



MINUTES
Committee of the Whole
Monday, July 8, 2019, 2019 @ 5:30 p.m.
Tony Benavides Lansing City Council Chambers

CALL TO ORDER

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

PRESENT

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

OTHERS PRESENT

Sherrie Boak, Council Staff
Joseph Abood, Chief Deputy City Attorney
Samantha Harkins, Executive Staff, Mayor's Office
Lisa Hagen, Assistant City Attorney & Council Legal Analyst
Eric Brewer, Council Internal Auditor
Marian Owen, Executive Director Tri County Office on Aging
Andy Kilpatrick, Public Service Director
Calvin Jones, BWL
Breina Pugh, BWL
Michael Morofsky, Colonial Village Organization
Anne Wilson, Colonial Village Organization

Minutes

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HUSSAIN TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM JUNE 24, 2019 AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

Public Comment on Agenda Items

Mr. Morofsky spoke on the BWL stump removal and asked that BWL communicate with the organization on the trees, and the removal, along with asking for replacement of the trees.

Ms. Wilson asked for replacement trees and stump removal.

Council President Wood assured the public that Council was aware of the concerns. Council Member Washington asked the City wide addressed for tree replacement.

PRESENTATION

Tri County Office on Aging FY2020-22 Multi Year Plan Summary

Ms. Owen provided a history on the agency that provide services to Lansing, East Lansing, Ingham and Eaton Counties, and earlier in the formation of the agencies, the City of Lansing was the sponsor. The agency offers programs for 60 and over and the last 25 years have served the younger generation with disabilities. The presentation for the multi-year plan, which is required for the State Office on Aging, and they are then responsible for with the Federal Government. During the process of creating this plan there have been 16 forums, had 3 public hearings, and conducted a needs survey. Ms. Owen concluded the presentation by stating the plan will continue core services, information programs and benefits, advocacy, and they are in the process of a statewide formatting and managing a State services for health services and they will be seeking additional funding to prepare larger meal menu's for Meals on Wheels. Council Member Jackson asked if they offered any programs or volunteer groups for those that need help with yard work. Ms. Owen confirmed that home repair and maintenance is still an area they need assistance with, however they do have a partnership from the Disability Network. They used to have a program with the Ingham County Prosecutors Office that would utilize those that needed community service and they would like to see that happen again.

DISCUSSION/ACTION

RESOLUTION – Tri County Office on Aging FY2020-22 Multi Year Plan Summary

Council President Wood recused herself from action on the resolution due to a work conflict with the funding that is provided from Tri County Office on Aging to her place of employment.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WASHINGTON TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR THE TRI COUNTY OFFICE ON AGING FY2020-22 MULTI YEAR PLAN SUMMARY. MOTION CARRIED 5-0 1 recusal.

RESOLUTION – Reappointments:

Karl Dorshimer, City Representative, Downtown Lansing, Term to Expire June 30, 2023

James Stajos, At Large Member, LEPFA; Term to Expire June 30, 2022

Joan M. Nelson, Member; Michigan Ave. Corridor Improvement Authority;
Term to Expire June 30, 2022

Johnathan Lukco, Member; Saginaw Corridor Improvement Authority;
Term to Expire June 30, 2023

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WASHINGTON TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR THE REAPPOINTMENTS OF KARL DORSHIMER, JAMES STAJOS, JOAN M NELSON AND JOHNATHAN LUKCO. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

Other

DISCUSSION UPDATE– Tree/Stump Removal Project in Colonial Village Neighborhood

Council President Wood pointed out that due to budget constraints the City stopped grinding stumps when trees were cut, and it is now an understanding that there are multiple locations in the City, but they would consider Colonial Village as a starting point on beginning the project of stump grinding again. Mr. Kilpatrick acknowledged that it has been about 10 years since they have done stump removal, and so there could be up to 5,300 stumps, at an average of \$400 for removal and restoration, so the department would have to reprioritize. The BWL during their tree trimming and removal they followed the same City process so they do not have any policy on stump removal. Council President Wood asked if there was City equipment that BWL could utilize for the trees they took down, and it was confirmed by Mr.

