

	<p>A business meeting of the Kalamazoo City Commission was held on Monday, March 2, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Commission Chambers at City Hall, 241 W. South Street.</p>
Roll Call	<p>COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Mayor Bobby Hopewell Vice Mayor David Anderson Robert Cinabro Don Cooney Eric Cunningham Barbara Miller Jack Urban</p> <p>COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: None</p>
	<p>Also present were City Manager Jim Ritsema, City Attorney Clyde Robinson, and City Clerk Scott Borling.</p>
Invocation	<p>The invocation, given by Pastor Ken Smeader, Kalamazoo Missionary Church, was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.</p>
Proclamations	<p>Vice Mayor Anderson proclaimed March 1-7, 2015 <i>Women in Construction Week</i>. Jenna Horrigan of the National Association of Women in Construction, Kalamazoo/Battle Creek Chapter 302, received the proclamation.</p>
Adoption of the Agenda	<p>By unanimous consent the City Commission adopted its meeting agenda as presented.</p>
Communications	<p>City Manager Ritsema reported there had been a total of 176 frozen water service lines, with 50 currently frozen, and he encouraged residents who had experienced frozen lines in 2014 or 2015 to run a trickle of water to prevent freezing.</p> <p>City Manager Ritsema announced there would be a City Commission Work Session on Monday, February 9, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Room at City Hall. The purpose of the meeting would be to discuss the May 5<sup>th</sup> statewide ballot proposal.</p>
Update on the Implementation of a Group Violence Intervention Strategy	<p>Public Safety Chief Jeff Hadley reported the Mayor, City Manager, representatives from the Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety (KDPS), and some community leaders had recently attended a two-day instructional session in New York City on the Group Violence Intervention (GVI) model by the National Network for Safe Communities. Chief Hadley described the GVI model, referenced his recent letter to the community entitled <i>Kalamazoo Public Safety Progress Report</i>, and mentioned President Obama's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Task Force on Policing. A copy of Chief Hadley's letter was filed with the papers for this meeting.</p> <p>In response to a question from Commissioner Cooney, Chief Hadley stated the next steps would be securing grant funding for additional GVI training and educating the community leaders about the GCI model to make them more comfortable with it.</p>

Commissioner Cooney stated he had enjoyed dinner with David Kennedy when he was in Kalamazoo, expressed support for the GVI model, and thanked Chief Hadley for pursuing this strategy.

Update on the Implementation of a Group Violence Intervention Strategy (cont'd)

In response to a question from Commissioner Urban, Chief Hadley stated there was some violent activity that could be attributed to groups, and some that was more random. Chief Hadley clarified the Cease Fire program was one approach to addressing violence and was not a silver bullet.

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

Consent Agenda

- approval of a contract in the amount of \$124,710.00 with Peerless-Midwest, Inc. to perform well rehabilitations for Production Wells 1-1, 1-3, and 1-6 at Water Pumping Station (WPS) 1 (Central), Production Well 8-3 at WPS 8 (West Kilgore), and Production Well 24-18A at WPS 24 (Al Sabo).
- approval of a contract with Fedewa, Inc. to paint the Gull Road Water Storage Facility in the amount of \$444,900.
- approval of an agreement with the Kalamazoo County Road Commission through which the City of Kalamazoo will provide maintenance and utility locating services for all traffic signals under the jurisdiction of the Road Commission.
- approval of a Service Agreement between the Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority, the Kalamazoo Transit Authority Board and the City of Kalamazoo for calendar year 2015.
- adoption of a **RESOLUTION** designating the polling facility location for Precinct 15 to be used during the State of Michigan Special election on May 5, 2015 and for each election thereafter.

Resolution 15-09

Commissioner Cinabro, seconded by Commissioner Miller, moved to approve the consent agenda requests and authorize the City Manager to sign on behalf of the City.

With a roll call vote this motion passed unanimously.

AYES: Commissioners Cinabro, Cooney, Cunningham, Miller, Urban, Vice Mayor Anderson, Mayor Hopewell

NAYS: None

Regular Agenda items were considered next.

Regular Agenda

An opportunity was given for citizens to comment on two resolutions and an ordinance authorizing the sale of capital improvement and water revenue bonds, but no comments were offered.

Bond Resolutions and Ordinance

Resolution 15-10  
Authorizing CIP Bonds

Commissioner Cooney, seconded by Vice Mayor Anderson, moved to adopt the following bond authorizing resolutions and ordinances:

Notice of Intent  
Resolution 15-11 for  
Water Revenue Bonds

- a Resolution authorizing the issuance of Capital Improvement Bonds in the amount of \$5,150,000;

Ordinance 1933  
Authorizing Water  
Revenue Bonds

- a Notice of Intent Resolution for Water Supply System Revenue Bonds, Series 2015;

- an Ordinance Authorizing Water Supply System Revenue Bonds, Series 2015 in the amount of \$3,035,000.

Prior to a vote on the motion, Vice Mayor Anderson noted the importance of investing in the infrastructure that provided water and sewer service.

Commissioner Urban remarked the City’s water supply came from a complex system of wells.

With a roll call vote this motion passed unanimously.

AYES: Commissioners Cinabro, Cooney, Cunningham, Miller, Urban, Vice Mayor Anderson, Mayor Hopewell

NAYS: None

Allocation of HUD  
Funds (CDBG) – Start  
of 30-day Comment  
Period

Community Development Manager Dorla Bonner provided a brief overview of the City’s process for allocating funds received from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG).

In response to a question from Vice Mayor Anderson, Ms. Bonner explained the City had adopted a Consolidated Plan for the use of HUD funds for the years 2014-2019, and the plan being released for public comment was the annual action plan that described how the HUD funds received in 2015 would be used to achieve the goals described in the Consolidated Plan. Ms. Bonner noted the Consolidated Plan was developed with a tremendous amount of input from the community.

