



MINUTES
Committee of the Whole
Monday, September 30, 2019
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- arrived at 5:40 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, Council Internal Auditor
Jim Smiertka, City Attorney
Nick Tate, Chief Labor Negotiator
Lisa Hagen, Assistant City Attorney/Council Research Assistant
Heather Sumner, Deputy City Attorney
Amanda O'Boyle, Assistant City Attorney
Mary Mullins

MINUTES

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER SPADAFORE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 23, 2019 AS PRESENTED.

Council Member Spadafore stepped away from the meeting at 5:31 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

DISCUSSION/ACTION:

RESOLUTION– FY2020/2021 Budget Priorities

The Committee reviewed Draft 5 beginning on page 1 with no comments from the Committee. Page 2 and Page 3- no comments from the Committee.

Page 4 – New to draft 5 were additions from the Committee on Ways and Means. Council Member Spitzley informed the Committee that these were additions based on communications from the LPD and OCA on the labor intensive task of FOIA's and video redactions. Council Member Jackson stated it was also a discussion at Intergovernmental Relations.

Council Member Spadafore returned to the meeting at 5:36 p.m.

Council Member Spadafore added that during that Committee the County representatives and Chief Green were interested because of court cases and the joint interest, even in 50% funding, in the service for the County Prosecutors office. Mr. Smiertka acknowledged that the OCA recently purchased new software to assist with the process.

Council President Wood recommended adding "in working cooperation with Ingham County over the funding". to the item 10) on page 4 of the document.

Council Member Washington asked the OCA who was currently doing all the redactions; LPD or the City Attorneys. Mr. Smiertka stated it was LPD staff however OCA also redacts on the documents. Council Member Dunbar spoke in support of a FT employee by the City, but confirmed that at IGR the County was also interested in a person and would contribute to the funding. The suggestion could be a City FT and a person to split with the County for Circuit Court cases. The Committee agreed to change 10) to "Hire a full time or part time individual housed in the LPD or OCA who focuses on FOIA redactions in working cooperation with Ingham County over funding."

Council Member Spitzley clarified that item 11) were suggestions from the Internal Auditor, geared towards making sure all departments and programs worked together and worked efficiently to make it easier for the staff and citizens. Mr. Brewer added these would improve efficiencies, within three core functions, and keep costs go down. Council Member Jackson noted that what was described to him sounded like the new Chief Strategy Officer, and questioned if it was a good idea or would be better to have the CSO work in that area. Council Member Dunbar explained it is a software upgrade that is needed because currently the systems do not "talk to each other". Council Member Jackson accepted the explanation but noted technology would be expensive and the CSO would like everything together. Council Member Spitzley concluded the discussion by noting in the long term it will benefit and result in savings.

Page 5 and page 6 – no comments from the Committee.

Page 7 (12) Council Member Hussain voiced a concern that "increase street sweeping" was not enough because there is a concern that it need to be more often, but Council is being told the equipment is not dependable. Mr. Tate was asked if the current equipment was non-operational or had failed the quality test, and if the City is now leasing equipment. Mr. Tate acknowledged he did not have the information at this time but attempted to get it before the discussion ended. The Committee discussed changing (12) to state "The need to provide adequate equipment; leasing or purchase; to increase street sweeping and making sure the employees are using safe equipment." Mr. Tate provided an update that the current leases

end this week, but he was not able to verify if they were going to extend the lease. The Committee agreed to change (12) to "Ensure adequate safe equipment to increase street sweeping, especially areas heavily traversed by bikes." Council Member Spadafore reminded the Committee that during the budget hearings Mr. Kilpatrick mentioned they were researching different options such as new trucks and front mounted devices for current vehicles.

Page 8 IV e) Council Member Jackson confirmed this was from the Committee on Intergovernmental Relations and he wanted to amend the language to include "and/or general sustainability efforts including but not limited to reducing Lansing's carbon footprint and align with the Paris-Accord.

Page 8 (14) was agreed to at the last meeting and this document not had the Attachment A which was the report on the parks.

Page 8 IV d) was proposed by Council Member Spadafore and agreed to at the last meeting.

Page 9 included the annual recommendations from the Board of Public Service.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER SPADAFORE TO APPROVE THE 2020/2021 BUDGET PRIORITIES. MOTION CARRIED 8-0.

DISCUSSION – Comments to DeWitt Township on Farmland & Open Space Preservation Program Application from Lonier Family Properties LLC

Council President Wood explained to the Committee that a resolution is not needed to respond, but if there are comments they can be sent. Since the City of Lansing is within the proximity as the next municipality it is assumed that is why the Township reached out at this time. She added that the City is not purchasing or part of the change, but if the City has any objections this is where the City can put those in writing. Council Member Jackson voiced his concern that the area does not offer any wind or solar energy, and asked if the City can express a concern that if they go forward with the application, that they consider the options. Council Member Spadafore pointed out that in June Governor Whitmer changed the interpretation of the law, and under "open space" it now allows for solar energy on these parcels, so there would not be a need for the City to specifically speak to it. Council Member Jackson asked for something in writing to encourage the Township to consider wind energy on the parcel. Council President Wood asked the Committee members that also sit on the Tri County Planning Board what their discussion was. Council Members Spitzley and Spadafore noted they did not recall the Board even having the discussion. Council Member Jackson stated he spoke to a member from Clinton who stated to him that the area was "off limits" for this type of energy, and therefore Council Member Jackson stated he wanted something written to state they do not want "limits". He encouraged the Committee to write a letter stating they do not want limits on allowing wind or solar energy on the property. Council Members suggested that Council Member Jackson draft a letter to the Township for a future Committee of the Whole meeting, and it was noted that the letter from the Township provided 30 days to respond from September 13, 2019. Any Council Member with suggestions or ideas were encouraged to forward those to Council Staff to incorporate into a document for Council Member Jackson to include in a letter.

Other

{Closed Session}

Motion by Council Member Spadafore at 6:18 p.m. to go into closed session to consult with the City Attorney to consider material exempt from discussion or disclosure by state statute. Specifically, to discuss a written legal opinion from the City Attorney provided under attorney-

client privilege, and which is also exempt from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act.

Roll call vote carried 8-0.

{Reconvene}

Council President Wood reconvened the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

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

Approved by the Committee on October 14, 2019