

Roll Call	<p>A business meeting of the Kalamazoo City Commission was held on Monday, May 4, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Commission Chambers at City Hall, 241 W. South Street.</p>
	<p>COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Mayor Bobby Hopewell Vice Mayor David Anderson Don Cooney Eric Cunningham Barbara Miller Jack Urban</p>
	<p>COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Robert Cinabro</p>
	<p>Also present were City Manager Jim Ritsema, City Attorney Clyde Robinson, and City Clerk Scott Borling.</p>
Commissioner Excused	<p>Commissioner Miller, seconded by Commissioner Cooney, moved to excuse the absence of Commissioner Cinabro. With a voice vote the motion passed.</p>
Invocation	<p>The invocation, given by Bishop Daniel Cunningham, was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.</p>
Adoption of the Agenda	<p>By unanimous consent the City Commission adopted its meeting agenda as presented.</p>
Communications	<p>Community Planning and Development Director Laura Lam provided an update on the community engagement component of Priority Based Budgeting.</p>
	<p>City Manager Ritsema announced the City would be seeking public input on the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan at various events from May 13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>.</p>
Public Hearing re: the PY2015 HUD Action Plan and Funding Allocations	<p>At 7:08 p.m. Mayor Hopewell opened a public hearing to receive comments on the recommendations from the Community Development Act Advisory Committee (CDAAC) regarding the Program Year 2015 Action Plan for the use of funds received from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).</p>
	<p>Community Development Manager Dorla Bonner reported the City's would receive the following allocation of funds from HUD: Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) - \$1,536,917; HOME Program - \$413,630; and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) - \$140,690. Ms. Bonner reviewed the application process for HUD funds and thanked the members of CDAAC for their work. Ms. Bonner stated the final action plan was due to HUD on May 15<sup>th</sup>.</p>
	<p>Bill Wells, Chair of CDAAC, thanked the City Commission for allowing CDAAC to be involved in this process.</p>
	<p>Vice Mayor Anderson asked if there was a HUD requirement that a certain percentage of the funds be allocated through the CDAAC process, or if HUD limited the funds that could be used for City activities.</p>

Ms. Bonner indicated there were no HUD requirements for distributing a certain percentage of federal funds to non-profit organizations, and. Ms. Bonner stated 80% of the funds had to be used in economically disadvantaged census tracts, and the only other caps were for the "Public Service" and "Administration" categories.

In response to a question from Mayor Hopewell, Ms. Bonner explained the use of CDAAC in the allocation process was not a HUD requirement, and the City could use all of the HUD dollars for qualifying projects in qualifying areas, as long as the projects addressed the goals in the City's Consolidated Plan.

Richard Stewart, City resident, spoke about the allocation of \$900,000 in HUD funds for City projects, and he requested the Mayor and Vice Mayor abstain from voting on this item, as the Douglas fire station renovation project was in the Stuart Neighborhood, where they lived.

Max Tibbitts, City resident, thanked CDAAC members for their work to evaluate the funding applications. Mr. Tibbitts expressed support for the funding recommendations and stated the Douglas fire station renovation would benefit multiple neighborhoods, not just the Stuart Neighborhood.

At 7:20 p.m. Mayor Hopewell closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Urban, seconded by Commissioner Cooney, moved to accept the recommendations from the Community Development Act Advisory Committee, adopt the Program Year 2015 Action Plan for the use of funds received from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and authorize the Director of Community Planning and Development to act as the official representative of the City and sign all required HUD documents.

Prior to a vote on the motion, Commissioner Cooney thanked CDAAC and the Community Planning and Development Department staff for their work on the funding recommendations. Commissioner Cooney expressed dismay at the HUD funding levels.

Commissioner Urban noted CDAAC members gained valuable experience in civic involvement through their service.

Commissioner Cunningham thanked Mr. Wells for his leadership on CDAAC and Ms. Bonner for her hard work.

In response to a request from Mayor Hopewell, City Attorney Robinson explained the concept of a "conflict of interest" under Michigan law and stated a Commissioner's residence in a neighborhood that received funding for a project did not, in itself, create a conflict of interest. City Attorney Robinson stated there was no conflict as long as a Commissioner did not receive a benefit from the funding/project that was more than any citizen would receive.

Public Hearing re: the  
PY2015 HUD Action  
Plan and Funding  
Allocations (cont'd)

Approval of the  
PY2015 HUD Action  
Plan and Funding  
Allocations

Approval of the  
PY2015 HUD Action  
Plan and Funding  
Allocations (cont'd)

Mayor Hopewell stated he did not have a conflict of interest in this matter and would vote in favor of the motion.

Vice Mayor Anderson stated he did not have a conflict of interest in this matter.

With a roll call vote this motion passed.

