

A regular meeting of the Kalamazoo City Commission was held on Monday, August 31, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Commission Chambers at City Hall.

## Roll Call

## COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Mayor Bobby J. Hopewell  
 Vice Mayor Hannah McKinney  
 David Anderson  
 Don Cooney  
 Sean McCann  
 Barbara Miller  
 Stephanie Moore

## COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

None

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

## Invocation

The invocation, given by Reverend John McNaughton, OSL, was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

## Proclamation

**78447**

Commissioner Moore, on behalf of Mayor Hopewell, proclaimed September 2009 *National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month*.

## Adoption of the Agenda

By unanimous consent the City Commission adopted its meeting agenda with the following change:

A citizen requested that Item F-3 (transit planning agreement) be moved from the Consent Agenda to the Regular Agenda for discussion.

## Communications

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

Public Hearing re:  
a Tax Abatement  
for Pharmacia and  
Upjohn Company

**78448**

At 7:09 p.m. Mayor Hopewell opened a public hearing to receive public comments regarding a recommendation to adopt a RESOLUTION to approve an application from Pharmacia & Upjohn Company, LLC for a PA 198 Industrial Facilities Tax (IFT) Exemption Certificate for three + three years for personal property valued at \$18,900,000 and six + six years for real property valued at \$9,039,600 in existing Industrial Development District No. 76 located in Building 300 at 300 Portage Street, with first year, new city property taxes estimated at \$145,400 and a first year estimated abatement value of approximately \$145,400 in city-only property taxes.

At 7:10 p.m. Mayor Hopewell closed the public hearing.

Resolution 09-62  
Approving a Tax  
Abatement for  
Pharmacia and  
Upjohn Company

**78448**

Commissioner McCann, seconded by Commissioner Anderson, moved to adopt a **RESOLUTION** to approve an application from Pharmacia & Upjohn Company, LLC for a PA 198 Industrial Facilities Tax (IFT) Exemption Certificate for three + three years for personal property valued at \$18,900,000 and six + six years for real property valued at \$9,039,600 in existing Industrial Development District No. 76 located in Building 300 at 300 Portage Street, with first year, new city property taxes estimated at \$145,400 and a first year estimated abatement value of approximately \$145,400 in city-only property taxes.

With a roll call vote this motion passed unanimously.

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

NAYS: None

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:

**78449** - approval of two contracts with GFI Genfare, Inc. for the purchase of farebox equipment, software upgrades, and ticket vending equipment for the Kalamazoo Metro Transit System in the aggregate amount of \$583,406.

**78450** - approval of a professional services contract with Perteet, Inc. for the completion of a Comprehensive Operational Analysis for the Metro Transit System in the amount of \$149,821.

**78451** - the granting of a special permit for three pet pigs to be kept at 136 E. Maple Street, subject to compliance with applicable statutes, ordinances, and health codes.

**78452** - authorization for the City Manager to sign a quit claim deed and any related documents for 941 Bellevue Place to the State of Michigan in order to correct an error in the transfer of this tax foreclosed property.

**78453** - a recommendation to the Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners that Jerome Kisscorni be the City of Kalamazoo's representative on the newly formed Kalamazoo County Land Bank Authority.

Commissioner Miller, seconded by Commissioner Cooney, moved to approve the consent agenda requests.

With a roll call vote this motion passed unanimously.

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

NAYS: None

Regular Agenda

Regular Agenda Items were considered next.

Pass Through Agreement with KATS to Fund an Operational Analysis for the Metro Transit System

When an opportunity was given for public comments on a Transit Planning Agreement between the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study and the City of Kalamazoo for conducting the transit planning Comprehensive Operational Analysis for the Metro Transit System, the following citizens addressed the City Commission:

Beth Lewis, City resident, requested information on this agreement.

