

**CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2024, 10:00 AM

City Hall, 300 Monroe Ave NW, 9th Floor, City Commission Chambers

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ITEMS

1. Resolution Adopting the City's Legislative Priority Agenda for 2024
2. Resolution to approve the request for Temporary Authorization from Hopcat GR LLC dba Hopcat, 25 Ionia Avenue SW, for the "Irish on Ionia" event on March 16, 2024
3. Resolution to set a special Committee on Appointments meeting on February 20, 2024 and adjust City Commission Meeting and Subcommittee schedule for March 5, 2024.

BRIEFINGS

An Update from the Interurban Transit Partnership on their Rapid Operations and Transit Master Plan



CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS AGENDA ACTION REQUEST

DATE: February 6, 2024

TO: Mark Washington, City Manager

COMMITTEE: Committee of the Whole
LIAISON: Mark Washington, City Manager

FROM: Karyn Ferrick, Government & Legislative Affairs Officer
Executive Office

SUBJECT: **Resolution Adopting the City's Legislative Priority Agenda for 2024**

Attached is a resolution setting the City's legislative priority agenda for 2024.

In furtherance of the City's mission to elevate quality of life through excellent city services and to promote a strategic, structured, and proactive approach to state and federal legislative, policy and appropriations issues, the attached resolution advances the legislative priority agenda for the City. The rapidly changing nature of legislative items requires constant attention and often swift action and response. The proposed legislative priority agenda will provide direction on priorities and principles to be used by the City Manager, the Government & Legislative Affairs Officer and the Legislative Team in initiating, evaluating and responding to legislation and initiatives that impact the City and its residents.

The purpose of the legislative priority agenda is to clearly outline the position and interests of the City on priority issues and matters that impact the City's ability to operate effectively, while allowing additional legislative and budget issues that arise during the legislative session. The proposed legislative priority agenda will promote the City's vision to strive to be nationally recognized as an equitable, welcoming, innovative, and collaborative city with a robust economy, safe and healthy community, and the opportunity for a high quality of life for all.

As part of that vision and commitment, the City is continuously engaged in collaboration. We have been identified as a key partner on several initiatives at both the state and federal level and look forward to continuing that and to future opportunities to partner with our elected representatives, residents, and stakeholders as legislative initiatives are advanced.

The attached resolution and proposed legislative priority agenda were formulated in consultation with the City Manager, his Cabinet, the Legislative Team, and the City's

contracted advocacy firms. A briefing on the proposed agenda was given at Committee of the Whole to the City Commission at the January 9, 2024, meeting. Following the deliberation by the Commission, the agenda was revised to reflect the discussion. It is aligned with the City's strategic plan and reflects the City's values and strategic priorities.

Prepared by Karyn Ferrick

Your COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE recommends the adoption of the following resolution Adopting the City's Legislative Priority Agenda for 2024.

WHEREAS:

1. The purpose of the legislative priority agenda is to clearly outline the position and interests of the City; and
2. The legislative priority agenda will provide direction on the City's top five legislative priorities; and
3. The principles to be used by the City Manager, the Government & Legislative Affairs Officer, and the Legislative Team in initiating, evaluating, and responding to legislation and initiatives that impact the City and its residents; and
4. The rapidly changing nature of legislative items requires constant attention and often swift action and response; therefore

RESOLVED:

- I. That the top 5 legislative priorities are as follows:
 1. River restoration and revitalization project.
 2. Responsibly protecting the health of all people and the environment through policies and investments that reduce carbon emissions, support climate adaptation and increase climate resiliency including support for legislation authorizing community solar; enhancing distributed generation and grid reliability; and eliminating any cap on the installation of distributed solar.
 3. Fiscal relief, fiscal sustainability and economic prosperity investment including:
 - i. Authorizing the collection of a fee on the sale of architectural paint to be used for prevention of child exposure to lead-based paint and abatement and remediation activities.
 - ii. Reforms to revenue sharing and municipal finance including support for:
 1. The establishment of a revenue sharing trust fund.
 2. The establishment of the public safety and violence prevention trust fund.
 3. Implementing the recommendations of the Trial Court Funding Commission for district court funding reform.
 - iii. Expand investment options to allow the City to capture a higher return on investments.

