



MINUTES
Committee of the Whole
Monday, March 13, 2017 @ 5:30 p.m.
City Council Chambers

CALL TO ORDER

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

PRESENT

Councilmember Brown Clarke- arrived at 5:34 p.m.
Councilmember Kathie Dunbar
Councilmember Tina Houghton
Councilmember Adam Hussain
Councilmember Patricia Spitzley- excused
Councilmember Jody Washington
Councilmember Carol Wood
Councilmember Jessica Yorko- excused

OTHERS PRESENT

Sherrie Boak, Council Staff
Jim Smiertka, City Attorney
Brian Jackson, Deputy City Clerk
Eric Brewer, Internal Auditor
Bradon Waddell, City Attorney
Randy Hannan – arrived at 6:07 p.m.
Maximo Anguiano
Susan Pigg, Tri County Regional Planning Director
Carol Levin, MD
Nikki Finch
Teresa Montemayor
Mikey Taylor
Ed Montemayor
Michael Ruddock
Oscar Castaveda
Seth Kalis
Lori Naughton, PhD.
LaShawn Erby
Benjamin Goins

Minutes

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HUSSAIN TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 13, 2017 AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HUSSAIN TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 20, 2017 AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HUSSAIN TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 27, 2017 AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

Public Comment on Agenda Items (limited to 2 minutes)

No public comment at this time.

Presentation/Introduction

Tri County Regional Planning Commission Annual Report

Ms. Pigg acknowledged the City of Lansing and Council for their participation in regional planning. Tri-county is a coalition of local governments, led by 19 members of elected and appointed members within 3 counties. The Commission addresses developments, facilities, improvements and maintaining plans. They also are addressing transportation, economic development, land use and environmental protection planning. Tri County Regional Planning is the regional point of contact for the Federal government that is required.

Council Member Wood asked for information on the donor fees. Ms. Pigg acknowledged that the State of Michigan continues to be a donor State, and they receive a larger amount than what they get back from the Federal government in local transportation infrastructure. The transportation planning includes highways, local streets, transit, buses, handicap and accessibility services, as well as rail and air. The Commission focuses on roads and transit plans; long term and short term with a 20 year horizon plan. Ms. Pigg pointed out that the maps on federally funded roadways are on their website. The other funding for the roads is through the State, a small gas tax, which is collected by the State and disbursed across the State by formula. A third source of funding is the local taxes. To address funding, the TCRPC has a well understood, well developed plan on going to effectively spend those funds, with a focus on public involvement and agencies, so they make sure they invest all 3 sources into the best made sense in the region.

Council Member Wood asked about the waste products, how they are utilized and formation of a network. Ms. Pigg informed the Committee of one area of programming with a primary focus on the environment, ground water and surface water. The TCRPC has been able to secure grants and initial programs with grant funds to address a need in the region. In regards to the bi-products program, with a grant, they were able to explain and educate agencies on bi-products energy and create a network of groups to work with each other.

Council Member Wood recognized Council Member Brown Clarke as the City representative on the Commission and the 2017 Chairperson. Council Member Brown Clarke first apologized for being late to the meeting, and then confirmed her participation on the TCRPC and their plans for obtaining grant funds this year, and sustaining projects as they sunset. Tri County Regional Planning has met all their goals in the past.

Council Member Wood acknowledged Ms. Pigg for her attendance and information.

Discussion/Action:

RESOLUTION – Temporary Relocation of Polling Location; Ward 3/Precinct 30; August 8, 2017 City Primary Election

Mr. Jackson outlined the request, stating that the school district is working on Averill School, therefore not available for the August 8th primary use; therefore they are temporarily moving the precinct to the Tabernacle of David facility, which is in the same Ward/Precinct. The November election will be back at Averill School. Mr. Jackson then outlined the notification process the Clerk's office will be performing including mailings, communications to neighborhood associations and action groups. They will also be placing signage at the temporary and Averill for both elections to inform the voters of the location changes.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HOUGHTON TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR THE TEMPORARY LOCATION OF WARD 3/PRECINCT 30 FOR THE AUGUST PRIMARY. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

RESOLUTION – Setting of a Public Hearing; Annual Consolidated Strategy and Plan Submission & Action Plan Proposed Budget for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Fund Resources for FY 2018

With no representation from the Planning & Neighborhood Development office to go through the budget, Council Member Wood asked the Committee their preference on setting the hearing at this time, or tabling until a presentation could be done.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN CLARKE TO SET THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE CDBG BUDGET FOR FY 2018 WITH A PRESENTATION AT THE MEETING BEFORE THE HEARING. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