**78454**

Pass Through Agreement with KATS to Fund an Operational Analysis for the Metro Transit System (cont'd)

**78454**

Commissioner McCann, seconded by Commissioner Moore moved to approve a Transit Planning Agreement between the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study and the City of Kalamazoo for conducting the transit planning Comprehensive Operational Analysis for the Metro Transit System.

With a roll call vote this motion passed unanimously.

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

NAYS: None

Contract with Apple Bus for Paratransit and Demand/Response Transportation Services

**78455**

Transportation Director Bill Schomisch delivered a presentation on a three-year contract with Apple Bus Company for the provision of specialized transportation services for the Kalamazoo Metro Transit Metro County Connect ADA Paratransit and Demand/Response Program. Discussion followed.

When an opportunity was given for public comments on a three-year contract with Apple Bus Company for the provision of specialized transportation services for the Kalamazoo Metro Transit Metro County Connect ADA Paratransit and Demand/Response Program, the following citizens addressed the City Commission:

Brad Cosgrove, City resident, expressed support for the merger of the Care-A-Van and Metro Van services and stated Apple Bus must provide responsive service and pay decent wages. Mr. Cosgrove indicated he was pleased that Apple Bus would employ two, full-time mechanics.

Commissioner Cooney, seconded by Commissioner Moore, moved to approve a three-year contract with Apple Bus Company for the provision of specialized transportation services for the Kalamazoo Metro Transit Metro County Connect ADA Paratransit and Demand/Response Program in the amount of \$7,889,100.

With a roll call vote this motion passed unanimously.

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

NAYS: None

Resolution 09-63 Accepting a Deed for Arboretum Pkwy and Dedicating as a Public Roadway

**78456**

When an opportunity was given for public comments on a RESOLUTION authorizing the City Manager to accept a quit claim deed from the Western Michigan University Foundation conveying property to the city and dedicate the property as a public roadway to be known as the Arboretum Parkway, the following citizens addressed the City Commission:

Patrick Lennon, non-resident and legal counsel for the WMU Foundation, spoke in favor of the proposed resolution.

Resolution 09-63  
Accepting a Deed  
for Arboretum  
Pkwy and  
Dedicating as a  
Public Roadway  
(cont'd)

**78456**

Beth Lewis, City resident, asked who paid for the road and whether it was legal for the City to build roads on private property.

Rex Bruggemann, City resident, expressed support for the construction of a bike path along Arboretum Parkway between Solon and Drake and asked that this path be completed soon.

Commissioner McCann, seconded by Commissioner Miller, moved to adopt a **RESOLUTION** authorizing the City Manager to accept a quit claim deed from the Western Michigan University Foundation conveying property to the city and dedicate the property as a public roadway to be known as the Arboretum Parkway.

Prior to a vote on the motion, Commissioner Miller thanked City staff for answering her questions and stated she had faith the parties involved in this project would honor their promises.

Vice Mayor McKinney highlighted the partnerships that were necessary to complete this project, and she stated the project illustrated how Kalamazoo was able to “do partnerships.” Vice Mayor McKinney expressed interest in seeing the punch list of items to be completed.

With a roll call vote this motion passed unanimously.

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

NAYS: None

City Clerk’s  
Report

City Clerk Borling reported packets for City Commission candidates would be available in the City Clerk’s Office beginning Wednesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>. City Clerk Borling noted the filing deadline for City Commission candidates was Friday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> at 5:00 p.m.

Resolution 09-64  
Supporting  
Healthcare Reform

**78457**

When an opportunity was given for public comments on a **RESOLUTION** in support of healthcare reform, the following citizens addressed the City Commission:

Bob Schellenberg, City resident, expressed support for national healthcare reform.

Phillip Micklin, City resident, expressed support for the proposed resolution.

Beth Lewis, City resident, expressed support for the proposed resolution.

Frank Warren, City resident, expressed support for national health insurance.

Commissioner Moore, seconded by Commissioner Cooney, moved to adopt a **RESOLUTION** in support of healthcare reform.

