

	<p>A regular meeting of the Kalamazoo City Commission was held on Monday, April 6, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Commission Chambers at City Hall.</p>
Roll Call	<p>COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Mayor Bobby J. Hopewell Vice Mayor David Anderson Robert Cinabro Don Cooney Erin Cunningham Barbara Miller Jack Urban</p> <p>COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: None</p>
	<p>Also present were City Manager James Ritsema, City Attorney Clyde Robinson, and Deputy City Clerk Shelby Moss.</p>
Invocation	<p>The invocation, given by Chaplain Mike Kemple, was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.</p> <p>Commissioner Cunningham read a proclamation entitled <i>Child Abuse Prevention Month</i>. Angela Moe, Board Director from the Kalamazoo County Child Abuse Prevention Council, received the proclamation.</p>
Adoption of the Agenda	<p>By unanimous consent the City Commission adopted its meeting agenda with the following changes:</p> <p>A citizen requested Item F6 (approval of the City Commission minutes) be moved from the Consent Agenda to the Regular Agenda.</p>
Communications	<p>City Manager Ritsema invited the public to attend "Priority Biased Budgeting a Community Conversation" on Wednesday, April 22, 2015 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 930 Lake Street.</p>
Consent Agenda	<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - approval of a one year contract extension with Western Michigan International, Inc. for the purchase of Cummins engine parts in an amount not to exceed \$193,660.17. - authorization for the City Manager to enter into contracts with ice control salt suppliers as awarded by the State of Michigan for the 2015/2016 winter season requirements in an amount not to exceed \$450,000. - approval of a one-year contract extension with Waste Management for loading, hauling, and disposal of belt press solids in the amount of \$3,183,080.

- approval of the following appointment and reappointments to the Community Development Act Advisory Committee:
 - the appointment of **Jennette Tarver** as an at-large member for a term expiring on March 31, 2018 .
 - the reappointment of **Dana Underwood** as the Stuart Neighborhood Representative for a term expiring on March 31, 2018.
 - the appointment of **Todd Ide** as an at-large member for a term expiring on March 31, 2017.
- acceptance of a grant from the Kalamazoo Community Foundation from the Mayors' Riverfront Park Endowment Fund in the amount of \$25,000, and increase the General Fund appropriation by \$15,000.

Commissioner Cinabro, seconded by Vice Mayor Anderson, 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.

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

NAYS: None

Regular Agenda items were considered next.

Richard Stewart, City resident, requested the March 16, 2015 minutes reflect the comments made by Vice Mayor Anderson regarding his attendance at the Forks & Corks event at the Edison Neighborhood Association.

Commissioner Miller, seconded by Commissioner Urban, moved to approve the City Commission minutes from January 5, January 20, February 9, February 16, March 2, March 9, and March 16, 2015.

With a roll call vote this motion passed unanimously.

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

NAYS: None

Mayor Hopewell recognized the presence of Mary Balkema, Kalamazoo County Treasurer, and welcomed her to the meeting.

Linda Teeter, Chairperson of the Central County Transportation Authority (CCTA), thanked the Commission for considering a resolution in support of the proposed public transportation millage to be placed on the August 4, 2015 ballot. Ms. Teeter stated the CCTA had unanimously adopted a

Consent Agenda
(cont'd)

Regular Agenda

Approval of Meeting
Minutes

Introduction of
Guests

Resolution 15-15
Supporting the
CCTA Millage

Resolution 15-15
Supporting the
CCTA Millage
(cont'd)

resolution on March 19, 2015 to place the millage before voters, and the boundary would include the City of Kalamazoo, Comstock Township, Kalamazoo Township, the City of Parchment, the City of Portage, and 4 precincts from Oshtemo Township. Ms. Teeter stated The Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority and the City of Kalamazoo Transportation Authority Board had unanimously adopted similar resolutions on March 26, 2015. Ms. Teeter highlighted a few of the potential service enhancements the millage would provide, including Sunday service, later evening service, and increased route frequencies. Ms. Teeter asked Commissioners to support the resolution and thanked them for their service to the City of Kalamazoo.

