



MINUTES
Committee of the Whole
Monday, September 14, 2020 @ 5:00 p.m.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81041850502>; ID: 810 4185 0502; Dial In: (646) 876 9923

CALL TO ORDER

Council President Spadafore called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

PRESENT- via audio/video

Councilmember Peter Spadafore
Councilmember Adam Hussain
Councilmember Carol Wood
Councilmember Patricia Spitzley – arrive at 5:05 p.m.
Councilmember Kathie Dunbar
Councilmember Brandon Betz
Councilmember Jeremy Garza
Councilmember Brian T. Jackson

MEMBERS PRESENT- via audio/video

Sherrie Boak, Council Staff – arrived at 5:05
Jim Smiertka, City Attorney
Lisa Hagen, Assistant City Attorney
Samantha Harkins, Deputy Mayor
Greg Venker, Assistant City Attorney
Chris Swope, City Clerk
Brian Jackson, Deputy City Clerk
Don Kulhanek, EDP
Doris Witherspoon, EDP
Kim Coleman, HRCS Director
David Fisher
Dan Dekker
Dayna Reynolds
Doug Fleming, LHC
Robert Widigan
Brian Lefler
Jake Brower
Andy Kilpatrick, Public Service
Jim Kiefer
Katrina Urista, HRCS

Minutes

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HUSSAIN TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM AUGUST 31, 2020 AS PRESENTED. ROLL CALL VOTE, MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

Public Comment

Mr. Fisher, spoke in opposition to the Red Cedar assessment.

Mr. Dekker, spoke in opposition to the Red Cedar assessment and asked for a new assessment.

Ms. Reynolds, asked for further discussions with the residents on the Montgomery Drain Special Assessment.

Discussion/Action

RESOLUTION – Disposition of City Property; Transfer of Properties Administered by the Lansing Housing Commission to the Lansing Housing Commission

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HUSSAIN TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR THE TRANSFER OF PROPERTIES TO THE LANSING HOUSING COMMISSION.

Council Member Wood explained to the Committee members that the property is in the City name only because LHC was not able to own them solely in their name. The funds to purchase these were HUD dollars applied for by the LHC and they can only obtain them by removing the City name. Council Member Jackson asked why if the only thing the City has is name only, why there is even action required if it is not official City property, and also asked if there are any plans for those parcels and other action required besides removing the name only. Mr. Fleming confirmed they are not official City properties and HUD will not allow the City to hang onto properties they do not own. As relates to the sale, the process they have to go through to dispose of the house; the deeds need to be in the Lansing Housing Commission name. Once they own them they can transfer. With the pre-approval with HUD, they can make a bid available, work with outside groups and organizations on obtaining the homes from them, but he clarified none of that can be done until they own them. Council Member Jackson appealed that in his opinion he believed that can be done without ownership, making arrangements as a pending purchase.

ROLL CALL VOTE, MOTION CARRIED 7-1.

RESOLUTION – Set Public Hearing; Montgomery Drain District Public Improvement III; Assessment Roll

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HUSSAIN TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION TO SET THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR OCTOBER 12, 2020 FOR THE MONTGOMERY DRAIN DISTRICT PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT.

Council Member Spitzley noted that there appears to still be a lack of information to the public and would like to impress upon the Ingham County Drain Commissioner he needs to be better at communication to the residents. Council President Spadafore offered to hold a neighborhood meeting(s) with the 1st Ward Council Member and Director of Public Service on the topic. Council Member Wood supported that meeting, and asked Mr. Kilpatrick to speak to the Committee on how they came up with the figures. She also inquired into if there would be details on the City website. Lastly, she asked the OCA to make sure Council was not making potential decisions on this action that were similar to a fee and potential litigation. Mr. Smiertka stated this was not similar to a fee, and the procedure is in the Charter and ordinances. He also assured the Committee that the public, after the assessment would have 60 days to write an appeal. Mr. Kilpatrick confirmed that the City used the same method that

the Drain Commissioner used; acreage in the district and using that factor for the drainage. Council President Spadafore asked what the average would be and Mr. Kilpatrick speculated \$6,000-\$7,000 for residential and \$50,000 to \$2.7 million commercial. He did note that one unusual parcel is owned by BWL which is vacant and it was calculated as "meadow" on 2-6% slope and not included in the spreadsheet. Council Member Wood asked if they measured property line to property or included the right of way. Mr. Kilpatrick confirmed they only used the acreage of the parcel. Council Member Wood noted for the record and the public present, that since the City is performing and collecting the assessment it is important the City provide the public with details on the assessment, even though it is a Drain Commission construction project. Mr. Kilpatrick acknowledged his department will be establishing a separate City webpage specific to the project, and referring any questions on the project itself to the Ingham County Drain office. Council President Spadafore asked if Mr. Kilpatrick could provide the exact numbers to his earlier question before Council and Mr. Kilpatrick confirmed.

