



MINUTES
Committee on Intergovernmental Relations
Wednesday, March 7, 2018 @ 8:00 a.m.
Council Chambers, City Hall

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 8:10 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Council Member Kathie Dunbar, Chair
Council Member Brian T Jackson, Vice Chair-excused
Councilmember Peter Spadafore

OTHERS PRESENT

Sherrie Boak, Council Staff
John Jarver
Randy Dykhuis
Cathy Deshambo, East Lansing Environmental Service
Jordan Leaming
Dennis Louney, BWL
George Stojic, BWL
Steve Serkanian, BWL
Steve Rall
Dwight Washington
John Sarber, Meridian Township
Ann Fisher, Lansing Environmental Action Team
Dwight Washington, Clinton County Commissioner

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

DISCUSSION –

RESOLUTION – Appointment of Jordan Leaming; City of Lansing Member; Capital Regional International Airport Authority

Mr. Leaming stated his interest in the board was to bring his skills and experience assist with growth of the Authority, with is background in insurance and health care law.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER SPADAFORE TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION TO APPOINTMENT JORDAN LEAMING TO THE CITY OF LANSING CAPITAL REGIONAL INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY. MOTION CARRIED 2-0.

Ms. Deshambo with East Lansing outlined their process which included a fluid discussion and their document became a living document. She then went on to confirm it is always a work in process, working on adjusting, searching the communities needs and goals going back to 2007. Their community based it on 5 core points and primary key areas. Their focus included energy efficiency, transportation, water management, and waste efficiency. Council Member Spadafore asked how East Lansing was working on energy efficiency and renewable. Ms. Deshambo confirmed they are working on waste reduction, tackling large areas and large goals and identifying additional goals. They have established a subcommittee working on 100% renewables. Council Member Dunbar asked if they were looking at renewables outside of the BWL. Ms. Deshambo confirmed that some point it will be with BWL, but they had formed a subcommittee based on the need. They are working on the green building policy which is an update from 2009.

Council Member Spadafore was encouraged by the renewable energy pieces for individual properties. Council Member Dunbar added she was encouraged with those energy pieces on commercial and residential, which would include looking at the green building policy to work on goals, community solar project and project with BWL to add on to feed back into the grid.

Mr. Stojic outlined to the Committee and public what BWL has done. Noted was that BWL has a long term plan to handle renewal energy. They have worked with East Lansing on community energy program which will be coming into service within the next couple months. The second East Lansing project will be near Wise Road water treatment plant, and BWL also has a 300 kilowatt solar farm. BWL has had a renewable incentive program since 2010 and the program has increased over the last 7-8 years. Mr. Stojic told the Committee that if the City wanted to do 100% renewables, this year BWL had structured rates which provided an accurate financial rate, with their last rate for renewables in late 2000. BWL does expect to be 20% by 2020. The conversion is \$.03 over standard rate, \$2-\$3 higher a month. In 2020 BWL will be at 20%, if customers want more we will exceed 20% and have no cap. Council Member Dunbar asked if there was a differential charge covering the conversion, what the cost of the conversion and effective rates is. Mr. Stojic assured them the concept is looked at every 2-3 years and they look at it to see how many more renewables they need to get and the conversion would be entirely solar. Council Member Dunbar asked if they have a map which shows areas in the City that could be used for the solar panels. Mr. Stojic stated that the purpose is one component and they develop a comprehensive solar program. If an owner wants solar panels on their property BWL has incentives, if they do not want on their property, there is an option for a community solar area the people could connect to. BWL currently has a community program in Delta Township. If they move to a larger program, fees come down. If the City looks into a community program then will they will look for a plot to put the panels on, however he noted it is customer driven. A wind program will generate a capacity factor at 36-40% which is at a good level, and solar at 15-22%.

Ms. Deshambo stated the have a community solar plot in East Lansing offering the community to buy into it and support if there is no way for them to have solar on their property. East Lansing she noted is a Tree City so they do not remove or encourage removing trees so it is a barrier for individuals to have solar on their property. Mr. Stojic noted as they considered the plan, they can create green teams in the departments and join with a grant to implement the findings of the green teams. Energy efficiency is a good way to reduce the carbon footprint, and in a strategic plan to build sustainability in the community.

Council Member Spadafore asked how many customers using solar program on their homes. Mr. Stojic answered the question by confirming 12-15, and the costs are coming down so there is more of an increased interest. They are now seeing a large number of commercial users.