When given an opportunity to comment on a resolution supporting the proposed public transportation millage to be placed before the voters within the CCTA boundaries on August 4, 2015, the following people addressed the City Commission:

Zachary Lassiter, City resident and City of Kalamazoo Transit Authority Board member, expressed support for the proposed millage and stated it was important for other jurisdictions to participate as they also received benefits from the bus system. Mr. Lassiter stated having Sunday bus service was very important, and he thanked the CCTA for all their hard work.

Commissioner Urban, seconded by Commissioner Cooney, moved to adopt a **RESOLUTION** supporting the proposed public transportation millage to be placed before the voters within the CCTA boundaries on August 4, 2015.

Commissioner Miller and Vice Mayor Anderson read into the record a *Resolution in Support of the Central County Transportation Authority Millage Request for August 4, 2015*.

Commissioner Cooney expressed support for the resolution, and thanked all those that had worked so hard on the community's public transportation system. Commissioner Cooney indicated he was looking forward to the improvements the proposed millage would bring and stated the millage was a step in the right direction for public transportation and the environment.

Commissioner Cinabro expressed support for the resolution and thanked CCTA Chairperson Teeter, Vice-Chairperson Greg Rosine, and board member Garrylee McCormick for all their hard work. Commissioner Cinabro gave a brief history on the policy group that worked to develop the CCTA. Commissioner Cinabro explained the importance of the millage and what it would mean to residents in the community. Commissioner Cinabro thanked Chairperson Teeter for her leadership and passion.

Commissioner Cunningham expressed support for the resolution and thanked Chairperson Teeter for her hard work, passion, dedication and leadership.

Commissioner Urban expressed support for the resolution and stated public transportation was a benefit to everyone in the community. Commissioner Urban stated the CCTA helped the community see itself as one metropolitan area with a great bus system.

Vice Mayor Anderson expressed support for the resolution, and offered comments on the topic of hope in the City of Kalamazoo. Vice Mayor Anderson gave a brief history of the public transit system in the City and stated public transit was good for the community. Vice Mayor Anderson thanked those jurisdictions who were participating fully in the CCTA plan and urged voters to create a county wide transit system.

Mayor Hopewell expressed support for the resolution and urged voters to show their support of the millage on August 4th.

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 gave a brief presentation regarding the creation of the Blue-Ribbon Revenue Panel. City Manager Ritsema stated the panel would consist of 21 representatives from the community and would convene for the first time this summer and wrap-up in the fall of 2015.

In response to a question from Commissioner Cinabro, City Manager Ritsema explained the Panel would be a diverse group, and he encouraged Commissioners to nominate potential members. City Manager Ritsema stated interested applicants could submit a Board and Commission Application to the City Clerk's Office by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, April 20, 2015.

Commissioner Urban noted he would like to see members with expertise in economics, public policy, and public finance in Michigan.

In response to a question from Vice Mayor Anderson, City Manager Ritsema stated all meetings of the Blue-Ribbon Panel would be open to the public, and a page would be created on the City's website for information regarding the Panel. City Manager Ritsema noted the Administration was looking at locations within the community to hold the meetings.

When given an opportunity to comment on the creation of a 21-member Blue-Ribbon Panel to research, study, and explore revenue options, the following people addressed the City Commission:

Chris Mbah, City resident, expressed support for the Blue-Ribbon Panel, and encouraged City Manager Ritsema to consider the authenticity of those he placed on the Panel. Mr. Mbah encouraged the Commission and City Manager Ritsema to partner this Panel with citizen engagement.

Resolution 15-15
Supporting the
CCTA Millage
(cont'd)

Creation of a Blue-
Ribbon Revenue
Panel

Creation of a Blue-Ribbon Revenue Panel (cont'd)

Commissioner Cooney, seconded by Commissioner Cunningham, moved to authorize the creation of a 21-member Blue-Ribbon Panel comprised of city residents, businesses, non-profit, and education stakeholders from the community to research, study, and explore revenue options that, when considered together, would address the City's General Fund structural budget imbalance.

Commissioner Cooney expressed support for the Blue-Ribbon Panel, and stated the issue of revenue was an issue for the Community as well as the City Commission. Commissioner Cooney stated this Panel was a step in the right direction.

