

	<p>A business meeting of the Kalamazoo City Commission was held on Monday, March 16, 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 Reverend John McNaughton, was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.</p>
Proclamations	<p>Commissioner Cinabro read a proclamation honoring <i>Justice Richard Alan Enslin, 1931-2015</i>. Pamela and Gennady Enslin accepted the proclamation.</p>
Adoption of the Agenda	<p>By unanimous consent the City Commission adopted its meeting agenda with the following change:</p> <p>City Manager Ritsema requested that Item G-3, a resolution supporting the proposed public transportation millage to be placed before the voters within the CCTA boundaries on August 4, 2015, be removed from the agenda.</p>
Communications	<p>City Manager Ritsema reported all frozen water service lines had been thawed.</p>
Consent Agenda	<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- approval of a one year contract extension for property maintenance with US Lawns for mowing City owned properties, green space within State trunk lines, railroad right-of-way, Brownfield properties, nuisance violation properties and City Cemeteries, in the amount of \$331,115.</li> <li>- approval of a one-year contract extension with Republic Services of West Michigan in the amount of \$150,000 for the rental, placement, and removal of roll-off containers and disposal of all street sweeping materials deposited in those containers.</li> <li>- approval of the purchase of one aerial bucket truck from Cannon Truck Equipment in the amount of \$125,500.</li> </ul>

- adoption of a **RESOLUTION** of Intent to apply for annual transit financial assistance from the Michigan Department of Transportation for FY2016.
- adoption of a **RESOLUTION** to update the City of Kalamazoo Rules for Cemeteries, which will replace the various resolutions adopted by the City Commission over time that addressed specific cemetery sections.
- approval of the updated list of *Non-Bargaining Unit Employees Exempt from Civil Service Protection*.
- acceptance of a grant from the Kalamazoo Community Foundation in the amount of \$5,589 to purchase a new utility vehicle for the Mayors' Riverfront Park complex and approval of an increase to the General Fund appropriation by that same amount.
- acceptance of a Neighborhood Stabilization Program 2 Income Grant in the amount of \$181,500 and authorize Community Development staff to submit all required reports.
- approval of a request from the Kalamazoo Country Club for a permit to publicly display fireworks at 1609 Whites Road on Saturday, July 4, 2015 with a rain date of Sunday, July 5<sup>th</sup>.

Resolution 15-12

Resolution 15-13

Commissioner Cinabro, seconded by Commissioner Urban, 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.

An opportunity was given for citizens to comment on proposed changes to the methods and assumptions for the City's Employee Retirement System and the City's Retiree Health Care Trust Fund, but no comments were offered.

Vice Mayor Anderson, seconded by Commissioner Cooney, moved to adopt changes to the methods and assumptions for the City's Employee Retirement System and the City's Retiree Health Care Trust Fund.

Prior to a vote on the motion and in response to a question from Commissioner Cinabro, City Manager Ritsema stated the assumed rate of return and amortization period would not change.

Vice Mayor Anderson noted the City's pension system was healthy, and he explained how the proposed changes to the actuarial assumptions

Regular Agenda

Changes to the Actuarial Assumptions and Methods for the Pension System and Retiree Healthcare Trust Fund

Changes to the Actuarial Assumptions and Methods for the Pension System and Retiree Healthcare Trust Fund (cont'd)

affected the funding levels in the system. Vice Mayor Anderson reported pension systems statewide were only 61.3% funded, and he noted the City was proactive in taking actions to address its pension and retiree healthcare benefit liabilities. Vice Mayor Anderson thanked the Retirement System Investment Committee for its work over the years.

Commissioner Cooney commended the efforts of the Investment Committee and the work of City Manager Ritsema over the past year to address the City's retiree healthcare benefit liabilities.

With a roll call vote this motion passed unanimously.

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

NAYS: None

Resolution 15-14  
Supporting State  
Proposal 1 for Safer  
Roads

When given an opportunity comment on a resolution in support of Proposal 1 for Safer Roads, the following people addressed the City Commission:

Tim Graham, City resident, asked for clarification on the amount of the projected 2016 deficit in the City's General Fund if Proposal 1 passed.

Commissioner Miller, seconded by Commissioner Cunningham, moved to adopt a **RESOLUTION** in support of Proposal 1 for Safer Roads.

In response to a question from Commissioner Cooney, City Manager Ritsema stated passage of Proposal 1 would mean an additional \$661,000 for the General Fund in 2016, which would reduce the projected General Fund deficit to below \$2.4 million; and the new road funding would enable an elimination of the GF subsidy by approximately \$1 million in 2016, which would reduce the deficit to \$1.4 million. City Manager Ritsema noted there would be two policy questions for the City if Proposal 1 passed and was fully implemented between 2016-2018: 1) should the City stop transferring money from the General Fund to the Major and Local Streets Funds; and 2) should the City use the new road money to reduce its dependence on debt financing for road repairs.