Resolution 09-64  
Supporting  
Healthcare Reform  
(cont'd)

**78457**

Prior to a vote on the motion, Commissioner Moore thanked the Subcommittee for drafting a good resolution and highlighted the disparities in healthcare provision. Commissioner Moore read from a statement by the NAACP regarding the plight of individuals without health insurance.

Commissioner Anderson thanked the Subcommittee for its work and noted the following: the National League of Cities and the U.S. Conference of Mayors had asked the City Commission to adopt a resolution regarding healthcare reform because many local jurisdictions dealt with healthcare directly; the proposed resolution was personalized with information about the effect of healthcare costs to the City of Kalamazoo; and the proposed resolution was a recognition of the problem and a statement of principles, not a prescription for a solution.

Commissioner Cooney noted this resolution was created in response to requests from national organizations and a group of local citizens. Commissioner Cooney discussed the general principles in the proposed resolution and urged people in Kalamazoo to speak to their representatives in Washington about this issue.

Commissioner Miller stated she did not have any issues with the proposed ordinance, but she remarked on the speed with which the resolution was developed and expressed concern that this swiftness would set a precedent and create expectations for future requests from citizens. Commissioner Miller stated the City Commission should have a set process for dealing with requests for resolutions.

Mayor Hopewell stated emergency care was the most expensive type of care to provide, and any reform of the healthcare system would need to emphasize wellness and preventative care.

With a roll call vote the motion to adopt the resolution passed unanimously.

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

NAYS: None

Citizen Comments

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

Jonathan Braun, City resident, spoke on behalf of Michigan Peoples' Action (MPA) and discussed the administration of federal funds from the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Rehousing Program (HPRRP).

Stacey Marek, City resident, spoke on behalf of MPA and asked why MPA representatives had not been invited to City meetings regarding HPRRP.

Max Conrad, City resident, read a press release from MPA regarding the HPRRP funds.

Citizen Comments  
(cont'd)

Christopher Adams, City resident, spoke regarding the HPRRP funds.

Kenyata Williams, City resident, spoke regarding corruption in local law enforcement agencies and the judicial system.

Phillip Micklin, City resident, expressed concern about pedestrian safety on Arboretum Parkway where an existing footpath crossed the new road. Mr. Micklin asked that a better crossing be installed.

**78458**

Tamara Mitchell, City resident, announced grants were available for dialysis service, food assistance, and utility assistance through the Jason and Tamara Mitchell Foundation. Materials provided by Ms. Mitchell were filed with the papers for this meeting.

Frank Warren, City resident, expressed opposition to spending \$3.1 million for GPS systems on busses and expressed concern about traffic from Paramount Charter Academy in the parking lot of the Lynn Terrace Apartments.

Kai Phillips, City resident, thanked the staff in the Public Safety Department for their work.

Beth Lewis, City resident, spoke regarding the nominating process for City Commissioners, the money required to successfully campaign for the City Commission, and the movie *Kalamazoo 1884*.

Hugh Farr, City resident, thanked Public Safety Officers for their work.

Commissioner  
Comments

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

Commissioner Moore offered remarks on the following topics: Kalamazoo's 125<sup>th</sup> birthday; the back-to-school bash events organized by Katie Johnson and the Family Health Center; the Public Safety Leadership Academy; the first day of school on September 8<sup>th</sup>; citizen input regarding healthcare reform; Tamara Mitchell and her Foundation; new businesses being launched by Mt. Zion Baptist Church; the anniversary of Hurricane Katrina; the Ministry with Community/Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety softball game on September 9<sup>th</sup>; and opening of Tucker's Ballroom Dance Studio on Farmers Alley.

Commissioner Miller remarked that she had recently lunched with Public Safety Chief Jeff Hadley and former Public Safety Chief John Ross. Commissioner Miller directed citizens to John Urschel, Records and Information Manager, for copies of the film *Kalamazoo 1884*.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott A. Borling  
City Clerk

For City Commission approval on October 19, 2009

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_

Bobby J. Hopewell, Mayor

Dated: October 19, 2009