



CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS

Minutes - Final - Final City Council

Monday, January 27, 2020

5:00 PM

City Hall Council Chambers

CALL TO ORDER: Pursuant to due notice and call thereof a Regular Meeting of the Grand Rapids City Council was held on Monday, January 27, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. in City Hall Council Chambers, 420 North Pokegama Avenue, Grand Rapids, Minnesota.

CALL OF ROLL

Present 3 - Councilor Dale Christy
Councilor Tasha Connelly
Councilor Michelle Toven

Absent 2 - Mayor Dale Adams
Councilor Rick Blake

Staff present:

Tom Pagel, Chad Sterle, Scott Johnson, Eric Trast, Steve Schaar, Matt Wegwerth, Janell Hecomovich, Will Richter, Travis Cole, Barb Baird, Rob Mattei

MEETING PROTOCOL POLICY

Mayor Pro-tem Christy reads a statement regarding the Human Rights Commission item relative to refugee resettlement, noting that this is an issue to be addressed by the Itasca County Board of Commissioners and not the Grand Rapids City Council.

PUBLIC FORUM

None.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilor Christy advises that a public hearing will be scheduled for February 24, 2020 to allow for public comment on the proposed draft of the Comprehensive Plan for the City.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Consider approving Council minutes for Monday, January 13, 2020 Worksession & Regular meetings.

A motion was made by Councilor Tasha Connelly, second by Councilor Michelle Toven, to approve Council minutes as presented. The motion PASSED by unanimous vote.

VERIFIED CLAIMS

Consider approving the verified claims for the period January 7, 2020 to January 20, 2020 in the total amount of \$3,594,043.99, of which \$2,405,471.26 are debt service payments.

A motion was made by Councilor Michelle Toven, second by Councilor Tasha Connelly, approving the verified claims as presented. The motion carried by the following vote.

Aye 3 - Councilor Dale Christy
Councilor Tasha Connelly
Councilor Michelle Toven

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Consider approval of a proposal for professional appraisal services with Dahlen, Dwyer , Foley & Tinker for a not-to-exceed fee of \$4,000.
Approved by consent roll call
2. Consider approving the Workers Compensation coverage through the League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust.
Approve by consent roll call
3. Consider adopting a resolution accepting a \$300,000.00 grant from the MN Department of Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation (IRRR) Development Infrastructure Grant Program.
Adopted Resolution 20-11 by consent roll call
4. Consider adopting a resolution authorizing the removal of terminated employees signatures on the management savings account at Grand Rapids State Bank.
Adopted Resolution 20-12 by consent roll call
5. Consider adopting a resolution establishing a date to conduct a public hearing on the final draft of the updated Comprehensive Plan.
Adopted Resolution 20-13 by consent roll call
6. Consider approving an agreement with Fastenal for an operating supply machine.
Approved by consent roll call
7. Consider approving on-sale liquor license for Rapids Brewing Co.
Approved by consent roll call

Approval of the Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Councilor Tasha Connelly, second by Councilor

Michelle Toven, approving the Consent agenda as presented. The motion carried by the following vote

Aye 3 - Councilor Dale Christy
Councilor Tasha Connelly
Councilor Michelle Toven

SETTING OF REGULAR AGENDA

A motion was made by Councilor Michelle Toven, second by Councilor Tasha Connelly, approving the Regular agenda as presented. The motion PASSED by unanimous vote.

ACKNOWLEDGE BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

8. Review & Acknowledge minutes for Boards & Commissions.

Acknowledged the following:

Arts & Culture minutes - December 3, 2019 meeting

PUC minutes - December 18, 2019 Regular and Special meetings

Golf Board minutes - November 7 & 19 and December 17, 2019 meetings

Library Board minutes - December 11, 2019

Acknowledge Boards and Commissions

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORT

9. Fire Department - Chief Travis Cole

Fire Chief Cole reviewed 2019 activities of the Grand Rapids Fire Department, highlighting number of calls, roster changes and efforts to fill vacancies, implementation of Full Time Fire Chief position, new truck purchase, and fire hall upgrades. Chief Cole expressed appreciation to the Council, community and family and friends for continued support.

Received and Filed

COUNCIL

10. Consider appointment to Police Community Advisory Board.

Councilor Toven interviewed Ms. Branum and recommends appointment.

