

Roll Call

A regular meeting of the Kalamazoo City Commission was held on Monday, October 21, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Commission Chambers at City Hall.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Mayor Bobby J. Hopewell
Vice Mayor Erin Knott
David Anderson
Don Cooney
Eric Cunningham
Patrese Griffin
Jack Urban

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: None

Also present were Deputy City Manager Patsy Moore, City Attorney Clyde Robinson, and Deputy City Clerk Shelby Moss.

Invocation

The invocation, given by Pastor Bret Laird from Calvary Bible Church, was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Introduction of
Guests/Presentations

Mayor Hopewell invited Josh Hilgart, Executive Director of the Kalamazoo Defenders Office, to give an update on their work. Mr. Hilgart stated Kalamazoo Defender was the County's first public defender office and was a resource for citizens charged with a crime who were not able to afford an attorney. In addition to providing legal representation to clients, the Kalamazoo Defenders Office provided clients with opportunities to connect with community services to address all their needs. Mr. Hilgart described how his office worked to reduce recidivism in Kalamazoo County and change the way the community thought about crime and poverty.

In response to a question from Mayor Hopewell, Mr. Hilgart stated the community could help his office by recognizing the needs of his clients and understanding the trauma brought on by incarceration. Mr. Hilgart asked the community to show love and respect for his clients and remember they were human.

Mayor Hopewell invited Luke Kujacznski of the Momentum Urban Alliance to give a presentation regarding their work. Mr. Kujacznski shared a brief history of the organization and the work they did to help individuals who had been neglected by the community and denied services they desperately needed. Mr. Kujacznski stated Momentum was growing and had expanded into several programs including the Momentum Urban Employment initiative, the Momentum Business Network, the Urban Alliance Technical Center, and the Urban Outreach initiative.

In response to a question from Mayor Hopewell, Mr. Kujacznski stated the community could help individuals returning from incarceration by not making them pay their debt to society twice, in the form of not being able to get a job, finding housing, and being denied services. Mr. Kujacznski asked Kalamazoo to be a city of second chances and not judge their fellow humans.

Mayor Hopewell invited Community Planning and Economic Development Director Rebeca Kik and City staff to give a presentation entitled *Imagine Kalamazoo 2025- Kalamazoo Imagines Kalamazoo Acts – Celebrating 2 Years of Progress*. A copy of the slides from this presentation were filed with the paperwork for this meeting.

Commissioner Anderson read a proclamation entitled *Transgender Day of Remembrance*. Michael Cleggs, Executive Director of OutFront Kalamazoo, and other representatives from the organization received the proclamation.

Proclamations

Commissioner Griffin read a proclamation entitled *Douglass Community Association 100th Anniversary*. Toney Paterson and representatives from the Douglass Community Association received the proclamation.

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

Adoption of the Agenda

Deputy City Manager Moore requested a resolution recommending approval of a Downtown Development Authority (DDA) Liquor License for the Kalamazoo Civic Theatre at 329 S. Park Street be added to the consent agenda.

At 8:35 p.m. Mayor Hopewell opened a public hearing to receive comments on a resolution approving the 2018 Kalamazoo Mall Sidewalk Maintenance Assessment at a per front foot cost of \$14.756.

Public Hearing re: the 2018 Mall Maintenance Assessment

At 8:36 p.m. Mayor Hopewell closed the public hearing.

Vice Mayor Knott, seconded by Commissioner Cunningham, moved to adopt a **RESOLUTION** approving the 2018 Kalamazoo Mall Sidewalk Maintenance Assessment at a per front foot cost of \$14.756.

Resolution 19-57 Approving the 2018 Kalamazoo Mall Maintenance Assessment

With a roll call vote this motion passed:

AYES: Commissioners Anderson, Cooney, Cunningham, Griffin, Urban, Vice Mayor Knott, Mayor Hopewell

NAYS: None

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:

Consent Agenda

- approval of a 19-month contract extension with Constellation New Energy – Gas Division, LLC for natural gas to be used to heat selected City facilities in the amount of \$750,000.
- approval of a three-year contract with Elhorn Engineering Co. for Liquid Phosphate, in the amount of \$1,084,081.44.
- approval of a Support Services Agreement with the Central County Transportation Authority for a three-year period beginning October 1, 2019 and ending on September 30, 2022 in the amount of \$466,153 for the first year and increasing each subsequent year.
- approval of a loan to the Downtown Economic Growth Authority (DEGA) in the amount of \$300,000, which would allow the DEGA to continue with planned operations.

Resolution 19-58

- approval of a \$275,000 grant to the Kalamazoo Eastside Neighborhood Association to be used to purchase three properties in support of a mixed-use project.
- approval and acceptance of an easement with Consumers Energy for water main planned to be installed as part of the 6th Street South Tank and Water Main Extension Project.
- approval of a purchase agreement with the Kalamazoo County Land Bank for the acquisition of 640 Lake Street for the Farmer's Market project and Bank Street realignment plan in the amount of \$9,157.00 plus closing costs.
- adoption of a **RESOLUTION** recommending approval of a DDA Liquor License for The Kalamazoo Civic Theatre at 329 S. Park Street.

Commissioner Anderson, seconded by Commissioner Cooney, moved to approve the consent agenda requests and authorize the City Manager to sign all documents on behalf of the City.

