



MINUTES
Committee of the Whole
Monday, November 19, 2018 @ 5:30 p.m.
City Council Chambers, City Hall 10th Floor

CALL TO ORDER

Council President Wood called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

PRESENT

Councilmember Kathie Dunbar
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
Samantha Harkins, Mayors Executive Assistant
Jim Smiertka, City Attorney
David Lenz
Anna Hill, Michigan Immigration Rights
Alicia Guevara-Warren, Michigan League of Public Policy
Nancy Mahlow
Michael Mercer
Heather Sumner, Deputy Chief City Attorney – arrived at 5:42 p.m.

Minutes

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WASHINGTON TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 5, 2018 AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED 8-0.

Public Comment on Agenda Items

No public comment at this time.

Presentation

Michigan Immigration Rights Center – Anna Hill

Michigan League of Public Policy-Alicia Guevara-Warren

Ms. Hill and Ms. Guevara-Warren started with what “public charge” is, and the issue of immigration law- public charge. In 2017 there was a Senate Bill which reduced and limited

access to green cards and the process. A presentation was done that began with the origins on “public charge”, and what that means under the current law. It was stated in the presentation the public charge largely effects family-based immigrants, which began back in 1965. The presentation then moved onto the proposed changes as shown in the power point in the packet. Tables in the presentation highlighted the current law and the proposed new regulations. Groups that would be exempt from the test would be people who already have green cards, victims of human trafficking. Ms. Hill noted that this is a proposed rule, published by Homeland Security for a public comment period. Before a rule such as this can be put into place, it has to be open for public comment and that period time is October 10, 2018 to December 10, 2018. Once that period closes, Homeland Security has to review and respond to those public comments before enact the Rule. Once that process is over they can put a rule in place with a 60 day delay.

Ms. Guevara-Warren spoke about the impact that could happen with a Rule, and options people could do. She began with statistics on Michigan, and in Lansing there is 7% of that population as immigrants. The use of benefits and programs, she noted, would be impactful because of the 42% of immigrants in poverty. With the impact of the proposed changes in Michigan, Ms. Guevara-Warren highlighted losses in federal funds at \$153 million, potential jobs lost of 1,990. The strategies to respond that were provided included submit public comments by December 10, 2018; educate service providers to fight the chilling effect and story advocacy to document the stories. Lastly, they proposed Council consider adopting a resolution to oppose the proposed public charge rule and commits to submit comments. Her opinion for a resolution is to raise the issue with policymakers from multiple sectors; and build administrative record to delay implementation and challenge the court. Online links for comments were given; www.protectingimmigrantfamilies.org.

Council Member Dunbar asked who is proposing the change, and where the comments would be directed. Ms. Hill stated they are being proposed by Homeland Security and comments to them as well. Council Member Dunbar referred back to the 2017 approach on a resolution for Sanctuary City's and how the Federal Government was going to punish those that were, and so the City revoked. She then asked Ms. Hill and Ms. Guevara-Warren if the President is going to look at a resolution from a municipality and restrict those. And also asked if this was being presented to immigration agencies also. Ms. Hill stated these proposed changes will not affect who is eligible or not, and should not affect agencies that distribute benefits. The basic level of this is, she continued, is that they are considering the Rule, and asking for public comment on the impact the public thinks will have. She noted that is why it is important comments include reference to what they are hearing from hospitals, schools and other organizations.

Council Member Spitzley asked for Point Of Order stated that Sanctuary City's and this request are separate. During the Sanctuary discussion there were concerns there was an option the City would lose funds. She then asked if the City would lose funding. Ms. Hill stated that agencies could lose funding. Council Member Spitzley specifically asked if there are any comments from the Federal government if a City designate, supports or decides they will be penalized.

Council Member Jackson stepped away from the meeting at 6:08 p.m.

Council Member Spitzley continued, questioning if writing a resolution will mean the City will lose Federal funds. Council Member Dunbar stated there are issues with the Courts on the definition and it was broad.

Council Member Jackson returned to the meeting at 6:10 p.m.

Ms. Hill stated that the rule is based on future benefits. These proposed changes would change what factors are taken into account and expand those factors in making the prediction of benefits.