Council Member Spadafore asked if East Lansing had already started using green vehicles in their fleet. Ms. Deshambo outlined the East Lansing policy which was a green fleet policy, and acknowledged that they have the first hybrid recycling truck in Michigan which uses 40% less fuel than others. They currently do have hybrid vehicles for some administrative vehicles and have installed electric charging stations throughout the city.

Council Member Spadafore asked if the East Lansing bike share program was active, and was informed it was not operational yet.

Council Member Spadafore asked the two township representatives the best way to start and develop a climate plan. Ms. Deshambo confirmed it can be lengthy, but theirs was driven by a commission on environment and then that was taken to their Council. She also noted that there are existing resources and the City would not need to invent the wheel. Council Member Spadafore asked if there were firms or organizations to assist, and Mr. Stojic assured them and stated they could provide a list. Ms. Deshambo referenced a climate group ICLEAC as a source.

Council Member Dunbar concluded the discussion with encouraging the establishment of a climate commission and stated she would reach out to the Mayor's office to see if there would be an interest in a role and charge. Council Member Spadafore encouraged a regional discussion, and supported bringing in members of all the governmental bodies that have BWL services to coordinate the climate action plan. And on a larger scale for climate action he suggested talking to surrounding areas to develop a regional climate action plan.

Public Comment

Mr. Dykhuis with the Lansing Environmental Action Team was interested in seeing Lansing adopt a climate action plan as soon as possible, and wanted a comprehensive plan not just what can accomplished but what it was going to take to get to what he believed was the carbon emissions in a reasonable amount of time. Mr. Dykhuis asked the Committee to address transportation and how to separate organic waste.

Mr. Rall emphasized the urgency to form a Commission, spoke in support of addressing climate control and provides a resource of the Rocky Mountain Institutes for the Committee regarding carbon footprint for cities.

Mr. Sarber with Meridian Township is a member of the Energy Team and Energy Team and outlined their plan which took 18 months to create. With their plan which can be found on the Michigan Climate Action Network, they did a peer review of the draft plan, and are currently in the process of organizing workshops for residents. The Township plan is to be 100% renewable by 2035, and the community goal is 25% by 2025.

Ms. Fisher as a member of Lansing Environmental Action Team encouraged the Committee to address the topic and respected the past meeting her Team had in the past with BWL. She did note her opinion was that the BWL plan goes against climate action and then questioned if the BWL could pay for itself in 30-40 years.

Ms. Miles asked if Tesla shingles have any credibility, at which Mr. Sarber informed her that his experience was that there were issues with the installers.

Mr. Washington spoke in support of the discussion, and suggested they research into the grants and funding that would help with the process. Mr. Washington referenced the surrounding townships and their tree inventory, noting the City of Lansing should inventory the value of their parks.

Council Member Dunbar assured the public the City is a Tree City, and they are a different demographic from East Lansing, and the Commission needs to address how to bring the region on board.

Ms. Deshambo confirmed there is often a comparison between East Lansing and Lansing, but suggested a pilot study for residence dialogue. In her community she stated they took a community group and participated and linked them with experts in climate change. There were 2 week long platforms, and they helped East Lansing look at long term goals. Ms. Deshambo emphasized the importance of regional partnering coming to the fore front, and they should pursue together and work as a region. Ms. Deshambo confirmed there are grants to create and meet the goals, but she was not aware of funding for creating the climate plan itself.

Mr. Sarber informed the Committee their plan as written by five (5) residents and a staff person, but does not translate to a City the size of Lansing. The plan identifies gaps of what further needs to be done. It was noted that their plan was adopted as part of their masterplan.

Mr. Stojic asked if the townships use the Michigan Saves Program, at which Mr. Sarber with Meridian Township stated they do community outreach and that is part of it.

Mr. Louney supported BWL on their plans and moving forward, and pointed out that a section in their plans is a water management plan and encourages the Committed to include storm water management in their plan. As Ingham County Commissioner, Mr. Louney stated they would be interested in a regional plan. Council Member Dunbar asked if the County had a regional plan yet, at which Mr. Louney was not aware, but stated an inquiry could be done with Mr. Bolling the County Controller.

Mr. Stojic said the plan should state how it is to be governed, and look at a baseline on where start and where to go by setting goals.

Council Member Dunbar stated the Committee will continue to meet and will hold future community forums.

Other

Council Member Spadafore asked the Committee to address in the future an ordinance to prevent water way access during flooding emergencies and work regionally since the water ways run through the surrounding areas.

Adjourn at 9:23 a.m.

Submitted by,

Sherrie Boak, Recording Secretary,

Lansing City Council

Approved by the Committee on April 4, 2018