

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COMMISSION  
CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

**Regular Meeting Held October 1, 2018**

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 Duncan, Favale, Hamrick, Miller, Walters, Zagel and Mayor Seibold

Absent: None

Also Present: City Attorney Huff; Assistant City Manager LaFave; Public Safety Director Herald; City Clerk Brower; Communications Specialist Greenleaf

2018-131. Peter Dimitriou, 2621 Inverness (GR), presented information on several climate change events happening this week and gave an update on the rain forests.

Paul Hegele, 2073 Hall, reported on the recent conviction of a fraudulent contractor and thanked the Public Safety Department and City Attorney for working to bring justice for the residents affected.

Curt Benson, candidate for circuit court judge, was present to introduce himself to the city commission.

2018-132. No commissioner comment was received.

2018-133. Acceptance of crosswalk study and approval of related traffic orders.

Assistant City Manager LaFave reviewed the report prepared by the city's engineering traffic consultant analyzing all of the city's crosswalks near schools and recommending several changes to standardize the height and location of signage and warning lights, remove obstructions and to consider some long-term improvements to traffic bump outs. Mr. LaFave reported that the Infrastructure Committee would be meeting next week to discuss the use of in-street signage to draw further attention to the crosswalks to promote safety. Following that meeting, a policy and recommendation will be presented to the city commission for approval.

Mr. LaFave addressed the many suggestions from residents for lights, stop signs and traffic lights by noting that each road crossing needed to be considered separately because not every solution fits each situation and variables as road width, speeds, volume, parking lanes, etc. needed to be considered from an engineering standpoint. For instance, 4-way stop signs are only warranted when the traffic coming from all directions is relatively equal, which is not the case in front of the high school. Placing a 4-way stop sign there would cause long back-ups on Lake Drive and would increase the traffic and speeds on adjacent streets as people seek to avoid the backups.

Assistant City Manager LaFave also noted the crosswalk at Lake Drive and Kenesaw was upgraded with new consistent signage, lighting and new bumpouts when the road was resurfaced so that it is consistent with all other school crosswalks. He stated that some of the changes recommended in the report—such as signage or lighting—can be done within the next few weeks, while upgrades like bumpouts will need to be planned in conjunction with future construction projects. Mr. LaFave also stated that a uniform approach to all crossings ultimately increases safety when both drivers and pedestrians know what to expect at each area they approach. Other efforts such as education videos for elementary and middle school students and other reminders for drivers are being coordinated by city staff.

Mayor Seibold asked that these issues be discussed during the planned mobility study so that both pedestrian and vehicle safety and access are considered together. She also asked that staff prepare a chart of various traffic and pedestrian safety measures, their applications and pros/cons so that commissioners can answer questions they receive from the public.



Mayor Seibold opened this issue for public comment. The following people expressed their opinions:

- Pat Walsh, 2841 Reeds Lake Blvd                      Asked questions about putting a fence on his specific property. Suggested adding “at least” to the first line of paragraph C for the distance off the street right-of-way.

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

- 2018-134-A. Miller-Duncan. That an ordinance to amend Article I of Chapter 83 of Title VII of the City Code pertaining to general fence requirements be introduced as attached in Exhibit “A” with the addition of “at least” before “ten (10) feet” in the first line of paragraph C.

Commissioner Favale liked the addition of the free permit system to increase compliance with the rules.

- Yeas: Duncan, Favale, Hamrick, Miller, Walters, Zagel and Seibold – 7
- Nays: -0-

- 2018-135. Final Reading of an ordinance to amend Sections 2.1, 2.4, 2.5, 2.5A, 2.5-1, 2.10, 2.11 and 2.13 of Chapter 21 of Title II of the City Code pertaining to combustible waste and solid waste.

- 2018-135-A. Walters-Favale. That an ordinance to amend Sections 2.1, 2.4, 2.5, 2.5A, 2.5-1, 2.10, 2.11 and 2.13 of Chapter 21 of Title II of the City Code pertaining to combustible waste and solid waste be adopted as attached in Exhibit “B.”

- Yeas: Duncan, Favale, Hamrick, Miller, Walters, Zagel and Seibold – 7
- Nays: -0-

- 2018-136. Final Reading of an ordinance to amend Sections 2.77 and 2.79 of Chapter 23 of Title II of the City Code pertaining to city sewer service.

- 2018-136-A. Miller-Favale. That an ordinance to amend Sections 2.77 and 2.79 of Chapter 23 of Title II of the City Code pertaining to city sewer service be adopted as attached in Exhibit “C.”

- Yeas: Duncan, Favale, Hamrick, Miller, Walters, Zagel and Seibold – 7
- Nays: -0-

- 2018-137. Final Reading of an ordinance to amend Chapter 80 of Title VIII of the City Code pertaining to the building code.

