



MINUTES
Committee of the Whole
Monday, March 26, 2018 @ 5:30 p.m.
City Council Chambers

CALL TO ORDER

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

PRESENT

Councilmember Kathie Dunbar- arrived at 5:38 p.m.
Councilmember Jeremy A. Garza
Councilmember Adam Hussain
Council Member Brian T. Jackson
Councilmember Peter Spadafore
Councilmember Patricia Spitzley
Councilmember Jody Washington
Councilmember Carol Wood

OTHERS PRESENT

Sherrie Boak, Council Staff
Eric Brewer Internal Auditor
Jim Smiertka, City Attorney
Chelsea Coffey, Mayors Assistant
Kathy Miles
Elaine Womboldt
Sarah Lehr, LSJ
Andy Kilpatrick, Director of Public Services
Dr. Joan Jackson Johnson, Director of HRCS
Brett Kaschinske, Director of Parks and Recreation
Harold Leeman
Mark Mello
Judith Felice
Dot Johnson

Minutes

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WASHINGTON TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM MARCH 12, 2018 MEETING AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

Public Comment on Agenda Items (Up to 3 Minutes)

Ms. Womboldt noted her interest in the HRCS budget and interest if they would be working with the Lansing Housing Commission.

Ms. Felice spoke in support of the MNRTF Grant for Cambridge Road that is on the Council agenda for adoption later.

Presentation

2017/2018 Budget Update – Human Relations & Community Services

Dr. Jackson Johnson replied to the earlier public comment, clarifying that she is not in a superior position over the LHC, but noted they do work well with them. They have worked together on providing residency in situations such as the Life O'Riley evacuation, the Magnuson evacuation. They have also worked with their location at 3200 S. Washington on activities. She agreed to reach out again to Mr. Armstrong the Executive Director of the LHC. Regarding their funds, the HRCS has gotten Federal dollars and those dollars for community services have been cut. Council President Wood asked if the sites are offering office space for Community Mental Health. Dr. Jackson Johnson informed the Committee that a couple years ago the criteria changed and they could not offer that level of help any more, but they will continue to explore what resources they can get in there. Council President Wood asked if the department had an increase in staff, and if that position were budgeted or new creations. Dr. Jackson Johnson confirmed that all but one was budgeted positions, and the new creation was for the office administration position filled by Renee Freeman. Council President Wood asked about any assistance the department did for heat, electricity and lights throughout the winter for the clients. Dr. Jackson Johnson confirmed they are working on services where people are already receiving housing assistance but cannot pay the utilities. Council Member Spitzley referenced the current budget which reflected an increase in the technology budget. Dr. Jackson Johnson confirmed it was based on the stability program and increase of services, and preparing for next fiscal year. Council Member Spitzley asked Dr. Jackson Johnson what her top three priorities for services were. Dr. Jackson Johnson stated one is the need to maintain a serviceable staff, have resources for the grants they offer, and other support services where they can refer people to for assistance. Council President Wood asked out of the \$1.25 million and contracts, if all the contacts have complied. Dr. Jackson Johnson stated there are some contracts have balances and because of that could impact their end balance. One example she gave was the Teen Challenge which closed, but is now looking at reopening, another example was the Old News Boys, they are missing some reports, so they have not gotten their second payment, and the Women's Opportunity House on Moores River are currently addressing some challenges in their programs, so they have not been able to use their funds. Lastly, Dr. Jackson Johnson pointed out that some of the contracts are spring programs, and therefore have not started yet. In the conclusion, she noted all contracts have to comply or the second payment is withheld. Council was acknowledged for all their assistance.

Discussion/Action:

ORDINANCE- Re-Adoption and Re-Codification of Codified Ordinances Pursuant to Charter Sections 3-307 and 3-309

Council President Wood clarified for the Committee that the required hearing will be held at the Council meeting later, and Law has requested action at the same meeting. Mr. Smiertka reminded the Committee they are currently in the middle of their 60 day emergency ordinance period, which ends April 15th. He was asking for action tonight at Council with immediate effect, which would allow effect upon publication. Mr. Smiertka then briefly discussed that at a previous meeting, Council Members questioned if the 60 day time line had been met. In the future his office is suggesting a complete review of general offense, license and regulatory ordinances to make sure they are updated consistent with the latest cases. The City Attorney office plans to embark on this project this summer and the findings will determine if they need to contemplate any changes to ordinances. In terms of the window periods, when working through the issues, Mr. Smiertka stated his office is deal with cases on a case by case basis. Any crime victim rights cases are being referred to the County Prosecutor. Council Member

Spadafore asked that the Committee of the Whole look into procedures and policies so that this will not happen again, looking into a regulatory basis, even the potential of creation of a Committee on Policies. Council Member Spadafore asked Mr. Smiertka in the period between the ordinance sunset and the 60 days, what happened to the fines or penalties that were assessed during that time. Mr. Smiertka confirmed that most cases were pending at that time, and were dismissed in court. Council President Wood confirmed that the Committee will look into what to do going forward.

