MINUTES
Committee on General Services
Tuesday, May 22, 2018 @ 4:00 p.m.
City Council Conference Room, City Hall 10th Floor

CALL TO ORDER
The meeting called to order at 4:00 p.m.

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

OTHERS PRESENT
Sherrie Boak, Council Office Manager
Eric Brewer, Internal Auditor
Scott Sanford, Code Compliance
Cara Nader
Kathy Miles
Amanda O'Boyle, Assistant City Attorney
Jim Smiertka, City Attorney
James Fawaz
Jawad Razmal
Michael Brown
Fauad Sitto
Iren Frankel, via conference call

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

Approval of Minutes
MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HUSSAIN TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM APRIL 24, 2018 AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED 2-0.

Discussion/Action:
RESOLUTION – Appointment; Cara Nader as Business Owner Member on Downtown Lansing, Inc.; Term to Expire June 30, 2020
Ms. Nadar briefly outlined her connection to the downtown which is the co-owner of Strange Matter Coffee, and her past work experience.

Council Member Hussain asked if Ms. Nader had ideas to reach out to the communities. Ms. Nader confirmed she resided in the Westside neighborhood and communicates with her neighborhood long with the customers that come into her business. Council Member Hussain encouraged her to attend the 1st Ward and 4th Ward monthly meetings since the downtown is located in both Wards.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HUSSAIN TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF CARA NADER TO THE DOWNTOWN LANSING INC. MOTION CARRIED 2-0.

RESOLUTION – Claim Appeal #1545; J Fawaz; 5625 Kaynorth; $945.00
Mr. Sanford outlined the claim timeline, noting that there were permits in 2016 but no work was ever performed. Then on 2/8/2018 a permit was issued but there have not been any inspections. It was noted also by Mr. Sanford that the claimant is running a tree trimming business at the location and has been advised to cease.

Mr. Fawaz stated he had applied for permits were not issued because they were told they could not be issued because the City records still reflected it as a duplex. Mr. Fawaz stated they then cleared that issue with the Assessing office and referred to the assessing files.

Council Staff referred the Committee to an email from Ms. O'Boyle in law that outlined the fees in the appeal that was denied at Claims Review Committee, and in turn that decision is now being appealed at this Committee. Ms. O'Boyle stated the amounts had come from Mr. Brewer. The amounts were listed as:
Invoice# 00100267 -Date Created 9/8/2017 – for August 2017 - $157.50
Invoice#00101553 – Date Created 10/4/2017 – for September 2017 - $157.50
Invoice# 00103473 -Date Created 11/7/2017 – for October 2017 - $157.50
Invoice#00105017 – Date Created 12/8/2017 – for November 2017 - $157.50
Invoice#00106169 – Date Created 1/10/2018 – for December 2017 - $157.50
Invoice#00107354 – Date Created 2/7/2018 – for January 2018 - $157.50
Total Invoices Provided - $945.00

Mr. Sanford detailed for the Committee that the red tag fee is $150.00 and there is a $7.50 late fee.

Mr. Fawaz disputed that he never received the notices, and referenced that the files still reflect the previous owners name. He added that if the City would have issued his permits when he initially applied for them, he wouldn't have any red tags.

Council Member Hussain asked if a red tagged building goes into "no bill status" when there is active work being performed on it and Mr. Sanford confirmed. Mr. Sanford then referred the assessing documents that reflected Mr. Fawaz purchased on a land contract and the tax payer is Black Bear Distributing LLC. Mr. Fawaz acknowledged he had not paid off the land contract at this point. Council Member Spitzley pointed out that notices are sent to the tax payer and he needs to address any communications with them also.

Mr. Brewer informed the Committee that the Claims Review Committee reviewed it in March 2018. The Committee inquired into the permits mentioned by Mr. Fawaz, and after review of the information and invoices they denied the claim.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HUSSAIN TO DENY THE CLAIM #1545 FOR 5625 KAYNORTH IN THE AMOUNT OF $945.00.

Council Member Spitzley clarified for the record the claim was for the red tag fees of $157.50 in the months of August, September, October, November and December in 2017 and January in 2018.

MOTION CARRIED 2-0.

RESOLUTION – Claim Appeal #1530; J. Sutton; 3428 Lowcroft; $3,912.00
Claimant contacted Council Staff on May 21 and moved their request to the June 5, 2018.