- iv. Restore Headlee's original allowance for upward and downward fluctuations in millage rates based on actual inflationary activity to allow Proposal A and Headlee to work as intended.
- 4. Public safety policy and investments that advance safer communities, transparency, and positive community relationships and trust, with an emphasis on:
 - i) Responsible gun ownership.
 - ii) Responsible criminal justice reform and police accountability.
 - i) Investment in safe neighborhoods and police relationships.
 - ii) Supporting access to public information.
- 5. Investment and policies to encourage economic development policy that is consistent with our community's placemaking direction; promote economic equity; and support increased housing and ensure all residents have safe, stable, and permanent housing.

II. That in furtherance of our City values and strategic priorities, we have also prioritized legislation, public policy and investments that are sustainable and equitable as follows:

- 1. Encouraging, advocating, and supporting legislation that promotes equity, diversity, and inclusion for all including:
 - i) Protecting the rights of all LGBTQIA+ persons;
 - ii) Hiring practices that promote equity, diversity, and inclusion for all; and
 - iii) Allowing all Michigan residents to obtain a driver's license.
- 2. Preserving local authority as stated in the Home Rule City Act, PA 279 of 1909, particularly in the areas of planning, zoning, and public works projects; opposing initiatives that result in unfunded mandates on local government; and support for legislation to repeal the state law that prevents local governments from instituting local residency requirements for employees.
- 3. Continued collaboration on reforms and investments for the betterment of all residents including:
 - i) Prevention of child lead poisoning & exposure.
 - ii) Acknowledging racism as a public health crisis and supporting policies and opportunities to dismantle structural racism and achieve health and social equity.
 - iii) Support for legislation that would ban menthol in tobacco products.
 - iv) Restoring and maintaining Michigan's infrastructure.
 - v) Addressing emerging contaminant response to lead, copper and PFAS/PFOAS.
 - vi) Protecting and ensuring long-term viability of pensions and other post-employment benefits (OPEB).

- vii) Including transit and mobility in any road funding solution.
- viii) Support for increased mental health services for those in crisis.

4. Supporting policies that address talent and workforce development opportunities to include increased investment for attraction and retention.
5. Promoting policy and investments that increase accessibility of affordable broadband service for residents, as well as robust broadband infrastructure that supports business growth, attraction, and retention.

CORRECT IN FORM

CITY ATTORNEY



CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS AGENDA ACTION REQUEST

DATE: February 6, 2024

TO: Mark Washington, City Manager

COMMITTEE: Committee of the Whole
LIAISON: Mark Washington, City Manager

FROM: Joel H. Hondorp, City Clerk
City Clerk's Office

SUBJECT: **Resolution to approve the request for Temporary Authorization from Hopcat GR LLC dba Hopcat, 25 Ionia Avenue SW, for the "Irish on Ionia" event on March 16, 2024**

An application was submitted by Hopcat GR LLC dba Hopcat, requesting authorization for a Temporary Outdoor Service Permit to be used for their "Irish on Ionia" event to be held on March 16, 2024.

This application has been reviewed by Zoning, Income Tax, Treasurer, Police, Building Inspections, Fire, and Assessor Departments and has been recommended for approval.

Prepared by Steven Kowalski, Clerks Administrative Specialist

Your COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE recommends the adoption of the following resolution to approve the request for Temporary Authorization from Hopcat GR LLC dba Hopcat, 25 Ionia Avenue SW, for the "Irish on Ionia" event on March 16, 2024.

RESOLVED, that the request from Hopcat GR LLC, dba Hopcat, requesting authorization for a Temporary Outdoor Service Permit to be used for their "Irish on Ionia" event to be held on March 16, 2024, be approved.