RESOLUTION – Council Rule Proposed Revisions, Motion to Amend Rule 27, to allow Standing Committee Public Comment at scheduled Committee of the Whole meetings (Per Council Rule #41, motion may not be considered for adoption until the March 27th Council meeting)

Council Member Wood referenced the resolution, noting it was drafted based on information that was provided at the February 27th Committee of the Whole. This addresses the current Rule 27 that says the Rules of Council shall be observed in the Committee of the Whole. Part of reason for that rule was under Mason Rules, Council can dissolve into Committee of the Whole. It should be noted that the Committee of the Whole has a separate schedule and task, and therefore have not utilized that same schedule. The proposed change would now make public comment at the beginning only, and under Rule 17 the Committee Chair sets the agenda. After the motion, the changes will sit for action until the next Council meeting. Mr. Smiertka confirmed that each Committee chairperson sets the protocol for each of their agendas.

Council Member Dunbar stated her opinion that the Committee of the Whole does run its meetings the same as Council, so comments should also be taken at the end. Council Member Wood clarified that the resolution would change the rule so the Chair of the Committee will make the determination when public comment will be taken on the agenda, but there will only be one "public comment" agenda item, which would reflect the past practice of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Smiertka stated that the rules currently follow the Council meetings, therefore two public comment items should be listed, and this proposed change would not reflect the Committee of the Whole in the same posture as the other standing committees.

Council Member Brown Clarke spoke in support of the change, noting that with Committee of the Whole and Council on the same night, the two public comment agenda items would be redundant. She then asked Law for clarification on "public interest beyond action items". Mr. Smiertka confirmed that in the Committee structure, agenda items would be the related items on the agenda, which falls under Rule 17.

Council Member Dunbar spoke in opposition to the resolution stating it does not support the intention of the Council Rules, and believed that people come to the Committee of the Whole and speak on items other than what is listed on the agenda.

Council Member Wood asked Law if the Chair of the Committee makes a determination the public comment is not appropriate, can the quorum of the Committee overrule the Chair and hear the comments. Mr. Smiertka confirmed.

Council Member Washington pointed out that the Committee of the Whole is a standing committee and if they choose to have two public hearings on the Committee of the Whole agenda, then all Committees will need to because they are all standing committees.

Council Member Houghton pointed out to Council that within her time on Council she did not recall any public comment at Committee of the Whole where it was on anything other than agenda items. She was not opposed to comments, but it would also then speak to how all the other committees are set up.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HUSSAIN TO MOVE THE RESOLUTION FOR RULE CHANGES TO COUNCIL, AND WHICH POINT THEY WILL SIT FOR ONE MEETING PRIOR TO ACTION, PER THE CHARTER. MOTION CARRIED 4-1.

DISCUSSION - City Council Performance Measures for FY2017 Budget

Council Member Wood confirmed that there were currently no measures turned into Council staff, and Council should forward their items by Wednesday March 19th at 3:30 p.m. Council Member Brown Clarke asked for staff to forward the unanswered questions from last years' budget process. Mr. Hannan stated that all the questions by Council were answered in writing last year, but the administration will answer any follow up questions. Council Member Wood asked those questions along with templates on performance measures is forwarded to the Committee. The Council should consider setting their goals for the budget year which could include addressing ordinance changes, holding specific meetings and setting timelines for responses to constituents.

Public Comment on City Government Related Matters (Limited to 2 minutes)

Mr. Anguiano spoke in support of the need for sanctuary city language.

Ms. Levin spoke in support of a sanctuary city resolution in front of Committee on March 27th, and in support of the immigrant community.

Ms. Finch outlined her work in the immigrant community and stated her disappointed that the City had not passed a resolution yet.

Ms. Montemayor spoke in support of a sanctuary city.

Mr. Taylor spoke in opposition to being limited to 2 minutes for public comments, questioned the recent resolution on public comment, and referenced a resolution from San Francisco, CA on sanctuary city.

Mr. Montemayor spoke in opposition to the resolution for the Council Rule changes, spoke in opposition to the 2 minute time line on public comment, and supported a sanctuary city resolution.

Mr. Ruddock spoke in support of the sanctuary city resolution, and urged the Committee for action at the next meeting.

Mr. Castaveda spoke in support of the sanctuary resolution.

Mr. Kalis spoke in support of a sanctuary city resolution.

Ms. Naughton spoke in support of a sanctuary city resolution.

Ms. Erby spoke on the concerns with the limited time on public comment at the Committee of the Whole and encouraged action on a resolution for sanctuary city at the March 27th meeting.

Adjourn

Adjourned at 6:41p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Sherrie Boak, Recording Secretary
Lansing City Council

Approved by Committee on March 27, 2017