



MINUTES
Committee of the Whole
Monday, March 8, 2021 @ 5:30 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- excused
Councilmember Kathie Dunbar remotely from Lansing, Michigan
Councilmember Brandon Betz remotely from Richmond, Virginia
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
Mc Rothhorn, Re-Districting Michigan Commission
Nick Tate, Mayor's Office
Elizabeth O'Leary, HR
Joseph Abood, OCA

Minutes

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HUSSAIN TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 22, 2021 AS PRESENTED. ROLL CALL VOTE, MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

Public Comment

No public comment at this time.

Presentations:**Re-Districting Michigan Commission**

Council President Spadafore noted the Council office was contacted by the Commission and asked for a presentation. Redistricting will impact the City, but not the upcoming Council election in 2021.

MC Rothhorn noted the Commission consists of random appointments; 4 democrats, 4 republicans and 5 independents. There will be public hearings to share the purpose and responsibilities, and get feedback from the public. Encouraged any questions or comments to be sent to www.michigan.gov/MICRC.

Council Member Wood asked about the maps that will be provided to the public during the hearings. Mr. Rothhorn confirmed they have not confirmed the best way to proceed, but it will be transparent. Council Member Wood encouraged them having a map with the current districts, then speak to why they want to make the changes, that would allow the Commission to get more definitive information from the public.

Council Member Jackson asked what the next step would be. Mr. Rothhorn the priority is community interest, and to identify themselves, if here is a neighborhood or region that wants to stay intact, and the Commission would be to identify any community of interest that should be broken up or are similar to keep together. The public hearings are not the only venue, but they can provide materials to the Commission on why they want to stay together or why they should be separated. Council Member Jackson asked when the public hearing is. Mr. Rothhorn stated they have not set them yet, but plan for May and June.

Discussion/Action:**DISCUSSION – Future Public Meetings**

Council President Spadafore noted he was bringing the topic up for discussion, noting with recent changes, they can now gather up to 25 people, and a large venue could be up to 600 people. This is subject to social distancing and masks. One option is to bring back into the chambers with limited zoom for members and public, can continue on ZOOM, can look at SWOC, and add more public. It gets complicated to add hybrid option if not in City Hall. Regardless where meetings held, will continue to broadcast on City TV, and currently with the change there is no mandate to hold an in person meeting.

Council Member Wood stated she would be inclined to be at City Hall, and ZOOM for the public, and limited participation in the Chambers for the public. She then noted a concern with SWOC or Hill Auditorium, the Council might not get participation from public who are not ready to come to gatherings. Lastly, Council Member Wood asked the Administration when they were going to open the building to the public, and a cleaning mechanism in place.

Council Member Hussain supported to meetings in the Council Chambers, and allow for public ZOOM. Important also, that allow as long as possible, staff or Council who have conditions, can still participate via ZOOM.

Council Member Betz asked for contingencies for more than 25 people if there are. If that cannot be accomplished, then have full ZOOM for public and Council in the Chambers.

Council Member Jackson concurred with comments so far, and support having the meetings in the Chamber, however if limiting the public into the Chambers that could be a problem.

Council Member Jackson stated he would be interested in public interest in attending in person or still communicate via ZOOM.

Mr. Smiertka the City Hall lobby has a history of accommodating overflow for the public.

Council Member Wood noted in the past there has been times where people have accommodated in compliance with the Fire Code, and so there is options of having 25 people for public comments, and then having others leave and more come into the Chambers.

Council Member Dunbar spoke in support of continuing virtually, and concerns with the cleaning practices. Council Member Dunbar stated if the Council came back in person, she would continue virtually until vaccinated.

Mr. Tate spoke on the earlier question on when the building would open to the public. For the Council benefit, following the prohibition of bringing back the employees. They continue to work with the State on the process, and continue to have the discussions. Once an opening date will let Council know. Council President Spadafore asked if Council wanted a meeting in person, Administration will work with Council, and Mr. Tate confirmed. Based on comments from Council, if hybrid option of in person and zoom at SWOC, would Council be interested in having it there. Council Member Jackson supported that because it sounded safer if the hybrid can. Council Member Wood stated she still had a concern with SWOC due to the building issues, water leaks, ventilation, etc., but if maintenance is looking at it and making adjustments, she would consider, but not her preference. Council President Spadafore stated he will continue research and bring back to Council March 22, 2021. Currently the City is okay through March 31, 2021 and the City has done Emergency Order extensions to allow also.

{Closed Session-via ZOOM meeting}

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HUSSAIN TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION AT 6:07 PM:

Pursuant to MCL 15.268(c) of the Open Meetings Act, I hereby move that we recess into closed session for strategy and negotiation sessions connected with the negotiation of the collective bargaining agreement between City of Lansing and the Local No. 421 International Association of Fire Fighters for the period covering July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2022, as requested by the City.

Council Member Wood asked Mr. Smiertka if Council Members are in a room with other people, there is a concern they will hear the discussion. Mr. Smiertka referenced the Ethics Ordinance stating it would address that. Council Member Wood asked Council President Spadafore, if someone is in the room, and the Council Member cannot leave the room to participate in the closed session, then they cannot participate in closed session at all. Mr. Smiertka confirmed that not participating is a better practice.

ROLL CALL VOTE, MOTION CARRIED 6-1.

{RECONVENE}

Council Member Spadafore called the Committee of the Whole back to order at 6:40 p.m.

RESOLUTION- Ratification of the Local No. 421 International Association of Fire Fighters Collective Bargaining Agreement

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HUSSAIN TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR THE RATIFICATION OF THE LOCAL NO 421 INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT.

Council Member Hussain summarized the contract which included changes to wages, pension, retirement carriers and a position for a Resource Officer.

Council Member Dunbar returned to the meeting at 6:42 p.m.

ROLL CALL VOTE, MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 6:43pm

Respectfully Submitted by,

Sherrie Boak, Recording Secretary

Lansing City Council

Approved by the Committee March 22, 2021