

Roll Call	<p>A regular meeting of the Kalamazoo City Commission was held on Monday, February 20, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Commission Chambers at City Hall.</p>
	<p>COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Vice Mayor Don Cooney David Anderson Erin Knott Matt Milcarek Shannon Sykes Jack Urban</p>
	<p>COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Mayor Bobby J. Hopewell</p>
	<p>Also present were City Manager James Ritsema, City Attorney Clyde Robinson, and City Clerk Scott Borling.</p>
Commissioner Excused	<p>Commissioner Urban, seconded by Commissioner Anderson, moved to excuse the absence of Mayor Hopewell. With a voice vote this motion passed.</p>
Invocation	<p>A moment of silence 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>City Manager Ritsema announced there would be a City Commission retreat on Saturday, March 4<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m. in Governing Board Room at Metro Transit. City Manager Ritsema stated the discussion topic would be programs and projects to be funded with the Foundation for Excellence.</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"> <li>- approval of a one-year contract extension Alexander Chemical Corporation for the purchase of fluorosilic acid in the amount of \$112,000.</li> <li>- approval of a professional service agreement with The Foster Group for water and wastewater rate consulting services in the amount of \$140,000.</li> <li>- approval of a change order with the Road Commission of Kalamazoo County in the amount of \$203,783.31 for the East Main Street Safety Improvement Cost Sharing Agreement.</li> <li>- approval of a contract extension with Etna Supply Company for the purchase of water meters in the amount of \$250,000.</li> <li>- approval of a contract with Hoffman Brothers Construction for the proposed construction on Farmers Alley in the amount of</li> </ul>

\$955,264.60; and approval of an amendment to the local streets capital budget to utilize \$154,000 of bond reserves for this project.

- adoption of a **RESOLUTION** from the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, Liquor Control Commission allow Heritage Community of Kalamazoo to obtain a Nonpublic Continue Care Retirement Center (CCRC) Liquor License at 2300 Portage Street.
- adoption of a **RESOLUTION** authorizing city staff to continue applying for and receiving the necessary permits to perform work within Michigan Department of Transportation rights-of-way.
- adoption of a **RESOLUTION** designating the polling facility for Precinct 20 to be used during the election on May 2, 2017 and for each election thereafter.
- approval of the Mayor's appointments to the Planning Commission:
  - the appointment of **Alfonso Espinosa** for a term beginning on April 1, 2017 and expiring on March 31, 2020.
  - the appointment of **James Pitts** for a term expiring on March 31, 2018.
  - the appointment of **Sakhi Vyas** for a term expiring on March 31, 2020.

Resolution 17-10

Resolution 17-11

Resolution 17-12

Commissioner Sykes, seconded by Commissioner Knott, 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.

AYES: Commissioners Anderson, Knott, Milcarek, Sykes, Urban, Vice Mayor Cooney

NAYS: None

Regular Agenda items were considered next.

Regular Agenda

An opportunity was given for citizens to comment on an ordinance to amend certain sections of Chapter 28 of the Kalamazoo City Code to incorporate mandated Federal/State Industrial Pretreatment Program Local Limit Standards and corrections to the units within the Rate Schedules Charges, but no comments were offered.

Ordinance 1946 re:  
Federal/State Industrial Pretreatment Program Local Limit Standards

Commissioner Urban, seconded by Commissioner Milcarek, moved to adopt an **ORDINANCE** to amend certain sections of Chapter 28 of the Kalamazoo City Code to incorporate mandated Federal/State Industrial Pretreatment Program Local Limit Standards and corrections to the units within the Rate Schedules Charges.

Ordinance 1946 re:  
Federal/State Industrial  
Pretreatment Program  
Local Limit Standards  
(cont'd)

With a roll call vote this motion passed.

AYES: Commissioners Anderson, Knott, Milcarek, Sykes, Urban,  
Vice Mayor Cooney

NAYS: None

Resolution 17-13 in  
Support of Washington  
Writers' Academy and  
Woodward School

When an opportunity was given for citizens to comment on a resolution in support of keeping open Washington Writers' Academy and the Woodward School for Technology and Research, the following people addressed the City Commission and spoke in support of the resolution:

Frank Warren, City resident  
Sherry Opakla, City resident  
Noah Krzan, City resident  
Nehemiah Scudder, City resident

Commissioner Knott, seconded by Commissioner Sykes, moved to adopt a **RESOLUTION** in support of keeping open Washington Writers' Academy and the Woodward School for Technology and Research.

