



MINUTES
Committee of the Whole
Monday, August 14, 2017 @ 6:00 p.m.
City Council Chambers

CALL TO ORDER

Council Vice President Wood called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT

Councilmember Brown Clarke
Councilmember Kathie Dunbar
Councilmember Tina Houghton
Councilmember Adam Hussain
Councilmember Patricia Spitzley- arrived at 6:13 p.m.
Councilmember Jody Washington
Councilmember Carol Wood
Councilmember Jessica Yorko- excused

OTHERS PRESENT

Sherrie Boak, Council Staff
Eric Brewer, Council Internal Auditor
Randy Hannan, Mayors Executive
Chad Gamble, Director of Public Service
Angie Bennett, Finance Director
Gordon T. Wilson
Kirk Lytwyn
Elaine Womboldt

Minutes

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN CLARKE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM JULY 24, 2017 AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN CLARKE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM JULY 31, 2017 AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

Public Comment on Agenda Items

Ms. Womboldt spoke on her concerns with language on the ballot for the sidewalks.

Discussion/Action

RESOLUTION - Reappointments of 11 Individuals to Various Boards and Commissions

Council Member Brown Clarke read the 11 appointments, expiration date and their appointed positions. Those included Anthony Mullen, Josh Hovey, Scott Dedic, James Butler, Fred Sparrow, Maria Starr VanCore, Scott Gillespie, Veronica Gracia- Wing, Lynne Martinez and John Ruge.

Council Member Wood verified that the resolution did reflect that the Mayor's office had vetted all appointees.

Council Member Washington spoke in opposition to John Hovey for the appointments on the Board of Zoning Appeals and the Planning Board.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN CLARKE TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR THE REAPPOINTMENTS OF 11 INDIVIDUALS TO VARIOUS BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS. MOTION CARRIED 5-1.

DISCUSSION - Approval of Ballot Language for Bond Proposal for Sidewalks and Neighborhood Street

Mr. Gamble distributed the power point handout and a spreadsheet on millage paving since 2012, last dated August 14, 2017.

Mr. Hannan stated the City will need an estimated \$250 million a year to bring the streets up to an average condition, then another \$26 million to repair and replace sidewalks. With a home value of \$100,000 it would be a \$50 increase in property taxes per year. Funds generated by the millage will focus on the sidewalks. The millage would provide time for the Administration to continue to advocate at the State level for more funding, and will allow work to begin in Spring 2018.

Mr. Gamble began his presentation power point, highlighting the funding and liabilities. Under the current road millage, \$1.9 million is contributed to the Act 51 fund. These Act funds are audited and restricted to their expenditures. The road maintenance is restricted to the right away, and \$1.6 million is funded to sustain staffing and equipment.

Council Member Houghton asked if the \$1.9 millage is still in the 6th year, and if there are additional Act 51 funds. Mr. Gamble confirmed. There is \$1.6 million that pays for staff and equipment to perform the work, which includes catch basin cleaning, street cleaning and winter maintenance. The current road millage plays a significant roll and in the past the transfer was in the millions for Act 51, but the current balance below \$1 million. The millage also provides for \$300,000 annually worth of material. In reference to the spreadsheet that was handed out lists the 12,333 miles. With the proposed changes in FY2019, the State passed a road funding project, and at the height of it in 2021, the will receive \$6 million.

Council Member Wood asked for verification that the \$1.6 million of the millage dollars was used for staffing, which was confirmed and also noted included material to do the work in house. Council Member Spitzley asked if the proposed millage did not pass, would there be layoffs. Mr. Gamble assured her no, and that the millage that was renewed in 2016 had a high risk of layoffs, but at that time the gas tax had not passed.

Council Member Hussain asked the Administration to be more exact in the language on where the millage would be used.

Mr. Gamble moved onto the presentation which spoke to the 625 miles of sidewalk, and 20% of sidewalks requiring repair. There is 31 miles of sidewalk at \$1.28 million that have the cutting process, and the replacement of sidewalk is at 94 miles of \$24.8 million.

Council Member Brown Clarke asked if the staff was addressing and creating a strategy for the trees that upheave the sidewalks. Mr. Gamble confirmed they do an evaluation and work with the forestry department to consider options, and also work with the home owner. Any owner who has a concern on a tree they believe is affecting their sidewalk should contact Lansing Connect and report it so staff can do a site visit.

Mr. Gamble moved onto slide 7 which spoke to the 303 miles of neighborhood streets and total cost of \$55.3 million to improve 260 miles of those.

Slide 8 noted that the Administration is proposing using the millage to split at 75% at \$8.55 million for sidewalks and 25% or \$2.85 million for streets.

