



MINUTES
Special Committee of the Whole
Monday, September 25, 2017 @ 6:00 p.m.
City Council Chambers

CALL TO ORDER

Council President Spitzley 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
Councilmember Jody Washington
Councilmember Carol Wood
Councilmember Jessica Yorko- absent

OTHERS PRESENT

Sherrie Boak, Council Staff
Jim Smiertka, City Attorney
Nicholas Tate, Assistant City Attorney
Eric Brewer, Council Internal Auditor

Council President Spitzley asked for Committee Members turn on the microphones when voting so that all public in attendance and at home can hear their vote.

Minutes

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM AUGUST 28, 2017 AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 7, 2017 AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED 8-0.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 11, 2017 AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED 8-0.

Public Comment on Agenda Items

Ms. Womboldt' voiced a concern on the lack of code compliance, the low number of LPD officers, and asked for community police officers for the neighborhoods are added to the

Budget Priorities. She also asked them to consider a code compliance office strictly for commercial business enforcement.

DISCUSSION/ACTION

RESOLUTION – FY2018/2-19 BUDGET PRIORITIES

Council President Spitzley recapped an earlier meeting where she had asked each Committee Chairperson Address budget priorities at their meetings, and brings back any suggestions to this meeting for discussion by the full body.

Council Member Hussain proposed suggestions from the Committee on Public Safety.

Page 4, c) (2)

Working with the City Attorney and Fire Department Code Compliance Division to expedite improvements or closure of abandoned, neglected, and burned out houses and commercial building by using the International Property Maintenance Code (IPMC) and adopt the latest version of the IPMC from the State of Michigan. Develop aggressive policies to deal with problematic property owners.

The Committee discussed the last adopted version of the IPMC vs. the recent adopted version by the State. Council Member Dunbar asked Law if there were significant differences. Council Member Wood answered that she had spoken to Scott Sanford in Code Compliance who informed her there were changes, and the City needs to be current with what the State has adopted. Council President Spitzley asked Mr. Smiertka what the most recent version was and his opinion on the adoption. Mr. Smiertka stated it would need to be presented to the City Attorney office for review, so they can do a comparison and then come to the Council with an ordinance. Council Member Wood asked that Law take a look at it, giving the example that the State version now allows for inspections of mobile homes.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HUSSAIN TO AMEND THE PRIORITIES TO CHANGE PAGE 4 C) (2) TO STATE Working with the City Attorney and Fire Department Code Compliance Division to expedite improvements or closure of abandoned, neglected, and burned out houses and commercial building by using the International Property Maintenance Code (IPMC) and adopt the latest version of the IPMC from the State of Michigan. Develop aggressive policies to deal with problematic property owners.

Council Member Houghton asked if the newest version should go through the Committee on Public Safety first before Council adopts it as is. Mr. Smiertka noted that they need to look at the State adopted version, and if the State allows municipalities to have flexibility in different areas, they can look at each area as it pertains to the City. Council Member Dunbar asked if the City can only adopt the parts that they prefer, and it was confirmed by Council Member Wood, and she added that when the City goes through the IMPC there can be sections the City does not put in its ordinance to adopt. Mr. Smiertka added that Code Compliance will be brought into the discussions and hearings, and those discussions will help the City decide. Council President Spitzley informed the Committee that the discussion will be held in the Committee on Public Safety, and the IMPC and State Statue will be reviewed and discussed with the City Attorney to determine what is applicable, what can be adopted and what cannot.

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

Council Member Hussain made a second suggestion from the Committee on Public Safety.

Page 5 (4)

Code Compliance: The Administration shall ensure the Code Compliance Department is conducting the appropriate inspections and issuing appropriate fines to ensure the buildings in our City are safe and that we have quality neighborhoods. The

Administration is to conduct a study of the Code Compliance to determine a level of service for first time inspections and re-inspections assuring the safety of the housing stock for residents. Inspections of mobile home parks should be included in the study.

Council Member Brown Clarke suggested combining the last two sentences to state:

The Administration is to conduct a study of Code Compliance to determine a level of service for first time inspections and re-inspections assuring the safety of the housing stock for residential and mobile homes.

Council President Spitzley questioned why lists the two separate inspections, instead of just “inspections”. Council Member Wood stated Committees have been informed that the re-inspections can take up to 6 month to be performed.

Council Member Dunbar stepped away from the meeting at 6:26 p.m.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD TO AMEND THE PRIORITIES TO CHANGE PAGE 5 (4) TO STATE Code Compliance: The Administration shall ensure the Code Compliance Department is conducting the appropriate inspections and issuing appropriate fines to ensure the buildings in our City are safe and that we have quality neighborhoods. The Administration is to conduct a study of Code Compliance to determine a level of service for first time inspections and re-inspections assuring the safety of the housing stock for residential and mobile homes.

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

Council Member Dunbar returned to the meeting at 6:28 p.m.

Council Member Hussain added a 3rd suggestion from the Committee on Public Safety which was to page 6 III. a) (1)
Add “and sign enforcement” after “commercial buildings”.

