

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COMMISSION
CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

Special Meeting Held June 2, 2017

Mayor Seibold called the meeting to order at 8:02 a.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 and Mayor Seibold

Absent: Commissioner Zagel

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

2017-63. No public comment was received.

2017-64. No commissioner comment was received.

2017-65. Permit application for private fireworks show.

Parks & Recreation Director Bunn explained the request by the family of Eileen DeVries to hold a 15-minute fireworks show in her memory on Sunday, June 4 at 10:00 pm. He noted the family would be using the same pyrotechnics company and site used for the city's fireworks show on July 4 each year. The applicants have worked with the Parks & Recreation Department on all safety concerns and would be reimbursing the city for costs associated with processing the application, closing down the park and trail, and having Public Safety personnel on site should any issues arise. The family is inviting the community to enjoy the show as a tribute to their mother.

Mayor Seibold noted that since this request was received in between regular city commission meetings, a special meeting was being held to consider the request so the family would have an answer while everyone was in town for the funeral.

Mr. Bunn noted the show could not be held on Saturday night because Remington Park was being used all day Saturday for a regional baseball tournament and the area could not be secured with this activity going on. He stated the safety regulations required a 600' radius in which to set up, so this was the only feasible location in East Grand Rapids.

Commissioner Miller asked if there were complaints following the private show last summer and how staff plans to communicate this show to the public if it is approved. Mr. Bunn stated he did not receive any complaints last year. City Manager Donovan reviewed the plans to communicate the road closures and late night fireworks show to residents.

Mayor Seibold opened the meeting for public comment:

- Dan Molloy, 938 Maxwell

Stated the show last summer disturbed his family and he felt this would be worse because it was on a Sunday night. Also felt this set a precedent for additional requests in the future.

Mayor Seibold closed the public comment.

2017- -A. Dills-Miller. That a fireworks permit be approved for Rachel Mraz for a private fireworks show on Sunday, June 2, 2017 with the reimbursement arrangements outlined in the Parks & Recreation Director's memo dated May 30, 2017.

Commissioner Duncan was concerned about getting the word out to people and wondered if there was if there was an alternative to doing the fireworks on a Sunday night.

Commissioner Schad was worried about kids who had to get up for school in the morning and veterans who are bothered by the loud explosions. She did not feel the fireworks show was a necessary disruption.

Mayor Seibold noted she had talked to several people who were in favor of allowing the fireworks. She appreciated the family working with the city on all of the safety requirements and on sharing the show with the community.

Commissioner Miller stated he was struggling with how to get the word out on such short notice and about the inconvenience to families with children on a Sunday night. He understood the family's request for the show, but felt it would be more appropriate on the 4th of July or another time.

Commissioner Hamrick was opposed to allowing the fireworks because of the proposed Sunday night timeframe.

Commissioner Dills spoke in favor of the request as he did not see any major issues with the request.

Commissioner Duncan stated she had received mixed reaction when talking with her neighbors. She felt it was unfair to ask people with dogs who are bothered by fireworks to deal with this unexpected show.

Yeas: Dills and Seibold – 2

Nays: Duncan, Hamrick, Miller and Schad – 4

The meeting adjourned at 8:32 a.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until June 5, 2017.

Karen K. Brower, City Clerk