Commissioner Cinabro expressed support for the Blue-Ribbon Panel as a diverse group of community stakeholders. Commissioner Cinabro thanked City Manager Ritsema for his leadership in creating the Legacy Cost Task Force in 2014, and the Blue-Ribbon Panel. Commissioner Cinabro encouraged everyone to participate in the meetings even if they were not appointed directly to the Panel.

Vice Mayor Anderson remarked on the parallel tracks of the Blue-Ribbon Panel and Priority Based Budgeting process, and he encouraged citizens to attend the Priority Based Budgeting community discussion on Wednesday, April 22, 2015.

Commissioner Urban thanked City Manager Ritsema for advancing the timeline of the Blue-Ribbon Panel to coincide with the Priority Based Budgeting process. Commissioner Urban urged the public to stay informed and be involved in the discussion of the City's future.

Commissioner Cunningham expressed support for the Blue-Ribbon Panel, and he asked the audience to spread the word about the application window. Commissioner Cunningham expressed hoped that City Manager Ritsema would have many applicants to choose from.

With a roll call vote this motion passed unanimously.

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

NAYS: None

Citizen Comments

When given a final opportunity for citizen comments, the following citizens addressed the City Commission:

Frank Warren, City resident, expressed concerns regarding lost revenue from his General Motors pension, and the cost of living in the City.

Kaitlin Martin, City resident, expressed concerns regarding the treatment of citizens by the Kalamazoo and Portage Departments of Public Safety. Ms. Martin expressed concerns regarding the racial profile study conducted by the Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety.

Citizen Comments
(cont'd)

Chris Wahmhoff, City resident, discussed the settlement of a class action lawsuit against Enbridge Energy Company, and he warned of the health risks petroleum presented to the environment. Mr. Wahmhoff presented each Commissioner with a copy of *Sound Truth and Corporate Myth* by Dr. Riki Ott.

Roger, City property owner, thanked Mayor Hopewell for writing a letter to Rudy Hanson recognizing his hard work and commitment to the City of Kalamazoo.

Tim Graham, City resident, expressed concerns regarding the City's water supply and the access energy companies had to the City's aquifers. Mr. Graham described the importance of government working together toward a common goal.

Max Tibbitts, City resident, on behalf of the Stuart Area Restoration Association thanked Historic Preservation Coordinator Sharon Ferraro and Parks and Recreation Director Sean Fletcher for putting together a historic window rehabilitation workshop with the State of Michigan Historic Preservation group. Mr. Tibbitts invited the community to attend a Priority Based Budgeting presentation given by Deputy City Manager Patsy Moore at Woodward Elementary School on Tuesday, April 14, 2015 at 8:00 p.m. Mr. Tibbitts thanked all City staff for working with the neighborhood associations, and for getting the word out about Priority Based Budgeting.

Kris Mbah, City resident, thanked the Commission for the appointment and reappointment of members to the Community Development Act-Advisory Committee. Mr. Mbah asked if Texas Township had "opted-in" to the Central County Transportation Authority Millage area. Mr. Mbah asked residents to support the Central County Transportation Authority Millage on August 4th. Mr. Mbah invited residents and the Commission to join the "Hands-on Kalamazoo" campaign, to address the lack of community engagement in the City of Kalamazoo.

Jerry Pipoly, City resident, expressed concerns regarding the loud music played during the evening hours at 611 West Cedar Street. Mr. Pipoly also expressed concerns regarding the homeless residents in the downtown area and the lack of enforcement of passenger rules on City busses.

Cody Dekker, City resident, stated his support for the Central County Transportation Authority millage was contingent on the service enhancements being guaranteed. Mr. Dekker expressed concerns regarding the Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety and the racial profiling study. Mr. Dekker requested a complaint form be added to the Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety website.

Asha Khazad, City resident, spoke about the differences between religious organizations in the community.

Citizen Comments
(cont'd)

Zachary Lassiter, City resident, requested the City's data from all departments be made available online, and in one location. Mr. Lassiter stated making the information available online would increase transparency for the City and community participation.

Shannon Sykes, City resident, expressed concerns regarding the Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety and their responses to calls for service. Ms. Sykes requested the Commission seek the perspectives of residents being harassed. Ms. Sykes asked the Commission to address the disparities of policing methods in communities of color.