Council Member Washington also stated this topic had nothing to do with earlier action the City took on Sanctuary City's. In her opinion the City could choose to do a resolution as a body and it does not cause them to lose funding.

Council Member Spitzley referred to the template resolutions Ms. Hill provided, and asked if they had approached the Mayor or if there had been other City Councils outside of or apart from a Mayors' office since the samples represented Mayor's offices. Ms. Hill stated there was a list available of the City's that have adopted a resolution or made commitments to comment. She then confirmed they have not approached the Mayor. Council President Wood asked if the National League of Mayor's had made comments, and Ms. Hill confirmed there was copy of that letter in their information.

Council Member Jackson stated he would support and suggested that if Council did a resolution they include Lansing statistics. He then stated to the Committee that his opinion would be if they did the resolution they should commit to doing the comments as well.

Council President Wood asked Ms. Harkins to have a discussion with the Mayor and at the meeting on November 26, 2018 both groups can look at moving forward with something that meets the goals. She suggested that if individual Council Members wanted to comment they could submit individual comments as well, and if they pledge in the resolution to make comments, they have to do comments. Council Member Spitzley stated that if Council does one resolution, then the comments should also come from the whole body, not individuals. Ms. Hill stated comments from the City as a whole is meaningful along with individual comments.

Council Member Wood stated she would work with the Mayor's office and law on a resolution.

DISCUSSION/ACTION

RESOLUTION- Appointment of David Lenz; LBWL Board of Commissioners; Term to Expire June 30, 2021

Mr. Lenz provided a history of his work, education and personal experiences and his interest in having a role on the BWL Commission.

Council Member Washington acknowledged Mr. Lenz on his approach to participate and encouraged him to attend her monthly Ward 1 meetings. Mr. Lenz acknowledge participating.

Council Member Jackson asked for his opinion on fossil fuels. Mr. Lenz stated the average income balanced with the needs of paying for power is important, and he is open to clean renewable energy but in an efficient and financial manner to serve citizens in a right way.

Council President Wood asked Mr. Lenz his opinion on selling BWL or privatizing it. Mr. Lenz noted in his opinion, BWL is a \$20 million asset to the City and at this time would not sell or privatize, but there are larger issues and they should hold onto for now. Council President Wood then asked his plans to communicate and get feedback from constituents. Mr. Lenz assured them that as a liaison he has his public email to his First Ward and he is committed to being out in the community.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WASHINGTON TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF DAVID LENZ, LBWL BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS; TERM TO EXPIRE JUNE 30, 2021. MOTION CARRIED 8-0.

RESOLUTION – Reappointments:

- Joseph Ruth – Michigan Avenue Corridor Improvement Authority
- Jonathan Lum – Michigan Avenue Corridor Improvement Authority
- Julie Rowe – Human Relations & Community Services Advisory Board

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WASHINGTON TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR THE REAPPOINTMENTS OF JOSEPH RUTH, JONATHAN LUM AND JULIE ROWE. MOTION CARRIED 8-0.

RESOLUTION – 2019 City Council Meeting Calendar

Council Member Spitzley proposed a change for the 1st meeting from January 2, 2019 to January 7, 2019. Council Member Wood proposed changes to the November dates since only one meeting was proposed, proposing new dates of November 4, 2019 and November 25, 2019. After discussion the Committee agreed to November 18, 2019 and November 25, 2019. Any reference to January 2, 2019 in the document was agreed to be changed to January 7, 2019. The discussion on the 3rd Committee of the Whole meeting was discussed and it was agreed the second paragraph in the resolution speaks to that.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WASHINGTON TO APPROVE THE AMENDED RESOLUTION FOR THE 2019 CITY COUNCIL MEETING CALENDAR WITH THE CHANGE FROM JANUARY 2, 2019 TO JANUARY 7, 2019 THROUGHOUT THE DOCUMENT; AND MEETINGS IN NOVEMBER TO BE NOVEMBER 18, 2019 AND NOVEMBER 25, 2019. MOTION CARRIED 8-0.

Other:

Communication from CATA on Proposed Amendments to their Articles of Incorporation

Council staff was asked to Invite CATA to the 11/26/2018 Committee meeting for a presentation on the topic.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 6:39 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Sherrie Boak, Recording Secretary

Lansing City Council

Approved by the Committee on November 26, 2018