



MINUTES
Committee of the Whole
Monday, June 10, 2019 @ 5:30 p.m.
Tony Benavides Lansing City Council Chambers

CALL TO ORDER

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

PRESENT

Councilmember Kathie Dunbar- excused
Councilmember Jeremy A. Garza
Councilmember Adam Hussain
Council Member Brian T. Jackson
Councilmember Peter Spadafore
Councilmember Patricia Spitzley- excused
Councilmember Jody Washington
Councilmember Carol Wood

OTHERS PRESENT

Sherrie Boak, Council Staff
Jim Smiertka, City Attorney
Samantha Harkins, Executive Staff, Mayor's Office
Lisa Hagen, Assistant City Attorney
Mary Reynolds
Nancy Mahlow
Loretta Stanaway
Terry Link
Elaine Fishchoff
Mary Reynolds

Minutes

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER SPADAFORE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM JUNE 3, 2019 AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

Public Comment on Agenda Items

Ms. Stanaway spoke on an item on the Council agenda for community funding for her organization, Friends of Lansing Historic Cemeteries.

Ms. Mahlow spoke on a Council agenda item for a community funding support for the Friends of Lansing Historic Cemeteries.

PRESENTATION

Sustainability Practices: Urgency and Possibilities – Terry Link

Mr. Link addressed the Committee and began with his background information. He then moved into his presentation and “If Lansing is Sustainable”. The presentation was included in the Committee packet.

Council Member Hussain stepped away from the meeting at 5:48 p.m. and returned at 5:50 p.m.

At the end of the presentation it was opened up for questions from the Committee. Council Member Jackson, asked what the City of Lansing can do, and how does the City promote this moving forward to impact Lansing citizens. Mr. Link stated they can start by coordinating inventory, looking at opportunities, and where there is savings. The City can look into neighboring partnerships and look into linking jobs and housing stock. Council Member Jackson then spoke about the job statement, and the groups in the City, and what would the outlook be for jobs. Mr. Link stated there is an opportunity for growth. Council Member Jackson asked about an option for a sustainability manager, could they be qualified by passion alone, or how can they help the City. Mr. Link state they should know the networks of groups to speak to, work with and partner with. Council Member Garza asked about the LED lights used for the marihuana growing industry and asked what that impact is on the carbon footprint. Mr. Link was not able to provide information on that impact, but stated in his opinion that would be a life cycle analysis

Council Member Hussain and Washington stepped away from the meeting at 6:18 p.m.

Council Member Garza continued, noting that with the new facility in Windsor Township, they are estimated to be using more energy than a General Motors plant. Mr. Link was not able to speak to the process or impact. Council Member Wood spoke about work on the Tri County Planning Commission dealing with waste and selling that waste as a by-product to another company for manufacturing and in the end recycling from one product to build another, so asked if there is a study into those items.

Council Member Washington returned to the meeting at 6:21 p.m.

Mr. Link stated that in his opinion the problem in the industry market is that it is driven by the quality of stuff, and they need to think reduce, reuse, recycle. He noted the process Council President Wood was speaking to had to do with “waste exchange agencies”.

Council Member Hussain returned to the meeting at 6:22 p.m.

Council President Wood asked if he had any information on how much of that process has occurred. Mr. Link did not have details. Council Member Jackson asked how the City can implement the ideas mentioned tonight and what is the biggest savings. Mr. Link stated that energy conservation is taking the waste out of the system. The conservation efforts have more job potential. What actually works will be up for discussion with the City. Council Member Jackson then asked how climate action comes into effect and are there good and bad. Mr. Link acknowledged he was not sure of what is good or bad, but what he provided tonight could provide good examples.

