



MINUTES
Committee of the Whole
Monday, January 30, 2017 @ 5:30 p.m.
City Council Chambers

CALL TO ORDER

Council President Spitzley called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

PRESENT

Councilmember Brown Clarke
Councilmember Kathie Dunbar
Councilmember Tina Houghton-arrived at 5:33 p.m.
Councilmember Adam Hussain
Councilmember Patricia Spitzley
Councilmember Jody Washington
Councilmember Carol Wood
Councilmember Jessica Yorko

OTHERS PRESENT

Sherrie Boak, Council Staff
Jim Smiertka, City Attorney
Randy Hannan, Mayor Executive Assistant- arrived at 6:19 p.m.
Jada Paisley, MCCOA
Debbie Parrish
Betsy Riley
Janet Hsiao
Mega Thompson
Wayne Sieloff, Capital Area Airport Authority

Minutes

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM JANUARY 9, 2017 AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED 8-0.

Public Comment

Ms. Parrish spoke on the sanctuary city discussion item.

Ms. Riley spoke regarding sanctuary cities and the current topic of removal of funding from sanctuary cities.

Presentation/Introduction

Mr. Wayne Sieloff, President- new CEO Capital Regional Airport Authority introduced himself and provided his background, his philosophy on airports in general, and goal to embed himself in the community. One asset of the airport is the distribution division, accommodating the region.

Council Member Wood asked Mr. Sieloff about the airport plans for the recent immigration topics nationwide, and what steps the airport is taking to address President Trumps order. Mr. Sieloff answered that the enforcement and changes in practices and policies for this topic are with Customs and Border Protection. It requires no action from the Airport Authority. The Customs and Border Protection are doing the enforcement and the Authority provides them with space to utilize for processing international passengers. Currently the international flights are only from Mexico and the Dominican Republic.

Council Member Wood asked if the proposed taxes being added to shipments will be an impact, and Mr. Sieloff admitted it is too early to tell, they do want to grow international trade and services. Council Member Wood then asked if the passenger to product is lower, and Mr. Sieloff answered that with UPS having a hub at the airport that is taken into consideration.

Council Member Spitzley suggested the Mr. Sieloff work on marketing and promoting the growth for the Lansing region due to the visible advertisements near the airport for the Grand Rapids airport.

DISCUSSION/ACTION

RESOLUTION – Request for Recognition of Non-Profit Status; Michigan Golf Course Owners Association

Ms. Paisley outlined her organization, the events they hold and where they obtain their funding.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR THE REQUEST FOR RECOGNITION OF NON-PROFIT STATUS; MICHIGAN GOLF COURSE OWNERS ASSOCIATION. MOTION CARRIED 8-0.

{CLOSED SESSION}

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HOUGHTON TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION AT 6:05 P.M. TO REVIEW A WORKERS COMPENSATION CLAIM #WC20628676-03001256001. ROLL CALL VOTE CARRIED 8-0.

{RECONVENE}

Council President Spitzley called the meeting to back to order at 6:15 p.m.

RESOLUTION – Workers Compensation Redemption (Settlement); Claim # WC20628676-03001256001

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR THE WORKERS COMPENSATION CLAIM WC20628676-03001256001. MOTION CARRIED 8-0.

DISCUSSION – Lansing as a Sanctuary City (City Attorney)

Mr. Smiertka outlined the topic with its origination with the Ad Hoc on Diversity where it was submitted by an attendee for consideration. It was then referred to the Committee of the Whole for discussion. Mr. Smiertka continued by clarifying that there are (2) kinds of “Sanctuary City” labels, one can be done formally through Resolution and the second is what he stated is termed as “informal sanctuary city”. The second one is not official but has practices that are fair and equal. This was reviewed on legal not policy, and they looked at the

scope and implications that might occur. Since that review, over the last week there have been some actions that have made it an issue, including the recent Presidential Executive Orders. What has now happened is that there was a law on the books, but now with Executive Orders memorialized now to force compliance by local units of Government. These two orders have resulted in different types of lawsuits or requests. Mr. Smiertka commented that he cannot currently advise the Council on what action to take until they see where things are going.

