

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COMMISSION  
CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

**Regular Meeting Held September 6, 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 Dills, Duncan, Hamrick, Miller, Skaggs, Zagel, and Mayor Seibold

Absent: None

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

2016-86. No public comment was received.

2016-87. Commissioner Dills noted that school was back in session and asked everyone to adjust their driving to accommodate the new drivers and pedestrians heading to school. Mr. Dills also mentioned that the Reeds Lake Triathlon is on Saturday, September 10 and there would be road closures during the race hours.

Commissioner Miller thanked the Public Works staff for all their work overseeing the Lake/Breton/Lakeside project this year. The intersection is now open and looks great.

Commissioner Hamrick announced the Reeds Lake Triathlon is still in need of volunteers to assist.

Commissioner Skaggs reported the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary party for the Community Center on August 24 was a great success and thanked the staff and volunteers who put on the event.

Commissioner Zagel reminded everyone to lock their doors to remove the easy opportunity presented by unlocked vehicles and homes.

Commissioner Duncan thanked the Public Safety Department for attending the block party on Amberley Court over the weekend.

City Manager Donovan noted the staff would be putting out materials for residents about the new features in the newly reconstructed intersection.

Mayor Seibold commended Assistant City Manager LaFave for dealing with all the issues and complaints during the construction project. She also thanked Dawn Lewis, Pam Slater and Karen Brower for their work organizing the recent 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary party for the Community Center.

2016-88. Mayor Seibold announced that due to issues with the public notices, the three variance request on tonight's agenda would be introduced and public comment accepted, but that discussion and decisions would not be made until the September 19 meeting.

2016-89. A zoning variance hearing was held regarding the request of Stacy & Karl Roberts of 1118 Pinecrest to allow the replacement of the existing detached garage with side yard setback of 1.1' instead of the required 3.0' and a building separation of 7.3' from the home instead of the required 10.0.'

Zoning Administrator Faasse explained the plan to replace the existing garage with a new building the of the same size and answered questions from the commission.

Mayor Seibold opened a public hearing. No public comment was received. Mayor Seibold continued the public hearing until the meeting of September 19, 2016.

2016-90. A zoning variance hearing was held regarding the request of Joshua Hall of 653 Gladstone and David Emdin of 655 Gladstone to allow the construction of two detached garages with side yard setbacks of 1' instead of the required 3.0' and rear yard setbacks of 2' instead of the required 3.'

Zoning Administrator Faasse explained the current shared garage would be replaced with two separate garages and that each property owner was requesting side and rear setback variances.

Mayor Seibold opened a public hearing. No public comment was received. Mayor Seibold continued the public hearing until the meeting of September 19, 2016.

2016-91. Site plan review for Coiffeteria Salon at 610 Lovett.

Zoning Administrator Faasse noted the property had recently been rezoned from residential to commercial, therefore the City Commission was being asked to review and approve the site plan as it is essentially the first time the property has made changes since the rezoning.

Planning Commission Chairman John Barbour reported the Planning Commission had recommended conditions be placed on the approval to ensure that the neighboring properties would be aware of the new construction and that all efforts would be made to minimize the impact of the construction activities on surrounding businesses. He noted the applicant had been very cooperative in working with the Planning Commission during the rezoning and site plan process.

Catherine Jacobs, attorney for Coiffeteria, reported that they have worked with Hoffman Jewelers and United Bank to coordinate deliveries and work by heavy equipment so that everyone knows what is happening and to minimize disruptions. She stated there are two shared parking agreements between the three property owners on file with the Kent County Registrar of Deeds. She did not foresee the need to update either agreement.

Mayor Seibold opened the meeting for public comment. No other public comment was received. Mayor Seibold closed public comment.

2016- -A. Zagel-Duncan. That the site plan submitted by Coiffeteria Salon at 610 Lovett for a new 20x20' one-story addition to the rear of the building and the addition of a handicap ramp and the enlargement of the front porch along with parking lot and landscaping improvements be approved with the following conditions:

1. That Coiffeteria enter into a satisfactory shared access and parking agreement encompassing all property owners and business tenants of 610 Lovett, 2135 Wealthy and 2137 Wealthy and that the agreement be recorded with the Kent County Register of Deeds;
2. That disruptive construction activities and/or transportation of large equipment upon or across the United Bank property occur either before or after bank hours (M-F 9-5, Sat 9-noon) to minimize interference with bank business.

Commissioner Duncan commended the businesses for working together to improve the area while maintaining the parking areas and access routes.

Mayor Seibold thanked the salon for their efforts to accommodate handicapped patrons.

Commissioner Dills felt this was a good investment by the property owner for the newly rezoned property and its use as a salon.

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

Nays: -0-

2016-92. Introduction of an ordinance amendment to repeal Section 10.7 of Chapter 101 of Title X of the City Code pertaining to the Traffic Commission.

Assistant City Manager LaFave explained the proposal to transition from a citizen review board to having staff use the Michigan Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices to apply consistent principles and solutions for the few traffic control issues that arise. Any special situations would be reviewed by the Infrastructure and City Commission, if needed.

Mayor Seibold stated her appreciation for the time and effort that the members of the Traffic Commission have spent researching and discussing issues over the years, but agreed that this was a much more scientific and consistent approach to dealing with traffic issues.

Commissioner Zagel agreed this was the natural progression to a more efficient system of solving issues.

2016- -A. Skaggs-Miller. That an ordinance amendment to repeal Section 10.7 of Chapter 101 of Title X of the City Code pertaining to the Traffic Commission be introduced as set forth in Exhibit "A" attached hereto.

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

Nays: -0-

2016-93. Miller-Zagel. To approve the consent agenda as follows:

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

2016- -B. Report of Finance Committee on disbursement of funds: payroll disbursements of \$458,938.63; county and school disbursements of \$13,265,653.86, and total remaining disbursements of \$2,638,340.07.

2016- -C. The installation of a butterfly garden on the Schroder Park property at 2618 Reeds Lake Blvd as outlined in the sketch submitted by the volunteers overseeing the project.

Parks & Recreation Director Bunn explained the citizen initiative to plant pollinating shrubs and plants that will attract butterflies. He noted the volunteer group will plant 750 new plants and will water and maintain the area after planting.

2016- -D. The quarterly financial report for the period ended June 30, 2016.

2016- -E. The preliminary minutes of the Planning Commission meeting held August 9, 2016.

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

Nays: -0-

Assistant City Manager LaFave updated the City Commission on the new features of the recently completed intersection at Lake/Breton/Lakeside, including new push buttons for the pedestrian crossing signal, a vibrating mechanism to allow the visually impaired to determine when to cross and cameras to detect traffic on off-peak hours and change the signals accordingly.

The meeting adjourned at 6:54 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until September 19, 2016.

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Karen K. Brower, City Clerk

Attachments: A – Ordinance amendment to repeal Section 10.7 pertaining to the Traffic Commission

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