Dray, City resident, expressed concerns for the homeless population in the City, and the safety of residents in the community.

Richard Stewart, City resident, thanked Commissioner Cooney for his questions and comments to the Edison Neighborhood association during the March 16, 2015 City Commission Neighborhood meeting. Mr. Stewart stated the Commissioners would know they were doing a good job when City residents patted them on the back, and said they were doing a good job. Mr. Stewart expressed concerns regarding the lack of term limits for Commission seats.

Laura Sprague, City resident, expressed concerns regarding the disparity of policing in the neighborhoods, and the harassment by police officers.

Mayor Hopewell asked CCTA Chairperson Teeter to respond to the comments and questions from citizens.

Chairperson Teeter stated Texas Township was meeting with Kalamazoo Valley Community College, and it was the CCTA's hope that bus service would continue to the 9th Street campus. Chairperson Teeter explained the service enhancements she described earlier were dependent on passage of the millage on August 4th.

City Commissioner
Comments

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

Commissioner Cunningham reminded the community to stay involved in the Priority Based Budgeting process. Commissioner Cunningham stated he understood the frustration expressed by residents regarding the policing in the community, and he thanked Mayor Hopewell for his involvement with Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety. Commissioner Cunningham encouraged interested parties to be part of the solution and apply for the new police officer positions. Commissioner Cunningham encouraged people who were afraid to speak at a Commission meeting to find alternative ways of communicating with the Commission, as it was important to have an open dialogue with all City residents.

Commissioner Urban stated it was his understanding the proposed bus service enhancements would be implemented with passage of the millage rather than with the completion of the Metro Transit/CCTA merger.

City Commissioner
Comments (cont'd)

Commissioner Cinabro encouraged those with questions regarding the proposed transportation millage meet with Chairperson Teeter. Commissioner Cinabro requested City Attorney Robinson review the class action lawsuit and, if possible, discuss his findings with Mr. Wahmhoff. Commissioner Cinabro stated he would refer issues regarding the Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety and the racial profiling study to City Manager Ritsema. Commissioner Cinabro offered condolences and remarks on the recent passing of retired City Engineer Frank Szopo and retired Public Services Director Orlin Loen.

City Attorney Robinson stated he was aware of the class action lawsuit and explained the settlement limited claims to properties within 1,000 feet of the mouth of the Kalamazoo River at Marrow Lake. City Attorney Robinson stated the City had not attempted to file a claim because its property did not qualify. City Attorney Robinson reported Enbridge Energy Company had placed monitoring wells on the City's property at Marrow Lake, and the City had requested to take ownership of the wells in order to monitor the City's own well field.

Commissioner Cooney thanked those who spoke regarding the issues facing the community. Commissioner Cooney expressed concerns for people in poverty and stated poverty in the community, especially among children was a priority for the Commission. Commissioner Cooney stated there would be a presentation on the City Commission's priority five within the month. Commissioner Cooney invited the public to attend a discussion on Thursday, April 9, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. at the Kalamazoo Public Library on the key themes from the book "This Changes Everything" by Naomi Klein, facilitated by Western Michigan University faculty and students. Commissioner Cooney encouraged anyone with specific incidences of concern regarding the Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety meet with Chief Jeff Hadley. Commissioner Cooney also invited the public to attend the Walker Institute Community Forum Series discussion entitled "The Juvenile Justice System Disrupting the Pipeline to Prison" on Tuesday, April 14, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at the Kalamazoo County Juvenile Home, located at 1424 Gull Road.

Mayor Hopewell requested City Manager Ritsema consider the following: 1) updating the Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety website to include a mechanism to file a complaint; 2) sharing data regarding the racial profiling study with the public; and 3) updating the City Commission on the body camera program. Mayor Hopewell described the hiring process for new Public Safety Officers and stated more opportunities for hiring officers would be coming in the future. Mayor Hopewell encouraged the public to speak with Chief Jeff Hadley in they had questions or concerns about the Public Safety Department.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelby Moss
Deputy City Clerk

For City Commission approval on May 18, 2015

Approved by: _____
Bobby J. Hopewell, Mayor
Dated: