

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

Nays: -0-

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until August 1, 2016.

Karen K. Brower, City Clerk

Attachments: A – METRO Act right-of-way telecommunications permit
B – METRO Act cell license agreement

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