

A regular meeting of the Kalamazoo City Commission was held on Monday, July 20, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Commission Chambers at City Hall.

Roll Call

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Mayor Bobby J. Hopewell
David Anderson
Don Cooney
Sean McCann
Barbara Miller
Stephanie Moore

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Vice Mayor Hannah McKinney

Also present were City Manager Ken Collard, City Attorney Clyde Robinson, and City Clerk Scott A. Borling.

Commissioner Excused

Commissioner Miller, seconded by Commissioner Moore, moved to excuse the absence of Vice Mayor McKinney. With a voice vote the motion passed.

Invocation

The invocation, given by Senior Pastor Jeff Porte, Third Reformed Church, was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Introduction of Guests

Mayor Hopewell recognized the presence of State Representative and former Kalamazoo Mayor Robert B. Jones. Representative Jones thanked the City Commissioners and appointees for their service. Representative Jones reported the state's fiscal health was poor, and local revenue sharing was in jeopardy. Representative Jones announced his candidacy for the 20th District State Senate seat in 2010.

Proclamation

Commissioner Miller, on behalf of Mayor Hopewell, read a proclamation *Honoring K-9 "Ranger" for Meritorious Service*. Officer Marc Rifenberg and Ranger were present to receive the proclamation.

Adoption of the Agenda

By unanimous consent the City Commission adopted its meeting agenda as presented.

Communications

City Manager Collard invited the public to attend meetings of various boards and commissions.

Consent Agenda

Consent Agenda items were presented as follows with a recommendation to approve the items with authorization for the City Manager to sign on behalf of the city:

Resolution 09-54

- approval of a contract with MOSS for network switch replacement in the amount of \$244,828.09.
- adoption of a Michigan Department of Consumer & Industry Services, Liquor Control Commission **RESOLUTION** to approve a new entertainment permit and official permit (food) for Green Top Tavern located at 250 East Michigan Avenue.

Consent Agenda
(cont'd)

- approval of a recommendation to offer for first reading an **ORDINANCE** to amend Chapter 15 of the Kalamazoo City Code to add Article II entitled "Outdoor Furnaces."
- acceptance of a grant of \$20,000 from the Dorothy U. Dalton Foundation to support the La Crone and Woods Lake Beach Parks Redevelopment Project.
- approval of a recommendation to: a) accept a donation of \$500 from Herschel Figg to fund additional advertising for the Kalamazoo Farmers' Market; and, b) increase the advertising line item budget for the Farmers' Market by the amount of the donation.
- approval of the appointment of **Shawn Brier** to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board for a term expiring January 1, 2012.
- approval of the City Commission minutes from the Neighborhood Meeting on June 15 and the Business Meetings on June 15, June 29 and July 6, 2009.
- approval of a recommendation to hold until August 3, 2009 the purchase of a 28.13 acre property located southeast of the "G" Avenue and 6th Street intersection, Section 3, Oshtemo Township for the amount of \$245,944.

Commissioner McCann, seconded by Commissioner Anderson, moved to approve the consent agenda requests.

With a roll call vote this motion passed unanimously.

AYES: Commissioners Anderson, Cooney, McCann, Miller, Moore, Mayor Hopewell

NAYS: None

Regular Agenda
Ordinance 1857
re: the Due Date
for PILOT
Payments

Regular Agenda Items were considered next.

An opportunity was given for citizens to comment on the adoption of an ordinance regarding the due date for PILOT payments, but no comments were made.

Commissioner McCann seconded by Commissioner Miller moved to adopt an **ORDINANCE** amending Subsections D and E of Section 35-4, regarding the date for when PILOT payments are due.

With a roll call vote this motion passed unanimously.

AYES: Commissioners Anderson*, Cooney, McCann, Miller, Moore, Vice Mayor McKinney, Mayor Hopewell

NAYS: None

City Manager's Report

City Manager Collard provided the following reports and updates:

- Departmental Reports and Project Updates
- CITYLink newsletter dated June 2009
- Kalamazoo Communities in Schools Newsletter dated July/August 2009
- June 2009 Purchasing Report

City Manager Collard highlighted the following items: the installation of the City's new tax billing software was complete; the Friends of Recreation Golf Classic raised \$10,000 for the Youth Development Center; the Frays Park improvement project was near completion; the Public Safety Department was partnering with the Parks and Recreation Department to conduct Kids Safe Summer activities; and the Public Services Department had engaged the services of Tower-Pinkster-Titus to develop a "green roof" plan for City Hall.

