MINUTES
Committee on General Services
Thursday, May 25, 2017 @ 3:30 p.m.
City Council Conference Room, City Hall 10th Floor

CALL TO ORDER
The meeting called to order at 3:36 p.m.

ROLL CALL
Councilmember Tina Houghton, Chair
Councilmember Jody Washington, Vice Chair-excused
Councilmember Carol Wood, Member

OTHERS PRESENT
Sherrie Boak, Council Office Manager
Scott Sanford, Code Compliance
Chris Swope, City Clerk
Brandon Waddell, Assistant City Attorney
Tania Fuller, Fuller Law for Celebration
Kristen Kent, Celebration
Cara Maat, Celebration
JD Loeks, Celebration
Tarik Abbawai
Anthony Mullen

Minutes
MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM APRIL 27, 2017 AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED 2-0.

Public Comment on Agenda Items
No Public Comment at this time.

Discussion/Action
RESOLUTION- Claim Appeal #1291; 3812 Churchill Avenue; A. Mullen
Mr. Sanford outlined the violation, noting that there was a clean-up date of May 9th, which had made the violation present for 7 weeks after the initial notice. Mr. Sanford also noted that the claimant had admitted they only removed half of the initial violations.

Mr. Mullen explained the details of his process in removing the furniture from the back yard, along with the brush that was cited. Mr. Mullen admitted he was not disputed the trash being there, but the amount noted on the invoice that was removed by Eric's Refuse. Council Member Houghton asked if the charge of $175 was a standard amount, and Mr. Sanford confirmed that amount covered 1st hour of labor up to 3 yards of debris removed. After reviewing the bill, which noted an additional hour at $150, the Committee consensus was to remove that charge.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD TO GRANT THE CLAIM FOR $150, MAKING THE NEW AMOUNT DUE TO 518.00. MOTION CARRIED 2-0.

RESOLUION – Claim Appeal; 2413 S Pennsylvania; T. Abbawi
Mr. Sanford informed the Committee that the tenant at this property called in the complaint and asked for a safety inspection for a housing violation. At this time they determined it was not a registered rental however the owner has other rentals so was aware they needed to be registered. The fees are for non-registration, and until it is registered the fines are billed monthly to the owner.

Mr. Abbawi explained he appealed to the Claims Review Committee and at that time provided contractor invoices proving it was being worked on for the housing violations. At that time he asked for 3 months of the fines to be waived because he was working on it.

The Committee reviewed the documents provided through the Claim Review Committee and looked at the invoicing, noting that the Claims Review Committee did waive October, November, and therefore the Committee was now being asked to waive September. Mr. Abbawi was asked to confirm his request of the appeal to be one month at $150. Mr. Brewer, Council Internal Auditor was asked into the meeting to explain the outcome of the Claims Review Committee. There was no additional information provided.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD TO DENY THE CLAIM FOR ONE MONTH AT $150.00. MOTION CARRIED 2-0.

Mr. Abbawi was advised to meet with Mr. Sanford and Mr. Allen to determine what is left to do on the site.

RESOLUTION – Transfer of Ownership of Resort Class C License at 200 Edgewood Blvd., Celebration Banquets, LLC
Any action on this item will be addressed at the June 22, 2017 meeting.

RESOLUTION – Introduction and Set a Public Hearing on the Liquor License Ordinance (Community – Celebrations Banquets, LLC; RE: Change or Variance to Liquor Ordinance)
Mr. Waddell confirmed for the Committee that the way the current ordinance is written, there are no requirements and no need to have it changed. Currently he stated the Ordinance clearly states that if the City were to consider denying a license they "may or may not" based on these items in consideration. There are guidelines and a list of criteria on why Council could deny or have to deny. Mr. Waddell concluded that the Attorney office opinion was that there is not requirement to amend the current ordinance, but if the Committee wants to amend it they can.

Ms. Fuller explained the applicants need for the Committee to consider amending the Ordinance. That included a statement that they have invested a large amount of funds to buy the transfer license, and it is built into the purchase agreement. Their concern is that if the City does not change the ordinance, and they get the license, at a later date a different Council could

deny any renewals. Mr. Swope acknowledged the applicants concerns noting that any renewal process would require Council approval also, and the Council at that time might not want to renew because of the ordinance.

Council Member Wood asked Ms. Fuller if there was a tight timeline on the approval. Ms. Fuller admitted that the Michigan Liquor Control Commission is so far behind, they haven't event assigned the license yet, and Mr. Loeks confirmed he had a couple months.

After a discussion on future Committee dates and timelines, the Committee concurred to have the City Attorney's office draft an ordinance amendment, and the Committee will introduce it and set the hearing on June 12th for June 26th.

Council Member Houghton asked Mr. Loeks if his establishment in Meridian Township had any incidents or concerns, and Mr. Loeks confirmed they had not. Ms. Fuller stated she would provide the Council Staff and City Attorney office with a contact name and number to Meridian Township to confirm their statements.

DISCUSSION – Council Rules
Discussion moved to the next meeting.

Other:

- Transfer of Ownership 2017 Class C & SDM Licensed Business with Sunday Sales Permit (PM) and Dance Permit from Unicorn Tavern, Inc., to Unicorn, LLC, 327 E Grand River

Mr. Swope informed the Committee this application was a notification. His office has reached out to the applicant and have already gotten sign offs for the license approval from the City. Council and Committee will see a license in the future on this for approval.

Other/Place on File
Council Member Houghton placed the following on file:

- New SDM License Issued Under MCL 436.1533(7); New Sunday Sales Permit (AM); New Gas Pumps for Cedar Street Citgo Inc., 4600 S Cedar Street

Council Member Wood asked about a recent referral at the May 22 Council meeting which was for a transfer out of the City. After review of the property and address provide, the Committee determined the address is in the City and further research was going to be done by the Clerk's office. Council Member Wood also offered to research if a license is transfer out of the City, if the municipality receiving has to transfer one into the City.

Mr. Waddell confirmed with the Committee that he will work on amendments in the Liquor License Ordinance under 830.06 (b) (g) (h). Mr. Waddell was also referred to the example provided by Ms. Fuller from Kentwood as a template.

Adjourned at 4:26 p.m.
Submitted by Sherrie Boak, Office Manager,
Lansing City Council
Approved by the Committee on June 12, 2017