Council Member Hussain asked how the staff will prioritize the \$8.55 million on the sidewalks. Mr. Gamble admitted they will use the funds for non-intersection, non ADA improvement. This will be prioritizing for repair and maintenance only. If they locate an issue with an ADA ramp area, these funds will not be used for that, Mr. Gamble assured them. Council Member Spitzley asked what percentages of the streets that don't have the ramps have to be addressed, at which Mr. Gamble did not have that information but stated there would be a breakdown in the budget process next year. Council Member Hussain then asked for the percentage for replacement, at which Mr. Gamble did stated 95% of the sidewalks funds will be for repair and replace.

Council Member Wood asked when they use the cumulative amount of \$8.55 million, do they look at where there is a street and sidewalk at the same time that need repairs or where there are no sidewalks. Mr. Gamble answered that they will continue to use the gap closure program where there is a street with no sidewalks to complete those.

Council Member Dunbar referenced a past comprehensive study on sidewalks, and asked if that information is still utilized, at which point Mr. Gamble confirmed it is used to drive some of the repairs.

Council Member Houghton asked if 25% of the millage could be a street that needs ADA, then it comes from the street funds not the sidewalk, and Council Member Spitzley added that would potentially bring the funding for the sidewalks to more than 75%. Mr. Gamble assured the Committee they are trying to focus funds on sidewalks. In regards to the roads, they plan to overlay, resurface, and mill as opposed to reconstruct. Some cannot be overlay or repaired so those could be complete streets.

Council Member Wood asked if a sidewalk is done in front a home is it still the property owners responsibility to pay as well, and Mr. Gamble answered it is required by City Ordinance.

Council Member Brown Clarke asked if they are considering crushed stones for fill and if they are also collaborating with the abutting communities for their resources, and projects.

Ms. Bennett quickly overviewed the final slide, noting the City is currently at 19 mills and will cap, so they will seek bonds, and those bonds will be issued and the City will pay for the work, then the millage will pay off the bonds. In fall 2017 if the voters approve the millage they will seek bonds in winter, and issue the first series for 3 years, then in 3 years issues another.

Council Member Wood asked what the cost of the repayment on the \$11.4 million bond would be. Ms. Bennett was not able to provide an exact amount depending on interest rates. She did speculate that at 2.5% it could be \$500,000 over the 6 years, and if at 2% it could be \$400,000 for that time frame.

Council Member Wood referred to the spreadsheet, asking what the average cost of the work was. Mr. Gamble noted the list reflected the formal capital projects in the form of typical overlay or mill/fill, pot holes, skim patching. They only issued a couple contracts outside of the City Maintenance Division. The normal cost for a skim coat on a complete block could be \$45,000-\$60,000 depending on the width of the street. Out of the 12.333 miles done since 2012 less than 15% was contracted out. The Committee and Administration reviewed the streets done over the years listed in the spreadsheet, with a suggestion to the Administration to provide historical detailed information the website. The Committee added they should also look into reciprocal agreements with the County and Townships if there aren't, and concluded with continued emphasis on transparency.

Council Member Houghton asked if the Act 51 funds were audited annually, and was informed they are audited twice annually; once by the State as well as by a 3rd party through the City Finance Department.

Council Member Houghton referenced and read from the ballot language from 2016 which was broad in its content also because of the number of characters allowed. It stated Police, Fire, Local Roads and Sidewalk Maintenance.

Council Member Washington was concerned with the last minute submission to the Council and additional concerns with the proposed "piecemealing" of roads and sidewalks. She noted that based on a letter the Committee had received on the Dias, the Public Service Board just met on it today, August 14th. Mr. Hannan stated that the item was referred to Council on July 10th.

Council Member Spitzley encouraged the discussions, but also noted her frustration that some information such as the power point, spreadsheet and comments from the Public Service Advisory Board were just provided at this meeting. She then noted the letter from the Advisory Board confirmed their vote of 4-2; however it failed because they needed 5 to pass it, and there were also 2 members absent. Council Member Spitzley added that this information opens up more questions at this last minute as to why that Board just saw this today, and why did the 2 vote no. Mr. Gamble stated it was presented to that Board the week of August 7th, but this was the first time they could meet. Their concerns were on spending on the road and lack thereof. Council Member Dunbar also stated she spoke to Board members who had an issue with the lack of spending, and they wanted to go above and beyond, but agreed to support starting somewhere.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR THE BALLOT LANGUAGE FOR BOND PROPOSAL FOR SIDEWALKS AND NEIGHBORHOOD STREETS. MOTION FAILED 3-4.

Adjourn

Adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

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

Approved by Committee on August 28, 2017