RESOLUTION – Claim Appeal; #1557; J. Razmal; 3135 S. Pennsylvania; $2,922.00
Mr. Sanford went through the timeline which began on 8/2/2017, with a deadline of 8/9/2017 and recheck on 8/10/2017. It was noted at that time there was progress so the deadline was extended to 8/17/2017. When they went back for the second recheck there were additional violations so the contractor was called and arrived 9/7/2017. The photos is the packet were taken after the debris was removed.

Mr. Razmal and his contract Mr. Sitto appealed stated they had a contract to repair the house and the material was from the work on the home. They too had a dumpster on site they were filling and removing when full, on the dates of 8/9/2017 and 9/13/2017. Mr. Sanford reiterated the City contractor arrived 9/7/2017. Mr. Sitto appealed that they had picked up the side yard themselves, and any material left on the site he did not believe was enough to fill 35 yards of a dumpster. The Committee the City contractor bill and the amount of man hours needed on that invoice.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HUSSAIN TO DENY THE CLAIM #1557 FOR 3135 S PENNSYLVANIA IN THE AMOUNT OF $2,922.00. MOTION CARRIED 2-0.

RESOLUTION – Claim Appeal #1564; C. Nolan; 2026 Harding Avenue; $4,064.00
Council Staff verified the owner was notified of the meeting, but due to location chose not to attend. It was also noted to Council Staff that the amount was already paid, per the owners' statement. Mr. Sanford went through the timeline for the violations, noting they never requested an extension. The Committee then reviewed the documents.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HUSSAIN TO DENY THE CLAIM #1564 FOR 2026 HARDING AVENUE IN THE AMOUNT OF $4,604.00. MOTION CARRIED 2-0.

RESOLUTION - Michigan Liquor Control Commission; Transfer of Ownership of Class C and SDM License; 320 E. Michigan Holdings, LLC to Bowdies's LLC, 320 E. Michigan Avenue
Mr. Brown, on behalf of the applicant, briefly provided details on the business which also has a location in Saugatuck, Michigan. He noted they are currently operating under a conditional license. Mr. Brown did ask that if the Committee approved it, to include that the application is also for outdoor service area which would then match the application with the State.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HUSSAIN TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR THE LIQUOR LICENSE FOR 320 E MICHIGAN AVENUE FOR BOWDIES LLC. MOTION CARRIED 2-0.

RESOLUTION – Claim #1498; T. Felder; IRENTINK; 6121 Coulson Ct.; $2,909.00
Ms. Frenkel was present via conference call on Mr. Felder cell phone.

Mr. Sanford read the staff report details and dates, which included the initial violation letter dated 8/22/2017 and a recheck on 8/30/2017 at which point trash was still on site and the City contractor was called. The City contractor arrived on 9/26/2017.

Council Member Spitzley referenced the invoice and questioned the amount of trash and the man hours. Mr. Sanford explained the initial rate charge was foe 1 hour and 3 yards and anything over that 3 yards becomes an additional charge.

Ms. Frenkel acknowledged for the Committee there was a problematic tenant that caused damage in and outside of the house. She added the new tenant is now keeping property clean, noting that this was the first time this property had a violation and was shocked with the fines. Mr. Felder confirmed there was debris, and took fault for it but in his opinion the fines were inflated. His concern was that the initial inspection cited was based on what the inspector saw at curb, not a full property inspection. He requested an additional warning before the entire site was cleaned by the City contractor. Council Member Spitzley went through the timeline of violations and contractor arrival pointing out the owners had 30 days to comply.

Council Member Hussain asked if this was a registered rental and the issued by certified mail. The committee reviewed the notices and multiple mailing addresses it was sent to. Ms. Frenkal asked Code to consider emailing notices when the owners are not local. Mr. Sanford defend the practice of mailing due to the Housing Code states they have to be mailed first class mail, hand delivered or posted on site, noting his inspectors don't have time to email.

Mr. Felder asked why in other cases extensions were granted, and Mr. Sanford replied that in those cases progress by the owner was being made on the violations.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HUSSAIN TO DENY THE CLAIM #1498 FOR 6121 COULSON CT. IN THE AMOUNT OF $2,909.00. MOTION CARRIED 2-0.

Pending:

- Michigan Liquor Control Commission; Transfer of Ownership Class C & SDM license from RYJT, Ltd to Art's Pub, LLC at 809 Kalamazoo Street.**-Pending Application**

Remain Pending until the application is submitted.

Adjourned

Adjourned at 5:23 p.m.
Submitted by Sherrie Boak,
Office Manager, Lansing City Council
Approved by the Committee on June 5, 2018