Commissioner Miller expressed appreciation to City Manager Collard for moving quickly to address concerns regarding aggressive panhandling in the downtown area.

Citizen Comments

Next, the following citizens addressed the City Commission regarding non-agenda items:

Stacey Merrick, City resident and board member of Michigan Peoples' Action (MPA), spoke regarding the City's recent listing as the sixth meanest City towards homeless people.

Christopher Adams, City resident and member of MPA, spoke regarding the City's recent listing as the sixth meanest City towards homeless people.

LoriAnne Tennison, City resident and member of MPA, spoke regarding Kalamazoo's ranking as the sixth meanest City towards homeless people.

Jonathan Braun, City resident and member of MPA, reported the Michigan Organizing Project (MOP) would be applying for Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Rehousing Program funds, and he discussed Kalamazoo's ranking as the sixth meanest City towards homeless people.

Bob Giffels, City resident, spoke regarding a block party application he had submitted and requested the Traffic Engineer's concerns be reexamined.

David Becker, City resident, spoke regarding the proposed new arena in the downtown area and suggested the developers study the Gruen Plan and other downtown plans before creating a new plan.

Asha Khazad, City resident, spoke regarding problems with trash at the Family Dollar store on Portage Street in Washington Square.

City Commissioner
Comments

Next, an opportunity was given for miscellaneous comments and concerns of City Commissioners.

Commissioner Moore asked that the City facilitate a solution to problem of trash at the Family Dollar store and noted on the following items: the Master Plan Meeting at the offices of the Northside Association for Community Development (NACD); the Kalamazoo Kings baseball clinic on July 31st; the Financial Freedom Conference on August 1st; the Kalamazoo Outlaws first win of the season; the Michigan Organizing Project's successful the Nehemiah Plan meeting on ; National Night Out on August 4th; the Black Arts Fest, July 29th - August 2nd; Vacation Bible School at Mt. Zion and Galilee Baptist Churches; and the Sistas on the Move conference for teenage girls on August 15th.

Commissioner Miller offered remarks on the following items: the Friends of Recreation Golf Classic; Maranda's Party in the Park on July 23rd; the Upjohn Park grand opening ceremony on August 7th; and the good work of PSO Terry Thomas in settling a dispute over parking at Dairy Queen.

Commissioner Anderson discussed the City's inclusion on a national list of "Ten Meanest Cities" towards homeless people. Commissioner Anderson showed how the City's placement on this list was the direct result of lobbying by local advocates for homeless people, and he noted Kalamazoo had more shelter beds than several of the larger cities on the list. Commissioner Anderson thanked Kalamazoo citizens who donated time, energy and money to care for people in need of food and shelter, and he explained that Kalamazoo had become a regional center for homeless shelters and services precisely because of the generosity of Kalamazoo's citizens.

Commissioner Cooney reported the City Commission had received a letter expressing opposition to the proposed outdoor furnace ordinance. Commissioner Cooney requested that the City respond to the objections in this letter prior to final consideration of the ordinance. Commissioner Cooney also spoke regarding homelessness and stated Kalamazoo was not a mean City. Commissioner Cooney expressed hope that the negative national publicity about homelessness in Kalamazoo would lead the community to address the causes of poverty.

Commissioner McCann remarked on the "meanest cities" ranking, recommended that Mr. Becker attend the upcoming design charette for the proposed downtown arena, and extended condolences to the family of Bob McDonough on his passing.

Mayor Hopewell spoke regarding the national study on homelessness and stated it was unfortunate the facts were not reported, and the truth about Kalamazoo's efforts to serve the homeless was not published. Mayor Hopewell remarked on the Gear Up program for young people and the successful Woofstock event over the weekend.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott A. Borling
City Clerk

For City Commission approval on August 3, 2009

Approved by: _____
Bobby J. Hopewell, Mayor
Dated: August 3, 2009