Council President Spitzley asked if sign enforcement was covered under the IMPC. Mr. Smiertka confirmed the City has its own sign ordinance that has it covered under. Council President Spitzley then asked if there was a way to put somewhere else and link it back. After further discussion, the Committee decided to place “sign enforcement” before “commercial buildings”.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HUSSAIN TO AMEND THE PRIORITIES TO CHANGE PAGE 6 III. a) (1) TO STATE Establish funding for an additional Code Compliance Officer dedicated to sign enforcement, and Commercial buildings based under the authority of the IPMC. As well as an additional support staff to track down property owners that have not scheduled re-inspection and to research properties suspected of being unregistered rentals.

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

The last recommendation from the Committee on Public Safety, as suggested by Council Member Hussain was adding in the following:

10) Front-loading of Police Officers: Continue to front-load Police Officers so that we have officers ready to work independently when officers retire.

After a discussion by the Committee on upcoming retirements, the time frame the new officers have in the academy the suggested change was agreed upon, with the Committee also agreeing they will look at these priorities annually.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HUSSAIN TO ADD a NEW PRIORITY OF 10)
Front-loading of Police Officers: Continue to front-load Police Officers so that we have officers ready to work independently when officers retire.

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

Mr. Smiertka briefly referred the Committee back to earlier questions on the IMPC and signs, informing them that signs are not covered in the IMPC and that are why the City has always had a sign ordinance.

Council Member Brown Clarke offered amendments from the Committee on Development and Planning. That suggestion was in reference to page 4, (3).

Changing "Grocery Stores" to "Food Access", line two "grocery stores" to "food access". Council Member Dunbar suggested making changes to the "incentives" portion of the priority to include existing markets. Council President Spitzley suggested no limiting the incentives, but removing the specific incentives listed, and Council Member Brown Clarke suggested making the change to remove the items listed being broad.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN CLARKE TO CHANGE THE ITEM ON PAGE 4 c) (3) TO STATE Food Access: The Administration and the City of Lansing Economic Development Corporation should increase quality food access throughout the City using all incentives available. MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

Council Member Dunbar referred back to an earlier discussion on the IMPC, and asked if the City can adopt items not adopted by the State. Mr. Smiertka stated the IMPC lists the State's adopted codes, and lines to the cities to adopt or amend. Again, Mr. Smiertka reiterated to the Committee that Law will need to do an entire analysis with Code Compliance, and Council President Spitzley added that it would be under the umbrella of the Committee on Public Safety.

Council Member Brown Clarke had no other changes from Development & Planning.

Council Member Wood made a motion to approve the FY2018/2019 Budget Priorities.

Council President Spitzley brought forth a document from the Board of Public Service to review.

Council Member Wood withdrew her motion.

Council President Spitzley distributed a document from the Board of Public Service dated July 13, 2017 that was sent to the Administration on July 27, 2017 but never referred to Council. Council Member Dunbar stated her concern that it was not referred to the Committee on Public Service for review and consideration. Council President Spitzley stated again that she was provided a copy of the document, but again it was sent through the process of first submittal to the Administration for referral and it was never referred to the Council by the Administration. Council Member Wood reminded the Committee that per the Charter the Priorities need to be adopted at this meeting; however the Council can amend the resolution if the Committee on Public Service wanted to review the document at a meeting before that. Council President Spitzley understood the Committee frustration in the late document,

however clarified that since it was not referred, but then brought to her attention as Council President she wanted all of Council to be aware of the Boards suggestions. She then stated that at the Council meeting she will formally ask Mr. Hannan with the Administration if there are any other Boards that have submitted recommendations to the Mayor's office that have yet to be referred. Council Member Dunbar suggested that the Council revisit the rules and regulations that govern the Boards and Commissions so in the future the Council will know when they can obtain any budget suggestions. Council President Spitzley suggested that in the future Council Staff will reach out in July of each year to obtain any budget suggestions from the Boards so that the Committee of the Whole has those before they review their budget priorities. Council Member Washington suggested that Council Staff place a September 1st due date on those requests so Council can have the opportunity to incorporate into their priorities. Council Member Brown Clarke suggested placing it on the Council meeting calendar similar to the deadlines for budget and Budget Priorities.

Mr. Smiertka informed the Committee that in the rules of procedures, if a Board is making a recommendation of a program through a department, it goes to the Mayor before the Council. Noting also though that if the Board adopts their recommendations through their minutes, the Council can analyze the recommendations.

Council Member Dunbar asked if other Boards should be contacted and invited to Committees. Council President Spitzley reiterated that she will ask Mr. Hannan at the Council meeting tonight if the Administration has any other priorities from Boards that have not been provided to the Council, and if so ask for them at that time.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD TO APPROVE THE BUDGET PRIORITIES FOR 2018/2019 AS AMENDED BY THE BODY FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE FULL COUNCIL TONIGHT. MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

Adjourn

Adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Sherrie Boak, Recording Secretary

Lansing City Council

Approved by Committee on October 9, 2017