

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COMMISSION  
CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

**Regular Meeting Held June 19, 2017**

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 Dills, Duncan, Hamrick, Schad and Mayor Seibold

Absent: Commissioners Miller and Zagel

Also Present: Assistant City Attorney Tobias; City Manager Donovan; Assistant City Manager LaFave; Zoning Administrator Faasse; City Clerk Brower

2017-77. Peter Dimitriou, 2621 Inverness in GR, spoke about the dangers of climate change and asked the City Commission to take action.

2017-78. Commissioner Hamrick reminded everyone to drive slowly and safely through the areas where road construction and maintenance are taking place this summer.

Commissioner Schad complimented the June water bill insert that contained all of the information on summer events in East Grand Rapids.

2017-79. Dills-Schad. Motion to add to the end of agenda two collective bargaining agreements with employee unions. A roll call vote was taken.

Yeas: Dills, Duncan, Hamrick, Schad and Seibold – 5

Nays: -0-

2017-80. A zoning variance hearing was held regarding the request of Michael & Andrea Pouloupoulos of 2111 Wilshire to allow a 6' privacy fence along Lenox Road with a setback of 3' instead of the required 20.'

Zoning Administrator Faasse explained that solid fences were required to be placed 20' from the sidewalk or be no more than 3' in height so that vehicles using the driveway could see those on the sidewalk and in the street.

Michael Pouloupoulos, 2111 Wilshire, stated they have small children and would like the tall, solid fence for privacy while the children play in the yard.

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

- Nicholas Krupansky, 2450 Maplewood	Opposed
- Jeff Olsen, 1112 Eastwood	Opposed.
- Thomas Rider & Tracy Miller-Rider, 2114 Anderson	Opposed.

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

2017- -A. Dills-Hamrick. That the request of Michael & Andrea Pouloupoulos of 2111 Wilshire to allow a 6' privacy fence along Lenox Road with a setback of 3' instead of the required 20' be approved.

Commissioner Schad questioned why the applicants were not willing to use a chain link or 3' fence. Mr. and Mrs. Pouloupoulos stated they did not want people watching their children in the yard and worried the children might climb over a shorter fence.

Commissioner Schad stated that while there are other fences in the neighborhood, she did not feel this particular proposed fence would fit in with the area.

Commissioner Duncan understood the desire for privacy, but could not support this variance request due to the aesthetics of the neighborhood and the feasibility of other options.

Commissioner Dills stated the 20' setback was necessary for the safety of those on the sidewalk and in vehicles and he could not support a fence this variance due to those concerns.

Commissioner Hamrick was also against the variance request due to safety issues.

Mayor Seibold noted that significant research and thought go into creating ordinances that allow safe and consistent sight distance and aesthetic guidelines for the commission to use when considering these requests. She also favored keeping neighborhoods as open as possible and could not support this particular request.

Yeas: -0-

Nays: Dills, Duncan, Hamrick, Schad and Seibold – 5

2017-81. Rental rates for group events at Collins Park.

City Manager Donovan presented the proposed rental rates for the newly approved group rental policy for Collins Park. The rate structure gives discounted rates to residents and local businesses.

2017- -A. Duncan-Schad. That rental rates as proposed by the Parks & Recreation Director in his memo dated June 8, 2017 be approved.

Mayor Seibold reminded everyone that the rental policy would be reviewed after a one-year trial.

Yeas: Dills, Duncan, Hamrick, Schad, Zigel and Seibold – 6

Nays: -0-

2017-82. Hamrick-Duncan. To approve the consent agenda as follows:

2017- -. The minutes of the special meeting held June 2, 2017.

2017- -A. The minutes of the regular and special meetings held June 5, 2017.

2017- -B. Payroll disbursements of \$210,045.66; county and school disbursements of \$708.60, and total remaining disbursements of \$328,505.28.

2017- -C. Authorization for the Public Works Department to auction decommissioned equipment.

2017- -D. A contract with Groundhawk Excavating and Landscaping of Lowell in the amount not to exceed \$150,000 for sidewalk rehabilitation and replacement.

2017- -E. A contract for storm drainage improvements with Redline Excavating of Hamilton, Michigan, in the amount of \$116,623 plus contingencies of \$11,663.

2017- -F. A resolution approving budget amendments for the quarter ending June 30, 2017 as set forth in Exhibit "A" attached hereto.

Yeas: Dills, Duncan, Hamrick, Schad and Seibold – 5

Nays: -0-

2017-83. Dills-Schad. Motion to enter into an executive session to discuss collective bargaining agreements in accordance with Section 8(c) of the Open Meetings Act. A roll call vote was taken.

Yeas: Dills, Duncan, Hamrick, Schad and Seibold – 5

Nays: -0-

2017-84. The meeting recessed at 6:21 pm to conduct the Executive Session. The meeting resumed at 6:34 pm.

2017-85. Consider request to approve a collective bargaining agreement with the AFSCME Public Works Union.

2010- -. Schad-Hamrick. That a three-year contract with the AFSCME Local Public Works Union beginning July 1, 2017 be approved as recommended by the City Manager.

Yeas: Dills, Duncan, Hamrick, Schad and Seibold – 5

Nays: -0-

2017-86. Consider request to approve a collective bargaining agreement with the Public Safety Officers Union.

2010- -. Schad-Duncan. That a three-year contract with the Public Safety Officers Union beginning July 1, 2017 be approved as recommended by the City Manager.

City Manager Donovan thanked the union representatives of both the POAM and AFSCME unions for their work on these contracts.

Yeas: Dills, Duncan, Hamrick, Schad and Seibold – 5

Nays: -0-

The meeting adjourned at 6:36 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until July 3, 2017.

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Karen K. Brower, City Clerk

Attachments: A – Resolution approving budget amendments

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