



MINUTES
Committee of the Whole
Monday, February 22, 2021 @ 5:00 p.m.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85940036219>; ID: 859 4003 6219; or Dial in: (646) 876 9923

Held virtually in an effort to protect the health and safety of the public & to mitigate the spread of COVID 19

CALL TO ORDER

Council President Spadafore called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

PRESENT- via audio/video

Councilmember Peter Spadafore remotely from Lansing, Michigan
Councilmember Adam Hussain remotely from Lansing, Michigan
Councilmember Carol Wood remotely from Lansing, Michigan
Councilmember Patricia Spitzley remotely from Lansing, Michigan
Councilmember Kathie Dunbar remotely from Lansing, Michigan
Councilmember Brandon Betz remotely from Lansing, Michigan- absent
Councilmember Jeremy Garza remotely from Lansing, Michigan
Councilmember Brian T. Jackson remotely from Lansing, Michigan

MEMBERS PRESENT- via audio/video

Sherrie Boak, Council Staff
Mark Lawrence, Mayors Representative
Lisa Hagen, City Attorney
Jim Smiertka, City Attorney
Eric Brewer, Council Internal Auditor
Mayor Schor
Robert Widigan, Finance Director
Jake Brower, Budget
Barb Whitney
Stephanie Vasko

Minutes

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HUSSAIN TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 8, 2021 AS PRESENTED. ROLL CALL VOTE, MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

Council President Spadafore stated that agenda item B, Discussion on Long Term Projections will not be presented tonight, but hope to plan for a future meeting.

Public Comment

No public comment at this time.

Presentations:**Mayor's Art & Cultural Commission**

Ms. Whitney provided a brief introduction. Ms. Vasko spoke about their roles on the Commission. Ms. Whitney then spoke on their sub-committees, art engagement in the community and the art and cultural communities. Ms. Whitney and Ms. Vasko both acknowledged Council for the opportunity for the art and culture in the community.

Discussion/Action:**DISCUSSION– General Fund Status Report – FY 2021 2nd Qtr. & Vacancy Report**

Mr. Brower presented the report and the actuals as of 12/31/2020. Not included is the \$2.5 million in funding, the Federal Stimulus money or the GF carry forwards. The next presentation page was the revenue details that was in the packet, outlining the State revenues, services, fines, permits, rents and those represent 10% of the budget. Council Member Wood asked about the impact of the 20% of the income taxes and if it was in this or last fiscal year, and Mr. Brower stated he would provide her details he had. Council Member Wood asked how much is the City recouping any of the revenue from the State, and Mr. Brower did not have that material either, but took notes to provide at a later date. Mr. Brower then moved onto the department summary, and all departments are under the threshold. The work share program in effect until March 14th. Council Member Spitzley asked about the difference between the \$132,000,000 in revenues and the expenditures at \$136,000,000, with the impact of \$4 million, and what those expenditures were to create that impact. Mr. Brower noted it is more from the revenue side, and in the current budget they anticipated a \$500,000 cut, and with COVID there was roughly a \$7.5million. Council Member Spitzley asked if there were any savings realized as a result of COVID. Mr. Brower confirmed here is a miscellaneous savings, and additional costs, but he did not currently have the exact numbers. The City has received grants for certain costs related to COVID, and the reimbursement has increased from 75% of cost to 100% of eligible costs, in addition to receiving \$1.4 million in COVID relief, and potentially \$5.9 million tentatively. The presentation concluded with Mr. Brower finalizing his report presentation on the General Fund, and opened it up to question on the vacancy report. Council Member Wood asked specially about the Fire Department, and when their new class of potential officers. Mayor Schor confirmed they currently have a class with 11 students. Council Member Wood inquired into the hiring process, vacancies that potential create over time, and any work with the High Schools on their explorer group. Mayor Schor noted they have a program hiring those that are untrained and working with LCC. The department currently is also working on a program to take EMT's to Paramedics. There were thirteen (13) spots that were filled three (3) months ago. Council Member Wood referenced the vacancy report noting there are revenue positions not being filled and vacant for 1-2 years.