Prior to a vote on the motion, Commissioner Urban suggested the City file an amicus brief on behalf of Kalamazoo Public Schools (KPS) if KPS filed a lawsuit against the state.

Commissioner Sykes expressed support for the resolution and Commissioner Urban's suggestion. Commissioner Sykes thanked KPS teachers and administrators for their hard work on behalf of children in the community.

Commissioner Cooney stated poverty in the community was the real issue behind poor academic performance.

With a roll call vote this motion passed.

AYES: Commissioners Anderson, Knott, Milcarek, Sykes, Urban,  
Vice Mayor Cooney, Mayor Hopewell

NAYS: None

Resolution 17-14  
Supporting the Creation  
of a Kalamazoo County  
ID Program

When an opportunity was given for citizens to comment on a resolution supporting the creation of a Kalamazoo County ID Program, the following people addressed the City Commission and spoke in support of the resolution:

Launda Wheatley, non-resident  
Lizbeth Fuentes, non-resident  
Larry Provancher, non-resident  
Yasmin Fuentes, non-resident  
Nelly Fuentes, non-resident

Commissioner Milcarek, seconded by Commissioner Urban, moved to adopt a **RESOLUTION** supporting the creation of a Kalamazoo County ID Program.

With a roll call vote this motion passed.

AYES: Commissioners Anderson, Knott, Milcarek, Sykes, Urban, Vice Mayor Cooney, Mayor Hopewell

NAYS: None

City Manager Ritsema provided the following reports and updates:

- Departmental Reports and Project Updates
- *Inside the City* newsletter, February 2017 edition
- January 2017 Purchases

City Manager Ritsema reported that recently mailed assessment notices included flyers about the reduction in the City’s operating millage. City Manager Ritsema explained that the assessment notices provided information about property values and did not deal with the millage rate.

Next, items of new business were considered.

City Manager Ritsema reminded Commissioners that their regular meeting schedule included work sessions on the fourth Mondays of each month, and he recommended the City Commission cancel the work session on Monday, February 27<sup>th</sup> in light of the retreat that would take place on Saturday, March 4<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Milcarek, seconded by Commissioner Urban, moved to amend the City Commission’s annual meeting schedule to cancel the work session on Monday, February 27, 2017.

With a roll call vote this motion passed.

AYES: Commissioners Anderson, Knott, Milcarek, Sykes, Urban, Vice Mayor Cooney, Mayor Hopewell

NAYS: None

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

Nehemiah Scudder, City resident, explained the origins of the political designations “left wing” and “right wing.”

Jim Putman, non-resident, stated he had requested that Parsons Street be renamed in honor of Robert “Al” Goodwin, but some property owners did not support the request. Mr. Putman

Frank Warren, City resident, spoke about the benefits that came from labor unions.

Yasmin Fuentes, non-resident, thanked the City Commission for adopting a resolution in support of a Kalamazoo County ID Program.

Resolution 17-14 Supporting the Creation of a Kalamazoo County ID Program (cont’d)

City Manager’s Report

New Business

Cancellation of City Commission Work Session

Citizen Comments

City Commissioner  
Comments

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

Commissioner Milcarek thanked citizens for their activism.

Commissioner Urban explained that a house with a taxable value of \$50,000 would see a tax reduction of approximately \$350. Commissioner Urban encouraged people to donate to the Foundation for Excellence (FFE).

Commissioner Knott indicated there was a lot of confusion in the community about the assessment notices and tax reduction flyers.

Commissioner Sykes stated she was proud to be a resident of the City and a member of the City Commission.

Commissioner Anderson announced that Mayor Hopewell was at the vigil for victims of the Uber shooting and that he supported the resolutions that had been adopted earlier in the meeting. Commissioner Anderson remarked on the complexity of property tax calculations and explained the property tax reduction was for the City operating millage only and not other taxes that were levied, like county and school taxes. Commissioner Anderson encouraged people to donate to the FFE.

Vice Mayor Cooney remarked on the one-year anniversary of the Uber shootings and spoke in support of common sense gun regulations.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott A. Borling  
City Clerk

For City Commission approval on March 6, 2017

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Bobby J. Hopewell, Mayor  
Dated: March 6, 2017

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