

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COMMISSION  
CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

**Regular Meeting Held April 17, 2017**

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, Schad, Zagel and Mayor Seibold

Absent: None

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

2017-46. Dennis Murphy, 2879 Elwood in Grandville, again requested the city consider adopt an ordinance requiring motorists to stay 5' from cyclists and pedestrians using the roadway.

Chris Afendoulis, 73<sup>rd</sup> District State Representative, gave an update on the state's budget process and the income tax rate reduction issue.

2017-47. Commissioner Dills congratulated the high school robotics team for qualifying for the world tournament.

Commissioner Miller reported the school district will be holding a public forum on funding next week.

Commissioner Schad reminded everyone that the School Foundation Hurrah event was this weekend. She also noted the Parks & Recreation Commission would be holding their second roundtable discussion on the use of park property on Monday, April 24 at 6:15 p.m. at the Community Center.

Commissioner Zagel complimented Mayor Seibold for her participation in last week's public funding forum. He noted that Carolina's Low Country Kitchen would be opening the first week of May and that three other new businesses would be hopefully coming soon.

Mayor Seibold presented a proclamation of appreciation to retiring Cadence reporter Jan Holst for her eight years of service covering news in East Grand Rapids. Mayor Seibold noted that Jan had been very easy to work with and complimented her accuracy and thorough research on all stories.

2017-48. A public hearing was held regarding the request Wesley & Terri Devon of 1995 San Lu Rae to allow a gated entry with wing walls and end pillars that are more than 50% opaque and to allow a maximum height of 7'3" at the center instead of the 36" allowed.

Zoning Administrator Faasse explained this was a request for an exemption from the section of ordinance dealing with fences and walls that required a structure to be at least 50% opaque and no more than 36" high if placed in the front yard. He stated the brick pillars and side walls had been installed prior to the applicant realizing that an exception would be required to allow the brick wall to remain and for the metal gate to be installed. The brick walls and pillars are not in the city right-of-way. It was also noted that visibility is not an issue because the brick walls sit far enough back from the sidewalk.

Brian Miedema of Insignia Homes, apologized for building the pillars and walls without the proper approvals and answered questions from the commissioners.

Mayor Seibold opened a public hearing. The following communications were received at City Hall concerning this variance request:

- Scott & Emily Brew, 2000 Lake Drive                      In Favor.
- Rob & Monica Jandernoa, 702 Laurel Circle              In Favor.

No other public comment was received. Mayor Seibold closed the public hearing.

- 2016- -A. Zagel-Dills. That the request by Wesley & Terri Devon of 1995 San Lu Rae for an exception to the city's fence ordinance to allow a 37' wide gated driveway entry with brick wing walls and brick end pillars that are more than 50% opaque and 7'3" tall at the center be approved.

Commissioner Zagel noted the clear sight distance around the brick wall and the relatively small width of the structure compared to the entire frontage of the lot and stated he would support the request.

Commissioner Miller also stated he would support the request for an exception given the less restrictive standards for this type of request. He also stated the wall fit in very nicely and did not look out of place.

Mayor Seibold noted this exception was for the current width of 37' encompassing the brick walls and pillars currently in place and the addition of the scrollwork metal gate as proposed and that the property owner would not be allowed to add on to the structure without further approval from the city.

Commissioner Hamrick suggested modifying the ordinance to allow gates and pillars.

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

- 2017-49. Miller-Hamrick. To approve the consent agenda as follows:

2017- -. The minutes of the rescheduled regular meeting held March 28, 2017.

2017- -A. Payroll disbursements of \$412,513.78; county and school disbursements of \$-0-, and total remaining disbursements of \$198,195.22.

2017- -B. A resolution asking the State Legislature to consider raising the age for access to tobacco products from 18 to 21 be adopted as set forth in Exhibit "A" attached hereto.

2017- -C. The purchase of storage and backup services from Corporate Technologies in the amount of \$4,450.00 for the first year and \$4,200 for following years.

2017- -D. The preliminary minutes of the Parks & Recreation Commission meeting held March 13, 2017.

2017- -E. The preliminary minutes of the Planning Commission meeting held March 14, 2017.

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

City Attorney Huff departed the meeting.

- 2017-50. Finance Director Mushong provided an overview of the upcoming budget process, including the long-term loss of revenue due to Proposal A and the Headlee amendment, funding for street and sidewalk projects and the current unfunded pension liability situation. She noted the proposed budget leaves water and sewer rates at their current levels. City Manager Donovan reviewed possible future program and service eliminations if state-shared revenue does not keep pace with future expenses.

The meeting adjourned at 7:13 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until May 1, 2017.

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Karen K. Brower, City Clerk

Attachments: A – Resolution regarding the minimum age for legal access to tobacco products

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