

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COMMISSION  
CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

**Regular Meeting Held January 7, 2013**

Mayor Seibold called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. in the City Commission Chamber at the Community Center and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Commissioners Dills, Goebel, Graham, Johnson, Miller, Skaggs and Mayor Seibold

Absent: None

Also Present: City Manager Donovan; City Attorney Huff; Public Works Director Feldt; Finance Director Dood; Public Safety Director Herald; Parks & Recreation Director Bunn; Zoning Administrator Faasse; City Clerk Brower

2013-1. No public comment was received.

2013-2. Commissioners Dills, Miller, Goebel, Skaggs, Graham and Johnson all thanked the members of the EGR Public Safety Department and the officers of the Grand Rapids Police Department for a peaceful resolution to the incident earlier in the day.

Commissioner Skaggs wished Finance Director Dood well in his new position with the City of Grand Rapids.

Commissioner Johnson invited everyone to the Community Pancake Breakfast being held on January 19<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 to 10:30 am at the Middle School. The event is hosted by the EGR Community Foundation and features pancakes and sausage for \$5 per person.

Mayor Seibold also thanked the members of the Public Safety Department for their professional handling of the issue on Breton Road early in the morning. She also thanked the Public Works crews who worked around the clock this weekend to repair a watermain break. She thanked Finance Director Dood for all his work over the last year and wished him well in his new endeavors. She also reminded everyone to be vigilant about hand washing to prevent the spread of the flu virus this season.

2013-3. A zoning variance hearing was held regarding the request of Steven Tazelaar, owner of 2864 Pioneer Club, to allow the construction of a new home with a front setback of 51.0' from the front property line instead of the required 62.6'.

Zoning Administrator Faasse explained the applicant wished to demolish the current house and rebuild. The new home would conform with side yard setbacks where the current house did not, and would reduce the front yard nonconformity by sitting farther from the street than the existing home.

Joel Peterson of Insignia Homes noted there are a variety of front yard setbacks on this street and the new home will not be out of character with the area. He stated the old home is in poor shape and the new home will improve on setbacks and will look nice in the neighborhood.

The following communications were received at City Hall concerning this variance request:

- William & Cecile Fehsenfeld, 2912 Pioneer Club	In Favor.
- Monica & Michael Sekulich, 2900 Reeds Lake Blvd	In Favor.
- Sue & Jim McClain, 2920 Pioneer Club	Concerned about scale of new home.
- Dr. & Mrs. Vincent Turcotte, 2860 Pioneer Club	In Favor.

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

A. Dills-Skaggs. That the request of Steven Tazelaar of 2864 Pioneer Club, to allow construction of a new home with a front setback of 51.0' from the front property line instead of the required 62.6' be approved.

Commissioner Johnson supported the request as it improved the side yard setbacks and the proximity to neighboring homes.

Commissioner Graham noted this was a very challenging site on which to build a home and he felt the proposed home would fit well and would not be out of proportion to the rest of the street.

Commissioner Dills agreed this was a unique and challenging site and the home would fit the area well. He asked the builder to attempt to save as many of the mature trees as possible.

Commissioner Miller expressed his support for the project and appreciated the builder fitting the home within the required side yards.

Yeas: Dills, Goebel, Graham, Johnson, Miller, Skaggs and Seibold – 7  
Nays: -0-

2013-4. A zoning variance hearing was held regarding the request of St. Stephen Church and School of 750 Gladstone to recognize the current dumpster location as reasonably inconspicuous and to allow the dumpsters to remain in their current location without constructing an enclosure as required by ordinance.

Zoning Administrator Faasse explained the layout of the buildings and parking areas did not leave the church a lot of options to locate dumpsters or enclosures without blocking entrances or eliminating parking spaces.

Commissioner Graham questioned whether four dumpsters could be reduced to two, thereby reducing the required enclosure. Mr. Faasse felt it would be difficult to locate a permanent enclosure anywhere near the current location. He explained some of the various options explored by the church before seeking a variance.