DISCUSSION/ACTION

Discussion on Ordinance Amendment of the Fireworks Ordinance per PA 256

Chapter 1615 Section 1615.02 and 1615.06

Council President Wood noted that this was being addressed in General Services and on the Council agenda tonight to set a public hearing. The changes were initiated by the Office of the City Attorney to comply with the new State Law. Mr. Smiertka and Ms. Hagen first noted that the ordinance changes are necessary to comply with the new State law, and if the City does not comply the ordinance cannot be enforced. Ms. Hagen went into explaining the changes to the ordinance reflect dates that consumer fireworks can be used. Those include the following days and times:

After 11:00 a.m. on the following days:

December 31 until 1 a.m. on January 1

The Saturday and Sunday immediately preceding Memorial Day until 11:45 p.m. on each of those days

June 29 to July 4 until 11:45 p.m. on each of those days

July 5, if that date is a Friday or Saturday, until 11:45 p.m.

The Saturday and Sunday immediately preceding Labor Day until 11:45 p.m. on each of those days.

Council Member Hussain asked for the clarification on the July 4th dates, asking if it was Saturday's and Sundays only, and Ms. Hagen confirmed it was actually 6 days, potentially 7 days from June 29th through July 4th or 5th.

Council Member Washington spoke in opposition to the changes and the extreme effect it will have on people, particularly residents that already struggle with health issues. She recommended everyone contact their State Legislature to change it.

Council Member Garza stepped away from the meeting at 6:34 p.m.

Council Member Jackson also spoke in opposition to the effect it will have on the neighborhoods.

Council Member Garza returned to the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

He added that with the confusion of the dates and time, people will be confused and cause more difficulty to enforce. Council Member Hussain added as a reminder to the Committee that this year July 5th does fall on Friday, so there will be seven (7) days for the upcoming holiday. Council Member Garza asked law if there is an emergency override for drought, fire hazard, etc. Mr. Smiertka stated if there is an emergency the City can adopt an emergency ordinance to address the health and safety of the public.

Council President Wood informed the Committee that the Council will be setting the public hearing on June 24th with adoption the same night so it is in effect for the July 4th holiday and enforceable. Mr. Smiertka added for details that the new State statute allows for \$1,000 fine per infraction. Council Member Hussain asked for confirmation that the Fire Marshall can prohibit fireworks if there are adverse conditions, and Mr. Smiertka confirmed if there is an emergency. Council President Wood then asked how it will be enforceable. Mr. Smiertka provided details that since it is a civil infraction, the burden of proof is circumstantial, so no need for eye witness but circumstantial evidence.

Other

Council President Wood informed the Committee she had asked the Public Service Director to attend this meeting to update the public and Committee on the flooding from today's storms. Ms. Harkins acknowledged Mr. Kilpatrick was not able to attend and therefore she provided an update. She first stated that if anyone knew of basement flooding and not sure if it is a sewer back, to contact the City at 517-483-4161 so the City can investigate and determine if it is private or public. She added, the City does not address back yard flooding or water in basements, and residents see catch basins in the streets plugged they are encouraged in helping to clear them if possible. Earlier today Pennsylvania was closed due to flooding at Sycamore Park, and they will continue to monitor that, and again if anyone see flooding, she encourage them to call the City Public Service Department. Council President Wood provided locations she asked the Administration/Public Service to check on; Burchfield area, Downing Street near Westwood, Groesbeck, and colonial village. Council President Wood then asked for an update on the street sweeping and if that could have impacted the flooding on the streets due to debris in the gutters. Ms. Harkins made note of all the locations mentioned and she also confirmed she would follow up with Public Service on the street sweeping. Council Member Garza asked Ms. Harkins to add 5809 Schafer to the list of locations to check on. Council Member Spadafore informed the Committee that the Committee on Public Service has been speaking on street sweeping as well and were informed by Mr. Kilpatrick at their meetings that the City is looking at purchasing sweepers for the front of current City trucks, allowing them to have more and do more often with vehicle they already have. He also noted, that with the scooters companies pulling licenses for the season, that ordinance addressed their fees offsetting the costs of street sweeping in bike lanes as well.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

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

Approved by the Committee on June 24, 2019