COUNCIL MEMBER HUSSAIN WITHDREW HIS MOTION AT THIS TIME, PENDING FURTHER INFORMATION FROM MR. KILPATRICK IN THE MEETING,

RESOLUTION – Annual Action Plan; Substantial Amendment; Second Allocation of CARES Act Funds for Emergency Solutions Grant-CV2

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HUSSAIN TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR THE ANNUAL ACTION PLAN, AMENDMENT SECOND ALLOCATION CARES ACT FUNDS FOR EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT –CV2.

Mr. Kulhanek confirmed this is the 2nd round of CARES Act funds, just focused on ESG. This request is for approval to provide those funds, and they have followed all the same processes they have done in the past. Ms. Coleman and Ms. Urista were available for questions at this time. Council Member Wood asked if the City will be reimbursed on what they have already spent or were these new dollars. Also a question on a timeline for the funding was asked by Council Member Wood. Ms. Urista confirmed they are new dollars and the time they can spend is from March 1, 2020 to September, 2022. Some of the funds have been spent by agencies but the City has not been reimbursed yet. Council Member Wood asked if those will be able to be reimbursed and Ms. Urista confirmed those agencies could be as long as they are eligible. Council Member Spitzley asked what entities work with the homeless and what the plan is for funds to those. She also asked if entities have already spent can they re-apply, and if so is there a limit. Ms. Urista confirmed that Continuum of Care is a group of human service agencies and they had an open application process for those agencies to apply. There were four (4) agencies that did the application process and as part of that there is a strategic plan to set guidelines and help mitigate and address homelessness. The next thing they are working on will be helping citizens from getting evicted.

ROLL CALL VOTE, MOTION CARRIED 8-0.

RESOLUTION – Set Public Hearing; Montgomery Drain District Public Improvement III; Assessment Roll- CONTINUED

To the earlier question from Council President Spadafore on the average cost per residence and commercial, Mr. Kilpatrick was able to provide the following at this time:

SFR Residential - \$6,681.00 Commercial - \$243,445.00

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HUSSAIN TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION TO SET THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR OCTOBER 12, 2020 FOR THE MONTGOMERY DRAIN DISTRICT SPECIAL ASSESSMENT. ROLL CALL VOTE, MOTION CARRIED 8-0.

Presentation

City Clerk Overview on Absentee Ballots

Mr. Swope provided a brief presentation on voting, voter registration changes, absentee applications, and the absent process. Council President Spadafore asked if the City was paying for the returned postage on absentee ballots, at which Mr. Swope confirmed but stated the would be reimbursed. Council Member Wood asked for details to be provided on where inside Alfreda Schmidt the voting will take place. She then asked him to address the statements made in social media about voting more than once. Mr. Swope confirmed it is illegal to vote twice, and they do verify all signature. A resident can go to www.michigan.gov/vote to track their ballot and verify it is received. All collection boxes will be picked up the night of the election up until 8 pm. Council Member Garza asked what he would recommend on mailing the absentee ballots back, and Mr. Swope recommended not mailing if it is less than a week before the election, but to bring them to one of the many drop boxes they have.

RESOLUTION –Grant Acceptance; Election Equipment Grant (referred same night)

Mr. Swope noted in his presentation that funds would be used for drop boxes, long term items, expanding in person voting opportunities, and outreach for the potential 45,000 absentee voters. Council Member Hussain inquired if there would be a City match and was informed by Mr. Swope there would not be

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HUSSAIN TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR THE GRANT ACCEPTANCE FOR ELECTION EQUIPMENT. ROLL CALL VOTE, MOTION CARRIED 8-0.

DISCUSSION – Fiscal Year 2021/2022 Budget Priorities

Council President Spadafore acknowledged the Committees for their work on the priorities thus far, and confirmed final action will take place at the 9/21/2020 Committee and Council meetings.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 6:14 pm

Respectfully Submitted by,

Sherrie Boak, Recording Secretary

Lansing City Council

Approved by the Committee September 21, 2020