Tom Curran, 1705 Pontiac, was present to explain the request and answer questions on behalf of St. Stephen's. He explained the location of the kitchens and the configuration of the parking lot made the current location the best spot for the dumpsters but did not allow for a permanent enclosure. He answered questions from the commission, but did not feel any of the suggestions would work for the church.

Mayor Seibold opened a public hearing. The following people were present to express their opinions:

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| - Lee Weber, 648 Rosewood  | Favored an enclosure to the current unsightly situation and asked the church to continue looking for a way to comply with the ordinance. |
| - Andy Weber, 726 Rosewood | Wanted to find a way to enclose the dumpsters and eliminate dumping by others and children playing in the dumpsters.                     |

The following communications were received at City Hall concerning this variance request:

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| - Matt Feyen, 630 Rosewood               | In Favor. |
| - Larry & Lee Nelson Weber, 648 Rosewood | Opposed.  |
| - Andy Weber, 726 Rosewood               | Opposed.  |

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

Commissioner Dills questioned why the church had waited so long past the implementation of the ordinance to seek relief from the enclosure provisions. Mr. Curran noted they had just received the citation notice.

Commissioner Goebel felt there were other options for the situation, including a swinging fence enclosure.

Mayor Seibold suggested tabling the matter to allow the church to work with its trash hauler and the city to come up with a plan acceptable to all.

A. Johnson-Gobel. That the request of St. Stephen Church and School of 750 Gladstone to allow the existing dumpsters to remain in their current location without constructing an enclosure as required by ordinance be tabled until a future meeting to allow St. Stephen to research other options. A roll call vote was taken.

Yeas: Dills, Goebel, Graham, Johnson, Miller, Skaggs and Seibold – 7  
Nays: -0-

2013-5. Consider request to adopt a resolution approving an amendment to the Kent County Solid Waste Management Plan.

City Manager Donovan explained the proposed five-year Solid Waste Management Plan perpetuated an existing inequality governing where waste collected in the cities of Grand Rapids, Wyoming, Kentwood, Walker and East Grand Rapids was sent for disposal. The “flow control” regulations result in higher costs for residents of the core cities than for those in outlying townships. He recommended rejecting the amendment to allow the cities to continue working with Kent County on a more equitable system.

- A. Johnson-Graham. That a resolution approving an amendment to the Kent County Solid Waste Management Plan be rejected as recommended by the City Manager.

Yeas: Dills, Goebel, Graham, Johnson, Miller, Skaggs and Seibold – 7  
Nays: -0-

2013-6. Consider request to name an Interim Treasurer.

- A. Graham-Miller. That Deputy Treasurer Charlene Veenstra be named as Interim Treasurer effective January 18, 2013 until a new Finance Director/Treasurer is hired.

Yeas: Dills, Goebel, Graham, Johnson, Miller, Skaggs and Seibold – 7  
Nays: -0-

2013-7. Finance Director Dood reviewed the report from Fitch Ratings renewing the AAA bond rating for the City of East Grand Rapids.

The City Commission congratulated City Manager Donovan and Finance Director Dood for all their work with Fitch Ratings to present updated information on the city’s financial position. Mayor Seibold also thanked all the employees who are careful in their spending and who work so hard on making East Grand Rapids such a stable and desirable place to live and work.

2013-8. Dills-Miller. Motion to approve the consent agenda as follows:

- A. Minutes of the regular meeting held December 17, 2012.
- B. Payroll disbursements of \$195,701.00; county and school disbursements of \$180,821.06, and total remaining disbursements of \$452,494.60.
- C. An analysis of water sewer rates for FY 2013-14 from the City of Grand Rapids.
- D. Ratification of the tree removal services contract with Summit Tree Service in the amount of \$14,245.00.
- E. A contract with M.C. Smith Associates and Architectural Group, Inc. not to exceed \$3,840.00 plus minor related expenses for the preparation of a grant application for the Waterfront Park Phase II project.

Yeas: Dills, Goebel, Graham, Johnson, Miller, Skaggs and Seibold – 7  
Nays: -0-

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until January 21, 2012.

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Karen K. Brower, City Clerk