



MINUTES
Committee of the Whole
Monday, October 28, 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
Councilmember Jeremy A. Garza-excused
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
Jim Smiertka, City Attorney
Samantha Harkins, Deputy Mayor
Lisa Hagen, Assistant City Attorney/Council Research Assistant
Loretta Stanaway
Jeff Davis, Greater Lansing Monument
Lindsey McKeever, Ingham County Fair Director
Todd Heywood
Annie Urasky
Sharon Frischman, City of Lansing Assessor

Presentations

Ingham County Fair Director

Ms. McKeever outlined her plans to make the Ingham County Fair inclusive and a family fun experience, and all ideas are on the table. Council Member Washington asked how she plans to market to the urban core areas so they are aware of what the fair has to offer. Ms. McKeever stated she has already taken steps on community outreach, and plans to bring events that will be attractive to everyone including the “open class” competitive exhibit, separate from 4-H. Council Member Jackson made note of his concerns on air quality during the annual tractor pulls. Council President Wood encouraged Ms. McKeever to work with the Visitors and Convention Bureau and neighborhood groups on her marketing, along with an informational show on City TV for public service announcements.

Friends of Lansing Cemetery

Council President Wood clarified to the public that Council is aware that the determination of the facilities and how they are utilized throughout the City is the role of the Mayor, but recently Council has been asked by a number of people to speak about their concerns on the cemetery office location. She reiterated that Council does not have a decision in this matter.

Ms. Stanaway briefly outlined the history of Friends of Lansing Historic Cemeteries and their role. She spoke in opposition to the move and provided a handout (in the packet) noting the personal connection, the limited disability access at Foster, minimal notification, and was opposed to the proposed staffing issues.

Mr. Davis outlined his business process with the cemeteries and spoke in opposition to the move to Foster for the offices based on convenience.

Council Member Spitzley stepped away from the meeting at 5:48 p.m. and returned at 5:49 p.m.

Ms. Stanaway acknowledged that she was aware that Council cannot act, but asked the Mayor and Administration to reconsider the cemetery office move and encouraged Council to consider a Resolution in support of her statements. Council Member Jackson asked Ms. Harkins why the Mayor was choosing to move it. Council President Wood first referenced an earlier email from the Mayor to Council on his plan, and Ms. Harkins added that they believe the move would be more efficient with staffing and operational use.

Council Member Spitzley asked Ms. Harkins what would happen with the current office, and Ms. Harkins admitted they do not have plans at this time. Ms. Stanaway made a comment that she was told by the Mayor and the Parks Director that the move was not money saving.

Council Member Spitzley stepped away from the meeting at 5:58 p.m.

Mr. Davis stated his understanding was that currently when the person is not in the office it appears closed.

Council Member Spitzley returned to the meeting at 5:59 p.m.

He noted that there are two people who rotate, and he has never had an issue finding someone in the current office.

Council Member Spadafore stated to the public that there are three (3) Parks and Recreation staff members that are trained for cemetery operations, so with the move to the Foster Building/Parks and Recreation, there will be more people trained to deliver services to the public, and making this decision is what the Mayor is charged to do. He added that it is not uncommon to have these types of offices located in a central location. It is an administrative position, and the facts point turn toward an efficient service at the Foster Center.

Not Without Us Findings

Ms. Urasky presented to the Committee on the update of findings from their research. The Committee received a copy of the power point presentation (in the packet). It highlighted the needs assessment and their goal on education. They have also worked on how to dispense the results and address the issues they found out from the survey.

Council Member Hussain stepped away from the meeting at 6:09 p.m.

The presentation focused on the forms of the census, the demographics and findings of barriers and access.

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

Council Member Jackson asked what Ms. Urasky would consider the “appropriate amount of time to provide access”. Ms. Urasky noted it is important that there is reasonable notice and the City of Lansing can determine that, but the best decision is to post a notification and include in that flyer there is reasonable accommodations provided and make those reasonable accommodations. Council President Wood asked if they looked at the City website and if she had any recommendations. Ms. Urasky confirmed she had met with the Mayor’s office and Administration and there was a focus on captioning, but she would be willing to reach out again to review the website, forms and easy access to those. Council Member Dunbar asked the Administration also look in the employment applications.

Discussions

Communications form Michigan Department of Treasury

Ms. Frischman confirmed that with assistance from Mr. Tate on the recent communication, a response was received from the State notifying the City that they have complied. Ms. Frischman read the email, which stated that after discussing the 5076 forms with her, the State was satisfied that the statute and State Tax Commission guidance would be followed. The email also noted that all other issues in the original letter and the October letter needed no further follow up review. The procedures in the office have changed so that when documents arrive the day before the deadline, the day of the deadline or any day after, the envelopes will be saved and attached to the document.

CLOSED SESSION-

COUNCIL MEMBER SPADAFORE MOTIONED TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION TO ADDRESS THE RATIFICATION OF THE UNION CONTRACTS FOR CCLP NON-SUPERVISORY AND CCLP SUPERVISORY. ROLL CALL VOTE CARRIED 7-0.

RECONVENED-

Ratification of Union Contract- Capital City Labor Program (CCLP) Non-Supervisory

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER SPADAFORE TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR THE RATIFICATION OF THE UNION CONTRACT FOR CAPITAL CITY LABOR PROGRAM NON-SUPERVISORY. MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

Ratification of Union Contract – Capital City Labor Program (CCLP) Supervisory

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER SPADAFORE TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR THE RATIFICATION OF THE UNION CONTRACT FOR CAPITAL CITY LABOR PROGRAM SUPERVISORY. MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Sherrie Boak, Recording Secretary

Lansing City Council

Approved by the Committee on November 4, 2019