MINUTES
Committee on General Services
Tuesday, February 13, 2018 @ 4:00 p.m.
City Council Chambers, City Hall 10th Floor

CALL TO ORDER
The meeting called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Council Member Hussain.

ROLL CALL
Councilmember Patricia Spitzley, Chair- excused
Councilmember Adam Hussain, Vice Chair
Councilmember Carol Wood, Member

OTHERS PRESENT
Sherrie Boak, Council Office Manager
Scott Sanford, Code Compliance
Eric Brewer, Council Internal Auditor
Kathleen Martin
Tony Felder, Representative for IRENTINK
Hamid Khorrami
Sarah Lehr, LSJ

Minutes
MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM JANUARY 16, 2018 AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED 2-0.

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

Discussion/Action
RESOLUTION – Claim Appeal #1474; K. Martin; 913 Moores River Dr.; $407.00
Mr. Sanford confirmed a notice was sent to the owner for a box spring in the front yard after it was cited on July 10, 2017, and a recheck was done on July 19, 2017. The item was still there so the contractor was contacted and arrived July 20, 2017. The department confirmed they did all the proper procedures, and the records show a bulk item sticker was purchased but not until August.

Ms. Martin confirmed she was not living at property at the time because she was on vacation, however was on site on July 10th and the code officer did not approach her at the door. However, a notice did arrive in the mail while she was gone. Her neighbor collected her mail

while she was gone and there appeared to be no mail labeled “notice”, or “violation”. She admitted if the notice would have been certified or labeled invoice it would have been opened. When she returned from vacation the box spring was gone, and she paid $33 which she thought was the charge. She concluded that her opinion was that the notice was appropriately handled.

Mr. Brewer stated the Claims Review Committee determined denial of the claim based on the pictures, time frame and contractor timeline.

Council Member Wood asked Law if the ordinance requires notices to be sent certified mail, and Ms. O’Boyle confirmed it does not. Council Member Wood then informed Ms. Martin that there is an ordinance that does allow for two (2) free large item tags, which based on income you have to qualify for. Ms. Martin acknowledged the information noting it was the first time she had heard of this service.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD TO DENY THE CLAIM #1474 FOR 913 MOORES RIVER DRIVE IN THE AMOUNT OF $407.00 BASED ON INFORMATION IN THE PACKET AND CONCURRANCE WITH THE CLAIMS REVIEW COMMITTEE.

Council Member Hussain agreed with the motion noting it appeared code did everything correctly. Ms. Martin stated again her opinion that if Code would have knocked on her door when they saw it on July 10, 2017 she could have removed the item.

MOTION CARRIED 2-0.

The Committee informed Ms. Martin the claim would be at the full Council on February 26, 2018, however Ms. Martin stated she was going to be out of town but again felt the due-process is wrong.

RESOLUTION – Claim Appeal; #1498; T. Felder; IRENTINK; 6121 Coulson Ct.; $2,909.00
Mr. Sanford stated the property was cited August 22, 2017 re-inspected August 30, 2017 and the contractor arrived September 26, 2017 where the violations and other violations were present and removed.

Mr. Felder stated he disputed the charges and invoices from Eric’s Refuse, his opinion that the charges were extreme and the trash picked up was excessive. He did acknowledge that he did not dispute paying the charge, but that the charges did not reflect on what they did take or should have charged. Mr. Sanford confirmed the notice was send notices to three locations, and the photos reflect the number of pallets, boxes, tires, beds, and brush piles.

Council Member Wood referred the Committee to the inspector authorization form which authorized the contractor for 2 hours and 6 cubic yards. Mr. Sanford stated the inspector cited that based on what he saw from the road and when the contractor arrived they found more in the back yard. Mr. Sanford was not sure how the pallets were handled; taken in part or in pieces. Council Member Hussain asked if the contractor invoice on 11 hours was for one person or more. Mr. Sanford’s opinion was it was for 4 contractors totaling 11 hours. He also noted to Mr. Felder that the tires are a separate removal additional fee.

Mr. Felder was questioned on his position as the owner, and he stated IRENTINK is the owner and he is not in the LLC but the property manager. Council Member Wood stated to Mr. Felder the Committee has been advised in the past that they can only hear and negotiate with the owner. Mr. Felder stated the owner was in Europe and unable to attend, noting the condition

puts owners and investors in an unusual situation. He did then volunteer to pay a portion of the charges, but believed the fees were extreme. Ms. O'Boyle was asked and confirmed that the claim has to be heard from the owner and could be done via phone. Mr. Felder asked for a copy of that determination and process. Ms. O'Boyle referred Mr. Felder to the City Attorney website for the instructions. Council Member Wood instructed Mr. Felder to take the Office Manager business card when he left and make arrangements for a future meeting via phone with the owner.

The claim was pending and moved to a future meeting where a conference call can be set up.

RESOLUTION – Claim Appeal; #1438; H. Khorrami; 834 Gier Street; $500.00
Ms. Sanford stated in this case Code was contacted by the LPD for a board up on the dwelling.

Mr. Khorrami presented photos of the door noting the neighbor witnessed the break in through the back door and called LPD, and before LPD could arrive the house invader left. The neighbor then went to the house, and went in that back door and opened the front door as they waited for the LPD. When the LPD arrived, the front door was boarded up, but that was not the door that was broken in the break-in but the back door. Mr. Khorrami again stated the front door was fine and presented photos of the front door. Mr. Sanford referred the Committee to the copy of the police report in the packet. Council Member Wood asked Mr. Sanford for the photo of the actual board and board up of the front door. Mr. Sanford admitted that Code could not find that photo, but his opinion of the photo was that the door was damaged. Council Member Wood asked again for a photo of the board, but Mr. Sanford could not provide the proof, but assured the Committee the door was boarded up as indicated by the LPD report.

Mr. Brewer informed the Committee that the Claims Review Committee denied it also based on the photos and communications.

The Committee reviewed the photos and the photos presented by the claimant of the door. It was noted that the front might have been boarded because the LPD locked the back door from the inside but had not way to lock the front door when they walked out so they ordered the board up.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD TO DENY THE CLAIM #1438 FOR 834 GIER STREET IN THE AMOUNT OF $500.00 BASED ON INFORMATION IN THE PACKET. MOTION CARRIED 2-0.

Council Member Hussain asked for the time line a claim can be heard after it appears on the tax bill. Mr. Sanford confirmed the owner has 30 days. Ms. Boak informed the Committee the claims they are currently hearing were filled in 2017, however with the yearend change over and new Committee establishment they are catching up on the claims.

Other
No other topics.

Adjourned
Adjourned at 4:39 p.m.
Submitted by Sherrie Boak,
Office Manager, Lansing City Council
Approved by the Committee on February 27, 2018