With a roll call vote this motion passed unanimously.

AYES: Commissioners Anderson, Cooney Cunningham, Griffin, Urban, Vice Mayor Knott, Mayor Hopewell

NAYS: None

City Clerk's Report

Deputy City Clerk Moss provided information regarding the close of registration, same day voter registration, and absentee ballots for the November 5th Municipal Election. Notes with this information were filed with the paperwork for the meeting.

Resolution 19-59
Declaring a Climate
Emergency

Jamie McCarthy, Development Project Coordinator, stated the Kalamazoo Climate Crisis Coalition (KCCC) petitioned the City of Kalamazoo's Environmental Concerns Committee (ECC) with a request to consider and recommend adoption of a resolution declaring a climate emergency. Coordinator McCarthy reported the ECC received feedback from numerous stakeholders and voted unanimously to approve the language in the proposed resolution and recommend adoption by the City Commission.

When given an opportunity to comment on the adoption of a resolution to declare a climate emergency, the following people addressed the City Commission:

The following people expressed support for the proposed resolution and offered remarks on the negative and disastrous impacts of climate change on our world:

Denise Keele, non-resident
Paul Manstrom, resident and ECC Chairman
Beth Bradburn, resident
MaryAnn Renz, resident
Mark Lee, resident and local business owner
Tyler Boes, resident
Chloe Carlson, resident

Ron Kramer, resident
Tom Small, resident

Resolution 19-59
Declaring a Climate
Emergency (cont'd)

Commissioner Anderson gave a brief history of the ECC board and stated he was the liaison from the City Commission to the ECC. Commissioner Anderson stated there was more public interest in the work of the ECC then there had ever been before, and they had a waiting list for residents to join the board.

Commissioner Cooney thanked the KCCC and the ECC for all their hard work and stated the City needed to act now in order to save the planet.

Vice Mayor Knott advised the KCCC to reach out to other jurisdictions in the county and ask for their support.

Mayor Hopewell thanked everyone for their comments and stated he would be supporting the resolution.

Commissioner Cunningham, seconded by Commissioner Cooney, moved to adopt a **RESOLUTION** to declare a climate emergency.

With a roll call vote this amended motion passed unanimously.

AYES: Commissioners Anderson, Cooney Cunningham, Griffin, Urban,
Vice Mayor Knott, Mayor Hopewell

NAYS: None

When an opportunity was given for general public comments, the following people addressed the City Commission:

Public Comments

The following people expressed support for a fair housing equality ordinance and offered remarks on the work of the Interfaith Strategy for Advocacy and Action in the Community (ISAAC):

Stephanie Hoffman, resident
Tobi Hanna- Davies, resident
Sholanna Lewis, resident
Charlae Davis, resident
Carolyn Pesheck, non-resident
Emily Hazel, resident
Andrew Chaponda, resident

Jody Dozeman, City resident, thanked ISSAC for their work in the community and expressed concerns regarding Stadium Drive Apartments.

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

City Commissioner
Comments

Commissioner Griffin thanked the volunteers from ISSAC for coming to the meeting and expressed support for a fair housing ordinance in the City. Commissioner Griffin offered remarks on the need to remove barriers for residents and provide more opportunity for those in need of housing. Commissioner Griffin wished her son and grandfather "happy birthday" and thanked Commissioner Cooney and Mayor Hopewell for all their hard work and dedication to the City.

City Commissioner
Comments (cont'd)

Commissioner Anderson remarked on the unparalleled experiences he had working with Commissioner Cooney and Mayor Hopewell. Commissioner Anderson spoke about the need to end climate change and stated the passage of the resolution gave a glimmer of hope for the future. Commissioner Anderson expressed hope that residents would act to end climate change.

Commissioner Cooney thanked ISSAC for their hard work. Commissioner Cooney thanked Mayor Hopewell for his dedication to the City and especially for his work with the youth of Kalamazoo. Commissioner Cooney thanked the residents of Kalamazoo for allowing him to serve on the Commission and to be a vehicle for justice. Commissioner Cooney stated he was leaving the Commission but was not retiring from the work of making Kalamazoo the best place to live for all residents.

Commissioner Urban thanked City staff for the IK2025 presentation and stated a fair housing ordinance would be difficult as it pinned property rights against human rights. Commissioner Urban stated a fair housing ordinance should have input from all stakeholders and include realistic enforcement measures.

Commissioner Cunningham thanked Commissioner Cooney and Mayor Hopewell for their work and commitment to the City. Commissioner Cunningham thanked Western Michigan University (WMU) for the opportunity to participate in the Dancing with the WMU/Kalamazoo Stars event, which supported the WMU Department of Dance.

Vice Mayor Knott wished all candidates in the November 5th election “good luck” and thanked the City Clerk’s Office for their hard work and for being open on Saturday, November 2nd to assist voters.

Mayor Hopewell stated the meeting had been an amazing night of community story telling. Mayor Hopewell reminded staff to continue telling the City’s story. Mayor Hopewell thanked the audience members who stayed to listen to the entire meeting. Mayor Hopewell reminded residents the next meeting of the City Commission would be on Monday, November 11th.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelby Moss
Deputy City Clerk

For City Commission approval on November 11, 2019

Approved by: _____
Bobby J. Hopewell, Mayor
Dated: November 11, 2019

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