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

NAYS: None

Consent Agenda

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:

- approval of a contract with Murray Painting Company for Repainting the Secondary Air Header for a total amount of \$143,328.
- approval of a contract with AngelTrax for the purchase of a transit bus camera system in the amount of \$159,622.42.
- approval of the purchase of five new Chevrolet Tahoe police vehicles from Berger Chevrolet through the MiDEAL purchasing program in the amount of \$162,511.25.
- approval of a contract with the Michigan Department of Transportation for the resurfacing of Mills Street and the rehabilitation of the Mills Street Bridge over the Kalamazoo River in the amount of \$255,400.
- acceptance of contribution-in-aid funding from the City of Kalamazoo Brownfield Authority for the Rivers Edge project in the amount of \$84,000 and approval of an increase in the Major Street Capital Budget by \$84,000.
- acceptance of a grant from the Kalamazoo Community Foundation for improvements to the disc golf course at Knollwood Park in the amount of \$1,950.

Commissioner Miller, 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 Cooney, Cunningham, Miller, Urban, Vice Mayor Anderson, Mayor Hopewell

NAYS: None

City Manager Ritsema provided the following reports and updates:

- Over 100 names of nominees for the Blue Ribbon Revenue Panel had been submitted. Applications were being reviewed, and the selection of members should happen within the next week.
- Public Safety Chief Jeff Hadley reviewed the roles of the City and the Michigan Liquor Control Commission in the liquor licensing process.

In response to questions from Commissioner Cooney, Chief Hadley stated liquor licenses for carry-out alcohol sales did not require City approval. Chief Hadley indicated the City could recommend denial of these licenses due to the proximity of other liquor establishments, but a cogent argument would need to be made. Chief Hadley reported there were rules about the proximity of liquor establishments to schools.

Next, an opportunity was given for general citizen comments.

Kay Chase, non-resident and a member of the Michigan Association of Railroad Passenger, reported there would not be one "National Train Day" in 2015 but a series of events across the country. Ms. Chase stated an Amtrak display train would be in Grand Rapids in July, and she presented statistics on train travel.

Warren Fritz, City resident, expressed concern for the safety of train passengers as they crossed Rose Street to get to the parking lot across from the Kalamazoo Transportation Center.

Asha Kazhad, City resident, spoke about changing his name and the Christian understanding of everlasting life.

Jacob Johnson, City resident, invited City leaders to attend the first Kalamazoo Youth Summit on Racism on Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup> at the Arcus Center for Social Justice. Mr. Johnson made remarks on poverty and race and the Fountain of the Pioneers in Bronson Park.

Chris Mbah, City resident, expressed disappointment that the Commission had replaced the phrase "authentic engagement" with "intentional engagement" in its 2015-2016 Priorities. Mr. Mbah stated the change seemed to be an attempt to escape authenticity.

Richard Stewart, City resident, spoke about the City Commission's role in the issuance of liquor licenses. Mr. Stewart commended Commissioner Cunningham for not drinking alcohol and being a role model for young people. Mr. Stewart commented on the 10-year anniversary of the resignation of former City Manager Pat DiGiovanni and the differences between "authentic" and "intentional" engagement. Mr. Stewart stated Commissioners needed to address important issues and not hide behind staff and use them as scapegoats.

City Manager's Report

Citizen Comments

Citizen Comments  
(cont'd)

Zach Lassiter, City resident, thanked Commissioners for their work and Chief Hadley for his presentation on liquor licenses. Mr. Lassiter expressed support for more code enforcement and reported properties on Portage Street from Washington Square to Collins Street had been heavily hit with graffiti over the past month.

Lisa Kelly, non-resident, requested help with reopening an improperly reported attempted murder/rape case from 1987.

Frank Warren, City resident, spoke about a woman who vandalized his condominium and the security force at the casino in Battle Creek.

Commissioner  
Comments

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

Commissioner Miller commended Blain Lam and the Kalamazoo Marathon for a great event over the weekend.

Commissioner Cooney spoke about recent forums on unequal justice and invited people to attend a forum at Mt. Zion Church on May 12<sup>th</sup> entitled "Reimagining Kalamazoo." Commissioner Cooney urged people to vote "yes" on both Proposal 1 and the Kalamazoo Regional Education Service Agency (KRESA) ballot question.

Mayor Hopewell urged people to vote "yes" on both Proposal 1 and the KRESA ballot question. Mayor Hopewell invited people to attend the May Mayors' City to City Bike Ride on May 9<sup>th</sup>, and he remarked on the Prosperity Kalamazoo event with Richard Reeves on May 1<sup>st</sup>.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott A. Borling  
City Clerk

For City Commission approval on May 18, 2015

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Bobby J. Hopewell, Mayor  
Dated: May 18, 2015