Mr. Brower acknowledged the list and that Treasury has recently hired and plans to have all positions filled by the end of the year. The Assessor is planning on filling 2 positions in that department, but 1 might remain unfilled because it is hard filling the positions that required high level certifications. Mr. Brower concluded that all Departments were asked to account for all their vacancies in the budget, if they plan to fill, hold them vacant for a year, or remove them and never fill. Mayor Schor added that the revenue positions should be filled because they are not in the "hiring freeze". Council Member Spitzley asked positions are an exception to the "hiring freeze". Mayor Schor referenced his earlier Executive Order which had two (2) specific exceptions; revenue generating and COVID related. Any other positions that might need to be filled require the director to work with the HR Director for special granting of the posting. Council Member Spitzley asked about hiring 13 new fire fighters in the last month, and the Mayor clarified he meant last 5 months. Council Member Spitzley then asked what steps are being taken to fill the Chief and Captain vacancies, and to get diverse applicant pools in all areas of the department. Mayor Schor noted that Chief Mackey did a lot of diverse

planning when he was here and they are working with LCC, high schools and other recruitment tools. Regarding the Chief positions, Chief Martin does have a contract that will end in a few months, and the City will pursue filling that position when the time is right, but they have already began discussion on Chief Martin staying until the end of the year. Council Member Spitzley asked how many fire fighters have been hired through the academy. f Council Member Jackson complimented former Chief Talifarro on his work for the diverse applications.

DISCUSSION – Long Term Projections on Revenues/Expenditures & Financial Forecast
No discussion at this time.

DISCUSSION – FY2021/2022 Budget Policies
No discussion at this time.

{Closed Session-via ZOOM meeting}

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HUSSAIN AT 6:15 P.M. TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION Pursuant to MCL 15.268(e), I hereby move that we recess into closed session to consult with the City Attorney in connection with the following specific pending litigation. An open meeting will have a detrimental financial effect on the litigating or settlement position of the Lansing City Council concerning these cases.

Abdnour, Elizabeth v. City of Lansing and City of Lansing Treasury and Income Tax Office
Arnold, Evelyn v. LPD and Fielder, Benjamin Hyun-Ki
Atkinson, Boyce, Israel, Odom, Odom, Randle, and Talifarro v. City of Lansing, Local 421 IAFF, Schor, Weber, Harkins
Burwell v City of Lansing, Anderson, Liskiewicz, Kelley, Ouderkirk & Ridenour
Calkins-Darling, Mary Jean (formerly Thompson Smith, Avery C.) v. Amy Castillo, City of Lansing, Ingham County Board of Commissioners, Eric A. Schertzing, Caitlin Budzinski, Ingham County, Does 1 - 12
Chen, Le v. Lansing Police Dept., Garcia, and Fearnow
City of Lansing v. Angavine Holdings LLC
City of Lansing v. Colman, Michael
City of Lansing v. OCOF Nonprofit Housing Corp
City of Lansing, et al. v. Purdue Pharma, et al. - Opioid Litigation
Doe, Jane v. City of Lansing, Lansing Public Schools, Lansing Board of Education, Yvonne Canul, Mark Coscarella, Donna Pohl, Matthew Priebe, Kimberly Petroff, and other unidentified Does (1)
Doe, Jane v. City of Lansing, et al. (2)
Doe v. Howley, Lindsey
Election Integrity Fund, Linda Lee Tarver, Kirklyn Valentine, Jim Miraglia v. City of Lansing and Flint
Funches, Blakie, et al. v. City of Lansing, et al.
Funk v CITY OF LANSING
Gallegos, Jason Jesse
Gardner/Holsey/Hill
Gonzales, Shantice
Hardy, Gregory v. LPD, Sagar Kandel, Jameil Bakri, Stephanie Kennedy, Aaron Bush, and Christie Chiles
Hardy, Johnathon

Hulon, Anthony Scott v. City of Lansing, Green, Wyndom, Guerra, Allman, and Worden
Jackson & Lansing Railroad Co. v. South St LLC, SC Environmental Services, LLC, John Kendrick Sears, Norfolk Southern Railway Co., City of Lansing, Jelsema Concrete Construction, Inc., and Hamilton Mutual Insurance Co.,
Kyle Shaw Residential Properties, LLC v. City of Lansing
Lynn, Michael v. City of Lansing
Lynn, Michael v. Mayor Andy Schor, Dave Purchase, and Eric Weber
OPV Partners, VW230, Real Estate Service Solutions v. City of Lansing AND Appeal
Overstrom, Jeffrey v. City of Lansing
Spalding, Estate of v. Eaton County, City of Lansing, Ingham County, et al.
Stafford, Shawn v. Dave Klein and City of Lansing
Taylor, Andrew v. City of Lansing, Schmidt, Blanck, Wright, Kocan, Traskie, McBride, Curtis
Trevino, HydroWorld v. Blackburn, Allen, Carter, Shields, and City of Lansing
Ward, James v. Meredith Johnson and Walter Allen
McLaren Health Care Corp. v. City of Lansing

Council Member Jackson spoke in opposition to a discussion in closed session.

ROLL CALL VOTE, MOTION CARRIED 6-1.

{Reconvene}

Council President Spadafore reconvened at 7:15 p.m., stating the Council meeting would start in 10 minutes.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 7:16 pm

Respectfully Submitted by,

Sherrie Boak, Recording Secretary

Lansing City Council

Approved by the Committee March 8, 2021