- 2018-137-A. Duncan-Miller. That an ordinance to amend Chapter 80 of Title VIII of the City Code pertaining to the building code be adopted as attached in Exhibit “D.”

- Yeas: Duncan, Favale, Hamrick, Miller, Walters, Zagel and Seibold – 7
- Nays: -0-

- 2018-138. Final Reading of an ordinance to amend Chapter 82 of Title VIII of the City Code pertaining to swimming and other pools.

- 2018-138-A. Zagel-Hamrick. That an ordinance to amend Chapter 82 of Title VIII of the City Code pertaining to swimming and other pools be adopted as attached in Exhibit “E.”

- Yeas: Duncan, Favale, Hamrick, Miller, Walters, Zagel and Seibold – 7
- Nays: -0-

- 2018-139. Final Reading of an ordinance to amend Chapter 84 of Title VIII of the City Code pertaining to the property maintenance code.
- 2018-139-A. Favale-Hamrick. That an ordinance to amend Chapter 84 of Title VIII of the City Code pertaining to the property maintenance code be adopted as attached in Exhibit “F.”
- Yeas: Duncan, Favale, Hamrick, Miller, Walters, Zagel and Seibold – 7  
Nays: -0-
- 2018-140. Final Reading of an ordinance to repeal Chapter 86 of Title VIII of the City Code pertaining to the plumbing code.
- 2018-140-A. Miller-Favale. That an ordinance to repeal Chapter 86 of Title VIII of the City Code pertaining to the plumbing code be adopted as attached in Exhibit “G.”
- Yeas: Duncan, Favale, Hamrick, Miller, Walters, Zagel and Seibold – 7  
Nays: -0-
- 2018-141. Final Reading of an ordinance to repeal Chapter 87 of Title VIII of the City Code pertaining to the electrical code.
- 2018-141-A. Hamrick-Miller. That an ordinance to repeal Chapter 87 of Title VIII of the City Code pertaining to the electrical code be adopted as attached in Exhibit “H.”
- Yeas: Duncan, Favale, Hamrick, Miller, Walters, Zagel and Seibold – 7  
Nays: -0-
- 2018-142. Final Reading of an ordinance to repeal Chapter 89 of Title VIII of the City Code pertaining to the mechanical code.
- 2018-142-A. Zagel-Favale. That an ordinance to repeal Chapter 89 of Title VIII of the City Code pertaining to the mechanical code be adopted as attached in Exhibit “I.”
- Yeas: Duncan, Favale, Hamrick, Miller, Walters, Zagel and Seibold – 7  
Nays: -0-
- 2018-143. Final Reading of an ordinance to repeal Article VI of Chapter 91 of Title IX of the City Code pertaining to grass and noxious weeds.
- 2018-143-A. Duncan-Favale. That an ordinance to repeal Article VI of Chapter 91 of Title IX of the City Code pertaining to grass and noxious weeds be adopted as attached in Exhibit “J.”
- Yeas: Duncan, Favale, Hamrick, Miller, Walters, Zagel and Seibold – 7  
Nays: -0-
- 2018-144. Zagel-Miller. To approve the consent agenda as follows:
- 2018-144-A. Minutes of the regular meeting held September 17, 2018.
- 2018-144-B. Payroll disbursements of \$224,680.29; county and school disbursements of \$236,286.02, and total remaining disbursements of \$706,472.36.
- 2018-144-C. A policy and guidelines for the use of radar speed feedback signs as attached in Exhibit “K.”
- Yeas: Duncan, Favale, Hamrick, Miller, Walters, Zagel and Seibold – 7  
Nays: -0-

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until October 15, 2018.

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Karen K. Brower, City Clerk

Attachments:   A – Ordinance amendment to Article I of Chapter 83 pertaining to general fence requirements  
                  B – Ordinance amendment to Chapter 21 regarding combustible waste  
                  C – Ordinance amendment to Chapter 23 regarding city sewer service  
                  D – Ordinance amendment to Chapter 80 regarding the building code  
                  E – Ordinance amendment to Chapter 82 regarding swimming pools  
                  F – Ordinance amendment to Chapter 84 regarding property maintenance code  
                  G – Ordinance amendment to repeal Chapter 86 pertaining to the plumbing code  
                  H – Ordinance amendment to repeal Chapter 87 pertaining to the electrical code  
                  I – Ordinance amendment to repeal Chapter 89 pertaining to the mechanical code  
                  J – Ordinance amendment to repeal Article VI of Chapter 91 regarding grass and weeds  
                  K – Radar Speed Feedback Sign policy

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