Commissioner Cunningham remarked that he had been on the Community Development Act Advisory Committee (CDAAC) and thanked Ms. Bonner for her work.

When an opportunity was given for citizens to comment on the release of the 2015 Draft Action Plan for a 30-day public comment period, the following people addressed the City Commission:

Asha Khazad, City resident, discussed his residency at the Washington Square Cooperative Apartments and stated support from the federal government was important to making these apartments affordable.

Richard Stewart, City resident, urged citizens to provide input on the draft action plan. Mr. Stewart stated it was surprising to see the amount of HUD funds going to the City when most of the non-

profit organizations who applied for CDBG funding were either not funded at all or funded at an amount that was less than their requests.

Cody Decker, City resident, asked the City to stop implementation of the Downtown Design Review District ordinance for six months.

Max Tibbitts, City resident, commended CDAAC for its work. Mr. Tibbitts explained that neighborhood associations had requested the Douglas Fire Station be renovated to provide a site for youth activities and after school programs. Mr. Tibbitts noted the \$50,000 allocated for the fire station renovation was just a small part of the total cost, and the neighborhoods involved would seek grants from other sources and donate labor to make the project happen.

Chris Mbah, City resident and member of CDAAC, stated the CDBG funding allocations went through a very transparent and inclusive process with CDAAC.

Commissioner Cunningham, seconded by Commissioner Urban, moved to approve the release of the 2015 Draft Action Plan for a 30-day public comment period to begin on March 2, 2015, as required by U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Prior to a vote on the motion, Vice Mayor Anderson thanked CDAAC for its work. Vice Mayor Anderson confirmed the City used CDBG funds for functions like code enforcement and noted many cities, like Grand Rapids, used all their CDBG funds for City activities, which the HUD rules allowed. Vice Mayor Anderson explained Kalamazoo was one of the few cities that distributed CDBG funds to local agencies and non-profits through a process that included a great deal of community input.

With a roll call vote this motion passed unanimously.

AYES: Commissioners Cinabro, Cooney, Cunningham, Miller, Urban, Vice Mayor Anderson, Mayor Hopewell

NAYS: None

City Manager Ritsema provided the following reports and updates:

City Manager Ritsema thanked the City Commission for a profitable retreat on Saturday, February 28<sup>th</sup> and stated he would bring the updated priorities to the City Commission for approval in the near future.

Next, an opportunity was given for general citizen comments.

Frank Warren, City resident, spoke about a resident of his condominium who vandalized the building.

Chris Wahmhoff, City resident, stated he was encouraged by the retreat on Saturday and thanked Commissioner Urban for engaging citizens. Mr. Wahmhoff urged the City to talk with Steve

Allocation of HUD Funds (CDBG) – Start of 30-day Comment Period (cont'd)

City Manager's Report

Citizen Comments

Citizen Comments  
(cont'd)

Metcalf and Jim Casha regarding the City's budget situation and poverty reduction. Mr. Wahmhoff commented on the L3C model for organizing a company.

Brad Loomis, City resident, thanked the City for the Façade Improvement Grant for his restaurant, Station 702, and invited people to a six-month anniversary ribbon cutting event on March 21<sup>st</sup>.

Asha Khazad, City resident, clarified that Mahatma Ghandi never declared himself a Christian. Mr. Khazad reported he had recently joined Friendship Baptist Church and offered remarks about God. Richard Stewart, City resident, stated there were pictures on social media of City Commissioners with alcohol at a spaghetti dinner, and he made comments about Commissioners discussing City business under the influence of alcohol. Mr. Stuart questioned why the City was promoting the use of alcohol.

Jacob Johnson, City resident, spoke about City Commission priorities #3 (creating a shared vision) and #5 (creating shared prosperity) and stated he and his family had not experienced shared prosperity in Kalamazoo.

Cody Decker, City resident, thanked Commissioners Cooney and Cunningham for voting against the Downtown Design Review District ordinance and thanked all Commissioners for their service.

Chris Mbah, City resident, thanked Mayor Hopewell and Commissioner Cunningham for engaging him in conversation. Mr. Mbah suggested the City use a speaker sign-in form like the one used by the Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners to record contact information and comments from citizens. A copy of this form was filed with the papers for this meeting.

Thelma Fry, City resident, spoke about how her daughter was assaulted and her son was arrested by KDPS officers in August 2014 and stated she had not heard anything from the City about her complaint.

Ben Kiffa, City resident, asked if there was a place for homeless people to go when temperatures became extremely cold.

Commissioner  
Comments

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

Commissioner Cunningham apologized to Ms. Fry for what happened to her family. Commissioner Cunningham stated the CDAAC process was unique and urged people to attend those meetings.

Commissioner Urban stated the symbolism of the elevated dais required some additional effort on the part of both Commissioners and citizens to understand each other.

Commissioner Cinabro asked for a report on Ms. Fry's complaint. Commissioner Cinabro commented on the recent death of Judge Richard Enslin.

Commissioner  
Comments (cont'd)

Commissioner Cooney thanked citizens for bringing forward constructive solutions. Commissioner Cooney noted February 21<sup>st</sup> was the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Malcolm X and offered remarks on his life.

Mayor Hopewell thanked Mr. Mbah for bringing forward his ideas. Mayor Hopewell requested clarification on the process for filing complaints against Public Safety.

Chief Hadley reported stated Ms. Frye filed a complaint with the Office of Professional Standards and indicated there was a completed investigation report on his desk, which he had partially reviewed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Scott A. Borling  
City Clerk

For City Commission approval on April 6, 2015

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Bobby J. Hopewell, Mayor  
Dated: April 6, 2015