

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COMMISSION  
CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

**Regular Meeting Held November 6, 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, 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; City Clerk Brower

2017-153. Mayor Seibold addressed several recent emails regarding pedestrian safety around the schools. She noted the three-vehicle accident that occurred on October 19 near the Middle School did not involve any pedestrians, but that the city is reviewing all of the crosswalks to make sure that all appropriate lighting and signage are in place in light of the concerns sent in by residents. She thanked everyone for their suggestions for improvement and noted the Public Works and Public Safety Departments would be looking over the suggestions in light of national standards. The city's short-term goals include making sure overhead lights are working and increasing patrols during school commuting hours. Long-term projects will include replacing old lights, collecting data and making a video for students on how to walk/bike to school safely.

Mayor Seibold also reviewed the situation of leaflets on signs and vehicles over the weekend promoting white supremacy ideology and websites. She noted the Public Safety Department removed the signs from public property and is investigating the incident. She stated our community will not tolerate racism and division and urged everyone to quietly refute these incidents and stand together against racism.

Commissioner Dills thanked Mayor Seibold for her comments. He also reminded everyone that tomorrow was election day and urged everyone to vote.

Commissioner Miller called for our citizens to reject the messages of bigotry and hatred and stand together against this unwelcome campaign.

Commissioner Hamrick stated she was shocked and disgusted by the weekend leaflets and urged everyone to get through these difficult times together.

Commissioner Duncan asked residents to counter these sentiments by embracing each other and continue talking about the issue.

Commissioner Zagel stated our community can defy those who wish to drive wedges between people by continuing the dialogue and standing together.

Commissioner Schad agreed with everyone's comments and thanked the Public Safety Department for their response to this issue so far. She thanked the community for jumping into action to remove the fliers.

2017-154. Peter Dimitriou, 2621 Inverness (GR), spoke about the extreme weather over the last year and the fact that man is responsible for these climate changes. He called for more awareness so that things don't get worse.

Bryan Walters, 1039 Pinecrest, reminded everyone to vote tomorrow. He also thanked the commissioners for their comments and stated it was critical to repudiate the messages contained in the fliers.

Amorak Huey, 429 Briarwood, felt the police officers he spoke with Sunday morning were dismissive of his concerns about the fliers and more concerned about the legality of taking fliers off private property. He feels less protected than he did two years ago based on the Public Safety Department's response.

Ellen Custer, 1110 Breton, asked for a better way to get information out to residents in situations like these.

Angie Walters, 1039 Pinecrest, stated it was her yard sign that was moved last year and that she appreciated the conversation with officers after that incident. She wanted police officers to know that the Black Lives Matter movement was not anti-law enforcement.

Samantha Cornell, 311 Rosewood, also expressed concern that people thought the movement was anti-police. She noted that West Michigan was not immune to the efforts of white supremacy groups and felt the police response could have been better. She also asked for a statement of responses from the city so that residents know what to do when things like this happen.

- 2017-155. Peter Haefner of Vredevelde Haefner reviewed the audited financial statements for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2017 and answered questions from the City Commission. He commended the Finance Department staff for all of the spot checking they do on various transactions and the implementation of new internal controls. He also noted that the city has recently added the pension liability and the OPEB liability to its financial statements to show the progress of funding these liabilities.

City Manager Donovan noted he would be scheduling a work session over the winter months to go over the pension and OPEB liabilities in more detail with the city commission.

- 2017-156. Miller-Hamrick. To approve the consent agenda as follows:

2017- -A. The minutes of the regular meeting held October 16, 2017.

2017- -B. Payroll disbursements of \$218,151.35; county and school disbursements of \$47,750.75, and total remaining disbursements of \$484,908.66.

2017- -C. Resolution electing to comply with the provisions of Public Act 152 of 2011 by exercising the city's right to exempt itself from the requirements of the act for the period from January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018 as set forth in Exhibit "A" attached hereto.

2017- -D. Contracts for employee benefit plan components as follows: Symetra as the Stop Loss Carrier, Physicians Care as the PPO provider, and Madison National Life for Life, Accidental Death and Dismemberment and Long-Term Disability coverage.

2017- -E. A contract with VanWyk Risk Solutions and Travelers Insurance for property and liability insurance in the amount of \$188,394.00.

2017- -F. The purchase of two message board signs from Give 'Em A Brake Safety of Grandville in an amount not to exceed \$10,800 for each sign.

2017- -G. The purchase of a replacement lift station pump from Kerr Pump and Supply in the amount of \$5,286.30.

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

Nays: -0-

The meeting adjourned at 6:48 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until November 20, 2017.

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Karen K. Brower, City Clerk

Attachments: A – Resolution opting out of PA 152 for 2018.

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