



MINUTES
Special Committee of the Whole
Monday, September 11, 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- excused
Councilmember Tina Houghton - arrived at 5:38 p.m.
Councilmember Adam Hussain
Councilmember Patricia Spitzley
Councilmember Jody Washington
Councilmember Carol Wood
Councilmember Jessica Yorko- excused

OTHERS PRESENT

Sherrie Boak, Council Staff
Randy Hannan, Mayors Executive- arrived at 5:32 p.m.
Jim Smiertka, City Attorney
Heather Sumner, Assistant City Attorney
Eric Brewer, Council Internal Auditor
Tonatizia M Alfaro Maiz
Dale Schrader
Paulo Gordillo
Lynn Ross
Apachu Maiz
Al Salas
Dalinda Martinez
Patricia Moreno
Maria Santana
Alba Riveria
Mary Reynolds
Mr. Valendez
Dennis Burnside

Minutes

Council Member Wood asked for the minutes to be moved to the next meeting for review and discussion.

Public Comment on Agenda Items

Mr. Schrader spoke on the subject of East and Grand River Avenue to Cesar Chavez Avenue, and provided a history on what he referred to as "Michigan's Main Street" since it runs from Detroit to Lowell. After time expired Mr. Schrader offered to provide additional comments.

Ms. Alfaro Maiz asked for verification that the process will follow the same process done with the renaming of City Hall, then spoke in support of the renaming and provided answers to the questions against it. Lastly, she requested that there not be a two year transition period, but wants it addressed immediately.

Council Member Wood confirmed that the City Hall renaming did follow the application process and also had a public hearing with a 30 day notice.

Mr. Gordillo spoke about the legacy of Lansing and the impacts. Mr. Gordillo spoke briefly on white supremacy and the misconception with the common mistake with racism effects affects every aspect of the community. Mr. Gordillo stated his belief that Old Town does not want Latinos there and refused to attend their meetings.

Ms. Riveria acknowledged the Committee for their service and asked them to keep in mind of the common good of the community and neighborhoods. She then continued her comments and personal experience with the north side of Lansing and her support of the renaming.

Mr. Burnside stated he was involved with the Council when they renamed Holmes to Malcom X and the renaming of MLK. He pointed out that the objections then were the same objections he is hearing on this renaming, and therefore asked them not to take those concerns into account, but focus on what Cesar E Chavez.

Ms. Rivera spoke in support of the name change.

Ms. Reynolds spoke in support of the rename change, but requested the Committee consider not Grand River but Cedar Street since it runs through all of Lansing.

Council President Spitzley passed the gavel and stepped away from the room at 5:52 p.m.

Ms. Reynolds continued with her appeal and suggestions for the street name changes.

Council President Spitzley returned to the meeting at 5:53 p.m.

Ms. Ross, as a business owner in Old Town, referred to quotes for the expenses sent to Committee earlier. Ms. Ross also noted that there is an interest in working with the group in other options including completing the arch at the parking lot from earlier, changing the section of Washington Avenue, and any other options to honor Cesar E Chavez. Ms. Ross also pointed out that there have been statements made in the public from business owners that have been turned around and she wanted that noted to the Committee.

Ms. Santana spoke in support of the renaming and believed that this renaming is bigger than any business in Old Town.

Ms. Martinez spoke in support of the renaming.

Mr. Valendez spoke in support of the renaming.

Mr. Salas spoke in support of the renaming and provided a history of the Old Town Area and the marches of Cesar E. Chavez.

Ms. Moreno spoke about what she heard in opposition to the changes from Old Town, and believes that the concerns about address changes, costs of changes, and value of the businesses. Ms. Moreno then concluded by speaking in support of the change.

Ms. Salas spoke in support of the renaming option and the low cost of changing the addresses.

Council President recognized for the record emails and letters the Council Office received from Jennifer Estill, Ruben Martinez, Tonatzin Alfaro Maiz, Tom and Lupe Izzo, AFLCIO, Tony Benavides, 3 pages of signatures in support, and Jamie Schriner.

DISCUSSION/ACTION

RESOLUTION- Set the Public Hearing for Memorial Application; Renaming of East Grand River Avenue and West Grand River Avenue from Oakland Avenue to Pine Street to Cesar E. Chavez Avenue

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WASHINGTON TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION TO SET THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR OCTOBER 23, 2017 FOR THE RENAMING OF EAST GRAND RIVER AVENUE.

Council Member Wood informed the public that it does meet the 30 day notice requirement and the required mailing will be done by the Planning and Neighborhood Development Department and published by the Clerk.

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

RESOLUTION – Reappointments to six individuals to various Boards and Commissions

Council Member Wood stated the names and boards of the reappointments. Those included Yvonne McConnell-Young to the Board of Fire Commissioners, Anne Wilson and Robert Swanson to the Capital Area Transportation Authority, Cynthia Bowen and Charles Janssen to the Lansing Entertainment & Public Facilities Authority, and Maria Starr VanCore to the Memorial Review Board.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR THE 6 REAPPOINTMENTS.

Council President Spitzley reiterated to the Committee that these were not new appointments but reappointments.

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION FOR CITY ATTORNEY WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS ON THE CITY OF EAST LANSING VS. CITY OF LANSING AND GAMUT GROUP LLC, VS. CITY OF LANSING. ROLL CALL VOTE, MOTION CARRIED.

Mr. Smiertka pointed out that it would be for litigation and settlement strategy.

**CLOSED SESSION AT 6:20 P.M.
RECONVENED AT 6:59 P.M.**

Adjourn

Adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

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

Approved by Committee on September 25, 2017