

**CITY OF GRAND HAVEN  
GRAND HAVEN, MICHIGAN  
SPECIAL WORK SESSION  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 2, 2018**

The Special Work Session of the Grand Haven City Council was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Mayor Geri McCaleb in the Council Chambers of City Hall.

**Present:** Council Members Bob Monetza, Josh Brugger, Dennis Scott, Mike Fritz, and Mayor Geri McCaleb.

**Absent:** None.

**Others Present:** City Manager Patrick McGinnis, City Clerk Linda L. Browand, Assistant to the City Manager Vester Davis, Public Works Director Derek Gajdos, Finance Director Jim Bonamy, Human Resources Manager Bonnie Suchecki, and Public Safety Officer Mike Ercole.

**1. Brass River Refurbishment**

- Derek Gajdos, Public Works Director

Public Works Director Gajdos reported the Brass River area adjacent to the Waterfront Stadium project was in need of refurbishment. Some changes to be made to the current design were to replace the brick bands with exposed aggregate and replace the failed concrete area northwest of the sundial with exposed aggregate infused with blue glass. He hoped to start this refurbishment in April.

Council members liked the suggested changes but were not in favor of having sunken lights due to maintenance issues.

**2. Grand River Sailing Club License Agreement**

- Vester Davis, Assistant to the City Manager

Assistant to the City Manager Davis reported the Grand River Sailing Club wished to renew their license for the use of the former Grand Trunk building. Details such as the type of replacement roof (gable vs flat) and annual rental amount needed council discussion and feedback. Abonmarche assessed the structure and felt the building was pretty sound. If a gabled roof is added, additional support may need to be added. The estimated cost for the gabled roof did not include any possible structural costs.

Council Member Fritz stated that the building was owned by and should be invested in by the City. It needed to look good and last a long time. A flat roof would require a lot of maintenance. He felt the City could negotiate with the Sailing Club.

Mayor McCaleb said the gabled roof matched the others along the waterfront but there also needed to be a payback. The decision should not just be made on the appearance.

Council Member Monetza preferred the roof to match other buildings but was concerned about the structural integrity of the building. He would defer to Abonmarche's opinion. He hoped there was a way to have the gabled roof and to work something out with the Club.

Council Member Brugger stated the City should cover the cost of the roof but he did not want to put money into a building with a financial loss. He would also like to see the rent be closer to the market rate.

Council Member Scott liked the gabled roof but thought the flat roof should be done in order to keep costs down.

City Manager McGinnis said the City would forge an agreement that was good for the Club and bring it back to Council. If it was not acceptable, then more work would have to be done to get the right balance.

**3. MERS Unfunded Accrued Liabilities**

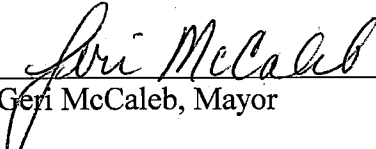
- Pat McGinnis, City Manager

City Manager McGinnis noted City employees received a defined benefit pension which was not common in the private sector but very common in the public sector. What was unique is that the employees paid 50% of the cost. The City's pension fund was currently around 75% funded.

Council discussed various options for possibly changing the City's pension plan. Staff was recommending that the City continue with the current defined benefit plans with a cap placed on the employee contribution. After more actuarial detail was received from MERS this topic would be brought before council again for more discussion.

**4. Adjournment**

After hearing no further business, Mayor McCaleb adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

  
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Geri McCaleb, Mayor

  
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Linda L. Browand, City Clerk