

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COMMISSION
CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

Special Meeting Held January 16, 2012

Mayor Seibold called the special meeting to order at 5:02 p.m. in the City Commission Chamber at the Community Center.

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

Absent: None

Also Present: City Attorney Huff; City Manager Donovan; Faasse; City Clerk Brower

2012-6. The City Commission met to interview candidates for the vacant 1st Ward City Commissioner position.

Aubrey Sykes, Phil Skaggs and Vasiliy Gagin all introduced themselves to the City Commission, detailed their interest in the position, and answered questions from the City Commission.

Mayor Seibold thanked the three men for their interest in the position and announced the City Commission would select a new commissioner at their regular meeting at 6:00 pm.

The special meeting adjourned at 5:36 p.m.

Karen K. Brower, City Clerk

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COMMISSION
CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

Regular Meeting Held January 16, 2012

Mayor Seibold called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the City Commission Chamber at the Community Center and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Absent: None

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

2012-7. Peter MacGregor, 73rd District State Representative, was present to introduce himself as the new representative for East Grand Rapids following the upcoming redistricting project.

2012-8. Commissioner Seibold announced the pond hockey tournament had been moved to February 9-12 due to the lack of ice on Reeds Lake.

2012-9. A zoning variance hearing was held regarding the request of Jason & Stephanie Doublestein of 956 Orchard to allow the construction of a detached garage with side and rear garage setbacks of 1.0' instead of the required 3.0' and to allow a separation of 7.0' between the house and garage instead of the required 10.0.'

Zoning Administrator Faasse outlined the proposal to demolish the old garage and build a new 12'x18' garage 1' from the side and rear property lines and 7' from the home.

Jason Doublestein, 956 Orchard, was present to explain the request and answer questions.

Commissioner Johnson asked whether the excess concrete would be removed when the new garage was built. Mr. Doublestein stated it would be removed and replaced with grass, landscaping and possibly a small deck or patio.

Commissioner Graham stated he usually opposed setbacks of 1' from the property line, but acknowledged the layout of the home and lot left few options for these homeowners. He stated he would support this request.

Commissioner Dills questioned whether there was any issue with the separation from the home. Mr. Faasse stated the Public Safety Department did not oppose the separation.

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

- Rob Deaner, 957 Lakeside In Favor.

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

- Dianne Brady-Peters, 950 Orchard In Favor.

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

A. Graham-Johnson. That the request of Jason & Stephanie Doublestein of 956 Orchard to allow the construction of a detached garage with side and rear garage setbacks of 1.0' instead of the required 3.0' and to allow a separation of 7.0' between the house and garage instead of the required 10.0' be approved.

Commissioner Miller stated support for the request as he felt it improved the home and the neighborhood.

Commissioner Johnson felt the 26' rear yard was quite small and understood the applicant's wish to build a garage in the proposed location and regain living space in the back yard.

Mayor Seibold also spoke in support of the variance as she was familiar with the neighborhood and agreed the lots were small and hard to locate garages.

Yeas: Dills, Goebel, Graham, Johnson, Miller and Seibold – 6
Nays: -0-

2012-10. Appointment of 1st Ward City Commissioner.

Mayor Seibold reported the City Commission had interviewed three candidates for the vacant 1st Ward Commissioner position in a worksession prior to the regular meeting.

- A. Miller-Graham. That Phil Skaggs of 2615 Hall Street be appointed as First Ward City Commissioner to fill the vacant seat for the remainder of the term ending December 2, 2013.

Commissioner Goebel stated it was a difficult decision as all three candidates would serve the city very well.

Mayor Seibold thanked those who applied and stated she would be working to find volunteer positions for those not appointed to the commission so that the city could benefit from their interest and enthusiasm.

Yeas: Goebel, Graham, Johnson, Miller and Seibold – 5
Nays: Dills – 1

2012-11. Dills-Miller. Motion to approve the consent agenda as follows:

- A. Minutes of the regular meeting held January 3, 2012.
- B. Payroll disbursements of \$298,122.92; county and school disbursements of \$288,393.19, and total remaining disbursements of \$154,564.11.
- C. That the City Commission assignments be approved as recommended by Mayor Seibold.
- D. A lease and maintenance agreement with Michigan Office Solutions for copier and printer maintenance in the amount of \$1,610.00 per month for 60 months.
- E. An amendment to the agreement with Moore & Bruggink to provide construction engineering services for the Wealthy Street storm water separator project in the amount of \$15,000.00.
- F. Authorization to allow staff to seek bids for the refinancing of the 2002 Wealthy Pool bonds originally issued February 1, 2002.
- G. An agreement with EMPCO, Inc. of Troy, Michigan to administer the sergeant examination process for the Public Safety Department in the amount not to exceed \$14,064.00 and a related budget amendment for the final amount from the General Fund ending balance for this expense.
- H. A three-year contract for streetscape plantings with Everlasting Blooms at a cost of \$9,407.00 for 2012, \$10,347.70 for 2013 and \$10,862.20 for 2014.
- I. The quarterly financial reports for the period ending December 31, 2011.
- J. The preliminary minutes of the Parks & Recreation Commission meeting held December 12, 2011.
- K. The Public Safety Department Report for November 2011.

Yeas: Dills, Goebel, Graham, Johnson, Miller and Seibold – 6
Nays: -0-

- L. Dills-Johnson. Motion to enter into an executive session to discuss an attorney's opinion in accordance with Section 8(h) of the Open Meetings Act. A roll call vote was taken.

Yeas: Dills, Goebel, Graham, Johnson, Miller and Seibold – 6
Nays: -0-

The meeting adjourned at 6:16 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until February 6, 2012.

Karen K. Brower, City Clerk