Vice Mayor Anderson noted any proposal to increase revenue would have its detractors. Vice Mayor Anderson described how the City borrowed money every year to fix local streets. Vice Mayor Anderson expressed support for Proposal 1, as something needed to be done about the roads in Michigan.

Commissioner Cinabro stated he was not happy with how the Proposal 1 came about, but the proposal itself was not bad. Commissioner Cinabro stated the state's roads were a disaster, and there were no alternatives. Commissioner Cinabro expressed support for Proposal 1.

Commissioner Miller noted Michigan ranked 50<sup>th</sup> in the country in road spending per-capita. Commissioner Miller encouraged people to vote

“yes” on Proposal 1 and suggested the City submit a viewpoint article to the Kalamazoo Gazette in support of the proposal.

Commissioner Cooney noted 1997 was the last time taxes were raised for roads, and 25% of the bridges in Michigan were structurally deficient or functionally obsolete. Commissioner Cooney expresses support for Proposal 1.

Commissioner Cunningham expressed support for Proposal 1, as it would mean an investment in the City’s streets and roads.

Commissioner Urban stated a 7% sales tax would put Michigan in-line with the states around it. Commissioner Urban expressed support for Proposal 1.

Mayor Hopewell expressed support for Proposal 1 and stated he was on the board for the Michigan Municipal League, which had voted in February to support the proposal.

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:

- Departmental Report and Project Updates
- Inside the City newsletter, March 2016 edition
- February, 2015 Purchases

City Manager Ritsema reported there had been 79 interactions through imaginekalamazoo.com regarding Priority Based Budgeting. City Manager Ritsema invited people to the Easter egg hunt on Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup>.

Next, an opportunity was given for general citizen comments.

Frank Warren, City resident, described his involvement with Kalamazoo Drug Court and stated the community needed to help the young people who went through that program.

Axl Gale, City resident, spoke about sidewalks that were not kept clear of snow and ice during the winter.

Richard Stewart, City resident, expressed opposition to use of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for City services, like code enforcement, and spoke about Vice Mayor Anderson drinking alcohol at a neighborhood fundraising event.

Cody Decker, City resident, expressed opposition to use of CDBG funds for City services, like code enforcement, and asked for more detailed information on how the City would use these funds. Mr.

Resolution 15-14  
Supporting State  
Proposal 1 for Safer  
Roads (cont’d)

City Manager’s Report

Citizen Comments

Citizen Comments  
(cont'd)

Decker asked what the City was doing to engage citizens during the 30-day comment period for the CDBG allocations and asked if “ban the box” could be expanded through the whole City.

Annie Sprague, City resident, spoke about her chronic health condition. Ms. Sprague questioned why there was no Sunday bus service and how the City would use CDBG funds for code enforcement. Ms. Sprague expressed concern about the X-Train. Asha Khazad, City resident, spoke about the need for the United States to support, and have a good relationship with, China.

Chris Mbah, City resident, urged people to attend meetings of the Community Development Act Advisory Committee to learn more about the CDBG allocations. Mr. Mbah stated there needed to be authentic engagement and a more inclusive process around the implementation of the Cease Fire program. Mr. Mbah stated the City Commission shouldn't “run” from using the word “authentic,” but should define it.

Tim Graham, City resident, stated Kalamazoo was on the right path to being the prototypical urban model, in contrast to the State of Michigan and Detroit. Mr. Graham stated Kalamazoo needed to become self-sufficient and not depend on the state and federal government.

Commissioner  
Comments

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

Commissioner Urban spoke about the different elements of Proposal 1 and urged voters to support it on May 5<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Miller expressed condolences to the Ferraro family on the death of Charlotte Ferraro and noted corrections that needed to be made to *Calendar of Upcoming Meetings*.

Commissioner Cooney invited people to attend a presentation by James Forman, Jr. at the Fetzer Center on March 30<sup>th</sup>. The title of Mr. Forman's presentation would be *Less Prison, More College: A Civil Rights Agenda for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*.

Mayor Hopewell noted the Loy Norrix and Kalamazoo Central basketball teams were playing each other in a regional playoff matchup. Mayor Hopewell congratulated Jeff Shuta on his retirement. Mayor Hopewell stated Vice Mayor Anderson had worked tirelessly on behalf of the community for 30 years, and it was unconscionable for someone to use social media to degrade a person's reputation.

## Closed Session

Commissioner Cinabro, seconded by Commissioner Miller, moved that the City Commission go into closed session to discuss pending litigation.

Prior to a vote on the motion, Mayor Hopewell indicated the Commission would not be returning to open session following the closed session.

With a roll call vote this motion passed unanimously.

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

NAYS: None

The meeting adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

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

Closed Session  
(cont'd)

Adjournment