Council Member Washington stepped away from the meeting at 6:25 p.m.

Mr. Smiertka assured the Council that the topic is currently in the Federal system and he wants to wait until he hears what the court systems say.

Council Member Wood asked Mr. Hannan how much Federal dollars the City currently gets, and Mr. Hannan provided the amount of \$6.5 million.

Council Member Wood asked Mr. Smiertka if he could provide a date on when he would be prepared to present something to Council. Mr. Smiertka stated he could not provide a specific date.

President Spitzley asked out of the two categories Mr. Smiertka noted if they were both problematic, and if the “informal” would open up to sanctions. Mr. Smiertka clarified that by “informal” it is a community that has practices as a Welcoming City.

Council Member Washington returned to the meeting at 6:27 p.m.

President Spitzley reminded everyone that the City of Lansing is already a Welcoming City via an earlier resolution. Council Member Dunbar asked Mr. Smiertka to clarify the difference between “Welcoming” and “Sanctuary”. Mr. Smiertka outlined the differences, noting that they are terms that could be used by communities in Executive Orders and laws. In those communities (2) statues of support come into play, basically a policy that states we are not going to follow those statues. A “Welcoming” City is a community for immigrants but does not violate the law.

Council Member Brown Clarke encouraged the discussions because similar discussions are being held at colleges and other government agencies.

Council President acknowledged the diversity in the city which makes it the community it is, and advised the rest of Council to proceed on “sanctuary” designation with caution and take direction from the City Attorney.

Council Member Wood stated to the Committee that when the Ad Hoc on Diversity sent the resolution onto Law and Committee of the Whole, they also sent it onto the Administration. Mr. Hannan was asked if the Administration had any feedback. Mr. Hannan stated their opinion is that the “sanctuary” definition is not at all clear and is being defined by President Trump or other cities. The Administration supports the continuation of being a Welcoming City. Mr. Hannan stated that the Mayor had issued a statement which included a statement that the LPD will not be transformed into an immigration team. The Administration will support the City Attorney doing his due diligence, and may not hesitate to join litigation or bring our own action to offer assistance.

Council Member Dunbar noted there is a definitive definition under “Sanctuary City” and declaring a “Sanctuary City” would put the City on the radar to get cut from fund sources. She

concluded by stated that she was in support of a “Welcoming City” and “Sanctuary” but does not want to put the City in line for budget cuts.

Mr. Hannan noted that the Mayor’s position is that the policy going forward is to continue as they always have with the Federal Law Enforcement in pursuit of criminals regardless of their immigration status. It was noted that Chief Yankowski had informed the Administration that it is extremely rare that the LPD gets a request from ICE. President Spitzley added to the statement that the LPD will continue to do the job and police streets, working with ICE and the Federal government as appropriate, reiterating the statement that the priority is extremely low to actively seek.

Council Member Houghton asked President Spitzley if the topic will stay on as a pending item on the agenda, and Mr. Smiertka suggested waiting until there is clarity in the courts, then he will alert President Spitzley to place it back on the agenda.

Council President Spitzley concluded the discussion clarifying that it is agreed upon that the topic is not going away, but Council will wait until they receive further guidance from the City Attorney.

Place on File

Council Member Houghton clarified that during the first meeting of Council on January 9, 2017 the Council was not sure when they would resolve leadership decisions, therefore to move items and requests along, these items were referred to the Committee of the Whole.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HOUGHTON TO PLACE THE FOLLOWING LETTERS FROM THE MICHIGAN LIQUOR CONTROL COMMISSION ON FILE:

Transfer of Ownership & Location of SDD & SDM for Markham Enterprises, Inc.; 3000 Dunckel Road

Transfer of Ownership of SDM for Sital Kaur, LLC.; 533 South Chestnut

New SDM License held in conjunction for Urbanbeat Event Center, Inc.; 1213-1215 Turner Street.

MOTION CARRIED 8-0.

Adjourn

Adjourned at 6:43 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Sherrie Boak, Recording Secretary

Lansing City Council

Approved by Committee on February 13, 2017