Kilpatrick the City does have one with 600 hours on it, but it is not just the grinder they would need front end loaders to remove material, and equipment to dig out the roots and then material and equipment for reseeded. Ms. Pugh confirmed that the BWL had not had any official plans from the City Administration but will still research the process. BWL does not have statistics on the cost for removal, but stated they would be also be concerned with man power. Council President Wood asked when the Administration would have an answer for the public on the option, and Mr. Kilpatrick admitted they would need the costs and time frame it would take, and require a full time crew in forestry. Also he added that other neighborhoods took care of it themselves, so if the City did Colonial Village this would be a policy shift. Council President Wood acknowledged some neighborhoods did in the past, however some are not financially capable. She then noted that since BWL has stated they are in their last year of the first phase and will be trimming in the next phase, it appears there is more time, man power and funds to dedicate to remove stumps. Council Member Dunbar stated she would not support spending City funds to remove stumps, that there are more concerns with streets and sidewalks. She did ask Mr. Kilpatrick if there was a way to focus on the sidewalks that are heaving due to tree roots and address those stumps. Council Member Jackson pointed out that if they are expecting it could cost \$2 million to take of removal and restoration they are assuming every parcel in the City has a stump, and in his opinion 50% might not want the stump removed. He was looking for an answer on if it was even feasible so that can be relayed to the resident. Council President Wood asked if BWL does any tree replacement and was told they do on a case by case basis, based on the tree and if it is in the easement work with the City. The trees in a right of way only permit certain species to be planted. Council Member Washington agreed with Council Member Dunbar that she too hears the number one complaints being the streets and sidewalks and with Council Member Jackson that something can be done that is not so cost prohibitive. In her discussions with residents, she stated she is hearing more on the replacement of the trees not the stump removal itself. Council Member Hussain asked if there was a specification on where the replacement trees can go and if leaving the stump impacts that, and Mr. Kilpatrick stated that if they were going to put in the same location they would remove the stump and roots, but that is not always the case for location. Council Member Hussain then asked how many staff they have in tree trimming, and were told two crews at time, but the City does not have a stump removal crew. They are responsible for roughly 20,000-30,000 trees. BWL has the concerns with the crown of tree for encroachment into the wires and the City is concerned with ground height. Council Member Garza asked if Mr. Kilpatrick could narrow the numbers down if they focused on the trees that are heaving the sidewalks and effecting utilities. It was stated the City could look at the database, when the tree was cut and what the species was, but it would help if there are sidewalk issues because of trees residents should file that complaint. Council Member Washington asked if there were any vacancies in forestry and Mr. Kilpatrick confirmed one seasonal and 2-4 in forestry itself. He was then asked if those positions were filled, if they can be trained to do the job as people retire or do they have to be hired with that skill set. Andy-right now hiring licensed arborist. The seasonal positions do not require the same skills. Council President Wood asked Ms. Pugh if BWL intends to be in an area, can they contact the neighborhood community to speak to residents and also make Council Members aware so they can be there as well. She then asked if BWL get work with residents that have wood left over from the tree removal on assistance with the wood removal because the list they have provided, sometimes those people no longer are taking the wood. Council President Wood concluded that the Committee of the Whole meeting on August 5th will have an update on the project. Ms. Pugh informed the Committee that at this time BWL is finishing the first phase of trimming and are not in a specific neighborhood but finishing up random areas. Once they star phase 2 and are more specific neighborhoods they will notify Council of the schedule. Regarding the salvage wood left on property, the residents can call BWL to make arrangements.

Council President Wood asked Mr. Kilpatrick for an update on the street project currently going on MLK and pointed out the issues in the area of Pattengill/MLK with vehicular traffic. Mr. Kilpatrick acknowledged it is a challenging project because of the traffic shifted of north bound to a south bound lane. He noted the residents can use the local streets to move around and Holmes and Mt. Hope are open again. Mr. Kilpatrick concluded by stating the project should be done in eighty (80) days and the majority of the work is in this first phase.

Council Member Jackson stepped away from the meeting at 6:28 a.m.

Council President Wood spoke about concerns with traffic back up and was told by Mr. Kilpatrick that their policy is to not adjust any signals until 2-3 days into the project allowing people to acclimate to the project. Council Member Dunbar asked for an interactive map, and Council asked for additional education material for residents that do not use computers or emails. This material can be distributed at the senior housing projects.

Council Member Jackson returned to the meeting at 6:34 p.m.

Council President Wood then asked about the plans for and current status of the blue bags, and Mr. Kilpatrick confirmed that as of July 12th the retailers can no longer order bags, but can continue to sell until they are out. The bags will be picked up until the end of December. Mr. Kilpatrick also confirmed they have not done any formal press release at this time and are also working on another alternate for those that do not accumulate a significant amount of trash. Regarding someone who purchased a large amount of bags, there is no plan at this time but they hope the residents will use them up by the end of December. The City will buy back from retailer any that are left in December. Council Member Washington asked why the Administration chose to do this program, and Mr. Kilpatrick stated they determined it was not efficient routing wise, they are not sure when people will put out a blue bag so every street is driven daily. With a cart the City can track and know where they are and when to pick up, also the carts get lifted by the trucks making it more efficient as well. He reiterated they are trying to have options for those that are not putting out a significant amount. Council Member Garza asked if they would reconsider the discontinuation of blue bags, and Mr. Kilpatrick confirmed that Granger has a tag program they may or may not continue and if the City went to tags they would have to create another process. Council Member President Wood stated she would not support any program that would take work away from City employees, and was assured by Mr. Kilpatrick that if there is a change no jobs would be eliminated.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Sherrie Boak, Recording Secretary

Lansing City Council

Approved by the Committee on July 22, 2019