Mr. Smiertka briefly informed the Committee that his office did reach out to the District Court for a number of cases that go through the City and were informed there are 21,000 which range from parking tickets to drunk driving. He then agreed that a practice on re-adoption and recodification is needed.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WASHINGTON TO APPROVE THE ORDINANCE FOR RE-ADOPTION AND RE-CODIFICATION OF CODIFIED ORDINANCES PURSUANT TO CHARTER SECTIONS 3-307 AND 3-309. MOTION CARRIED 8-0.

Other

Council Members Reports on Boards/Commissions

- Capital Area of Michigan Works Administration Board – Council Member Washington reported that they are going through budget items, and looking at their budget and partnering.
- Capital Region Airport Authority – Council Member Spitzley reported that currently she has a conflict with their meetings because they occur at the same nights as Committee of the Whole, Council or Committee on Development & Planning. She will be reaching out to them for a committee report and report back.
- City of Lansing and Charter Township of Lansing- Council President Wood reported that she will be meeting next week and will report back.
- Community Corrections Advisory Board- Council Member Jackson reported that they are looking at the coordination of diverse programs in courts. Currently he stated, people can be referred to multiple courts, so they are looking at assigning someone with all courts to allow them into the courts sooner.
- Downtown Lansing, Inc. – Council Member Jackson reported that they are discussing their budget which currently is over in the line item for salt and snow removal, and they also discussed options for vacant newspaper boxes at Washington and Ottawa.
- Employee Retirement Board – Council Member Washington reported that they are working on the actuaries and the funds as to where it needs to be and appropriate investments.
- Police and Fire Retirement Board – Council President Wood reported that they approved their actuary, reducing to 7.5%. They are also working an issue where some Police and Fire officers believe they were paying into their retirement since they were a trainee, but in some cases they were never sworn in until they were officers. The research has narrowed it down to 14 Fire and Police Officers, and so Finance and Law is reaching out to them to provide proof they were an actual sworn officer at the time.
- Entrepreneur Institute of Mid-Michigan – Council Member Dunbar provided details on what the group does.
- Council Member Dunbar then added to the details of the Capital Michigan Area Works Board, which is also promoting a Pure Michigan Talent Connect website for a jobs website.
- Greater Lansing Convention & Visitors Bureau- Council Member Garza reported that they meet once a year, and but did just receive an update that the hotels in Lansing are at 67% occupancy, which is 3% higher than a couple years ago.

- Lansing Entertainment & Public Facilities Authority – Council Member Washington reported that their next meeting is March 27th, so she will continue to update the Committee. At earlier meetings they discussed preparing for the Lugnut Season, they have hired golf pro for Groesbeck Golf Course, and looking into buying golf carts. There is continue discussions on the City Market, and that will be reported out at a later date. Council Member Spitzley asked if the purchase of the golf carts was being purchased this fiscal year or next fiscal year. Council Member Washington assumed this fiscal year, but would confirm and report back.
- Tri County on Aging Consortium – Council Member Jackson reported they are discussing fundraising.
- Tri County on Regional Planning Commission – Council Member Spadafore reported that there are many discussions on their By-Laws regarding the representation on the board from surrounding areas. They are also in the process of hiring and Executive Director, and in the process of a bid for the search organization. Lastly, he noted the Commission is working on budget and grant processes.

A consultation with its attorney to discuss trial or settlement strategy with the City Attorney regarding Friends of Ormond Park v City of Lansing, per Section 8e of the Open Meetings Act

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WASHINGTON TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION
LANSING, SECTION 8E OF THE OMA ALLOWS COUNCIL TO CONSULT WITH ITS
ATTORNEY REGARDING TRIAL OR SETTLEMENT STRATEGY IN CONNECTION WITH
SPECIFIC PENDING LITIGATION. SETTLEMENT AND STRATGEY DICUSSIONS WILL
OCCUR. AN OPEN MEETING WOULD HAVE A DETERIMENTAL FINANCIAL EFFECT ON
THE LITIGATION OR SETTLEMENT POSITION OF THE CITY (PER THE OMA AT
SECTION 8E). ROLL CALL VOTE

{Closed Session} 6:15 p.m.

A consultation with its attorney to discuss trial or settlement strategy with the City Attorney regarding Friends of Ormond Park v City of Lansing, per Section 8e of the Open Meetings Act

{Reconvene} at 6:41 p.m.

Place on File

Communication from Kathy Miles RE: Red Cedar Development
Council President Wood placed the document on file.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Sherrie Boak, Recording Secretary

Lansing City Council

Approved by the Committee on April 2, 2018