CORRECT IN FORM



DEPARTMENT OF LAW



CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS AGENDA ACTION REQUEST

DATE: February 6, 2024

TO: Mark Washington, City Manager

COMMITTEE: Committee of the Whole
LIAISON: Mark Washington, City Manager

FROM: Joel H. Hondorp, City Clerk
 City Clerk's Office

SUBJECT: **Resolution to set a special Committee on Appointments meeting on February 20, 2024 and adjust City Commission Meeting and Subcommittee schedule for March 5, 2024.**

On December 31, 2023, Commissioner Moody resigned as 3rd Ward City Commissioner. At the January 23, 2024 Committee of the Whole meeting, the City Clerk briefed the City Commission on the process for filling the vacancy.

Applications available	Tuesday, January 23
Applications due	Thursday, February 1 at 5:00pm
Clerk reviews and vets candidates	February 2 – 5
Publish list of applicants	Monday, February 5 at 5:00pm
Applicants reviewed by the Appointments Committee	Tuesday, February 6
Applicants interviewed by the Appointments Committee and three final candidates are recommended to the full City Commission	Tuesday, February 20
City Commission interviews Candidates, discussion and possible vote	Tuesday, March 5
If the City Commission needs more time, additional discussion and vote	Tuesday, March 19

On February 20, 2024, the Committee on Appointments will hold a special meeting beginning at 1:00 pm to interview applicants

On March 5, 2024, the schedule for the City Commission and subcommittee meetings will be adjusted for interviews of finalist applicants as follows:
 Committee on Appointments – 8:00 am

Fiscal Committee – 8:15 am

Community Development Committee – 8:45 am

Committee of the Whole – 9:30 am (Interviews to begin at 11:30 am)

City Commission – 3:30 pm

Please note, that in order to accommodate the interviews, the Public Safety Committee meeting on February 20 and the Economic Development Project Team meeting on March 5 will be cancelled.

Prepared by Joel H. Hondorp, City Clerk

Your COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE recommends the adoption of the following resolution to set a special Committee on Appointments meeting on February 20, 2024 and adjust City Commission Meeting and Subcommittee schedule for March 5, 2024.

WHEREAS:

1. A vacancy in the office of 3rd Ward City Commissioner occurred upon the resignation of Commissioner Moody on December 31, 2023; and
2. The City Charter states for this vacancy, that the vacancy be filled by a majority of the City Commission; and
3. A special meeting of the Committee on Appointments on February 20, 2024 and an adjustment of meeting start times on March 5, 2024 is necessary to conduct interviews; therefore

RESOLVED:

1. That the Committee of Appointments will hold a special meeting on February 20, 2024 at 1:00 pm for the purpose of conducting 3rd Ward City Commission interviews.
2. That the City Commission and Subcommittee meeting schedule on March 5, 2024 be adjusted as follows:
 - 8:00 am – Committee on Appointments
 - 8:15 am – Fiscal Committee
 - 8:45 am – Community Development Committee
 - 9:30 am – Committee of the Whole (interviews begin at 11:30)
 - 3:30 pm – City Commission
3. That the City Clerk is directed to publish notice of same in accordance with the Open Meetings Act, PA 267 of 1976, as amended.

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DEPARTMENT OF LAW

MAW



CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS AGENDA ACTION REQUEST

DATE: February 6, 2024

TO: Mark Washington, City Manager

COMMITTEE: Committee of the Whole

LIAISON: Mark Washington, City Manager

FROM: Jennifer Kasper, Assistant Mobile GR Director
Mobile GR, Parking & Traffic Safety

SUBJECT: **An Update from the Interurban Transit Partnership on their Rapid Operations and Transit Master Plan**

The Interurban Transit Partnership, commonly known as The Rapid, will provide an update to the City Commission regarding their operations and Transit Master Plan.

Prepared by Laura Olson, Assistant to the Mayor

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