A motion was made by Councilor Michelle Toven, second by Councilor Tasha Connelly, appointing Liz Branum to the Police Community Advisory Board, term to expire December 31, 2022. The motion PASSED by unanimous vote.

ENGINEERING\PUBLIC WORKS

11. Consider entering into an agreement with ZEF Energy Inc. to provide an electric vehicle charging hub

Engineer Matt Wegwerth presents information on proposed charging hub, noting the location near the "big red chair."

A motion was made by Councilor Tasha Connelly, second by Councilor Michelle Toven, approving agreement with ZEF Energy Inc. to provide electric vehicle charging hub. The motion PASSED by unanimous vote.

ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT

12. Consider a resolution authorizing the GR HRA to prepare documents related to the merger and transfer of assets to the Itasca County HRA

A motion was made by Councilor Tasha Connelly, second by Councilor Michelle Toven, adopted Resolution 20-14, authorizing Grand Rapids HRA to prepare documents related to the merger and transfer of assets to the Itasca County HRA. The motion PASSED by unanimous vote.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Recessed regular meeting for public hearing.

13. Conduct a public hearing to consider the rezoning of 7.3 acres of land from PU (Public Use) to R-4 (Multiple-family Residential- high density).

Rob Mattei, Director of Comm. Dev., presented background information regarding request to rezone. Aurora Heights LLP has submitted the application requesting rezone of old Riverview Elementary School site.

Mayor Pro-tem Christy states the reason for the public hearing, Clerk Gibeau states that all required notices have been made and the Clerk's office has received no correspondence related to this matter. Mayor Pro-tem Christy call for a motion to open the public hearing.

A motion was made by Councilor Tasha Connelly, second by Councilor Michelle Toven, to open the Public Hearing. The motion PASSED by unanimous vote.

Mike Ives, owner of 923 NE 4th Street, abutting the subject property. Are there any other meetings or public hearings showing the site plans for the project. Do not object to project, but would like to view the site plan.

Mr. Mattei advises that there is currently no public approval process for site plans, however, a site plan is displayed on the screen to allow public to see proposed project.

Tom Lattimore, 602 SE 2nd Avenue, voices concerns regarding excessive speed on 2nd Avenue and that the proposed alley will also become a bit of a "raceway." This raises concerns for safety. Also concerned with new lower income housing and the increase to property tax and lowering of property value.

Don Ekholm, 622 2nd Avenue SE, also concerned about increase in traffic and taxes.

Andrew Deschaneau, 7015 County 50 NW, Aekley, MN, work with DW Jones, developer of project. States that this is very similar to the Beacon Hill project. This should not affect property taxes. Property layout is close to single family housing to ease transition into multi-family housing.

Diane Larson, HRA, 2521 Timberline Drive, provides clarity regarding types of housing and what affordable means.

Isaac Meyer, 611 NE 9th Street, HRA member, makes a statement supporting the zoning change.

Rick Grunke, 24 Linda Lane, property manager for Pine Ridge Apartments states that there is a waiting list of 79 people for a one bedroom at Pine Ridge and approximately 34 for 2 bedrooms. There is a great need for more housing in Grand Rapids and is supportive of the project.

No one else wished to speak, therefore the following motion was made.

A motion was made by Councilor Michelle Toven, second by Councilor Tasha Connelly, to close the Public Hearing. The motion PASSED by unanimous vote.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Reconvened regular meeting following the public hearing.

14.

Consider the recommendation of the Planning Commission regarding adoption of an ordinance, amending the Official Zoning Map by rezoning 7.3 acres of land from PU (Public Use) to R-4 (Multiple-family Residential- high density).

Mr. Mattei reviews recommendation by Planning Commission to approve the rezoning request submitted by Aurora Heights.

A motion was made by Councilor Michelle Toven, second by Councilor Tasha Connelly, adopting City Ordinance 20-01-01, amending zoning map, rezoning 7.3 acres of land from PU to R-4. The motion carried by the following vote.

Aye 3 - Councilor Dale Christy
Councilor Tasha Connelly
Councilor Michelle Toven

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilor Tasha Connelly, second by Councilor Michelle Toven, to adjourn the meeting at 6:10 pm. The motion PASSED by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted:

Kimberly Gibeau, City Clerk