



MINUTES
Committee on Public Safety
Wednesday, October 18, 2017 @ 3:30 p.m.
City Hall, Council Conference Room

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting called to order at 3:31 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Councilmember Adam Hussain, Chair
Councilmember Carol Wood, Vice Chair
Councilmember Tina Houghton, Member- excused

OTHERS PRESENT

Sherrie Boak, Council Staff
Andy Kilpatrick, Public Service
Jim Smiertka, City Attorney
Amanda O'Boyle, Assistant City Attorney
Marcia Mettert
Kathy Miles
Elaine Womboldt
Bev Haug
Mary Ann Purificato

MINUTES

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 20, 2017 AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED 2-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment at this time.

DISCUSSION/ACTION

Council Member Hussain stated the any discussion on the IADD Issues would be addressed at a future meeting.

OTHER

Moore's River Drive Request Update

Council Member Hussain recapped the concerns from previous meetings, those being lane markings, signage, trimming at the signs, and a reduced speed limit sign. Mr. Kilpatrick confirmed the order was put in for the changes, however after a site visit prior to this meeting, it was verified that the crosswalk markings were not in. A change order usually takes 4 weeks, so it is forthcoming. Mr. Kilpatrick did confirm that all the trimming was done at the speed limit

signs and the “curve” warning sign. Council Member Hussain asked Council Member Wood if she had followed up with Sgt. Curtis on traffic enforcement in the area. Council Member Wood confirmed she did speak to the Sgt., and asked him for data on the number of tickets in the area. However, she was then informed by the Sgt. they use paper tickets and are not able to track them. The Sgt. confirmed for Council Member Wood that they have been writing tickets for speeding and the double line violation. Council Member Wood then informed the Committee she had reached out to Public Service (Mr. Mumby) about the condition of the road, and he informed her they would be skim coating Moore’s River Drive in the areas of pot holes. Council Member Hussain referenced a recent email after the September Committee meeting where the residents informed him of a severe accident, at this point he asked the residents present if they needed an update. Ms. Merritt stated she just wanted to encourage continued monitoring of the accidents. The Committee asked that the topic reappear on a future agenda in July 2018 for an update.

Council Member Hussain asked Mr. Kilpatrick about traffic calming options, at which point the Committee and Mr. Kilpatrick discussed the expenditures involved with speed “humps” at \$1,200-\$1,500 per location, and the option of a speed limit trailer, however with 3 trailers, and the demand for them, they only work when they are there.

Express Court Update

Mr. Kilpatrick provided information on the Charter school which began with 300 students and is now up to over 700. The concerns that have been brought to the department’s attention with traffic have to do with no busing, walking, pickup/drop-off that overwhelms the single location. In the past a traffic signal had been requested by the school however based on the peak 15 minutes in the a.m. and 15 minutes in the p.m., and the public funds, that option would not be considered. Mr. Kilpatrick did state then that if the school wanted to put in the light, the City would not preclude them, however the information the City has is a signal runs between \$75,000- \$100,000 and \$1,000 to operate. They would last 20 years, and the poles last about 35-50 years. Mr. Kilpatrick offered other options such as prohibited turns at certain of the day. The Committee briefly discussed adjoining properties for the options of cross access and additional driveways. The Public Service staff was encouraged to meet with the school on limited turning in and out, educate the parents, and have the LPD on site to enforce compliance. Ms. Miles asked if LPD or Public Service had any accident data. Mr. Kilpatrick stated they have not had anything recently, but they did do one when the lanes were changed a couple years ago, and he could check that information.

Ms. Womboldt asked if the City could establish a meeting with the school, LPD, and Public Service to work on solutions. Mr. Kilpatrick informed her that they had already met with the school on solutions. With the proposed turning changes, the Department will meet with the school members again and potentially meet during the traffic issue times. At the time the school was built, there was no traffic impact studies required, so there is no historical information on the property. Ms. Womboldt then asked if the City could cite the school for safety nuisances. Mr. Kilpatrick stated that as long as they provide access to public road ways, once they get on the public street they are like any other cars.

Other Topic

Council Member Wood brought to Mr. Smiertka attention of a recent complaint from Mr. Williams who owns property on Beechfield, and his tenants left because of the odor. Council Member Wood also informed him of another complaint she got on the same topic on Harold Street. The question was then raised on how Law was addressing the violation of odor in the residential areas. Mr. Smiertka acknowledged he had a meeting on October 18th with building safety and how they were going to prioritize, starting with the residential areas. They were directed that if there is enough evidence when they inspect, they can start writing violation

tickets. Ms. O'Boyle with the City Attorney office was introduced as the point person for all complaints, which they can file via the Citizen Complaint form on the City Attorney website, or call the main number of the City Attorney. Council Member Wood reiterated a call she had from the resident that complained about Harold Street, and she was informed when she called LPD that if there was a smell she needed to call Code Compliance, and Code Compliance then told her to call the LPD. The Committee, Council and the public are looking for consistent information on how to handle the issue. She suggested that the residents create a log, and also asked that the procedures of enforcement be a written policy by Code. Mr. Smiertka stated there will be no written policy because everyone who gets the calls now knows that Ms. O'Boyle is the point person. He continued by admitting that LPD was unaware of how to handle the situation if someone stated they had a card and are immune from enforcement, so Law informed LPD that they were not to determine if the immunity applied, but write the ticket and Law will make the determination at that point. Regarding commercial violations, those will be enforced by the zoning code, and any dangerous of extraction processes will be address by the Fire Marshall. If there is enough evidence on any of the violations they will write a case and put in front of a judge, if there is not, the City Attorney office will sent letters to the violators and encourage a meeting.

Ms. O'Boyle asked for the address on Beechfield, and Ms. Purificato stated 6347 Beechfield, and she personally had filed complaints in the past in letters to Code Compliance. She also stated she had other residents that would be willing to testify in court of the odor. Mr. Smiertka asked her to forward him the list of names that would testify, and he stated his office will also send a letter to the property. Council Member Wood stated she would reach out to Mr. Williams to see if his past tenants had an interest in testifying. Council Member Hussain recapped that once Law gets the list from Ms. Purificato they will follow up, at which Mr. Smiertka confirmed.

Ms. Miles asked what residents do if they smell it on the weekends or after hours. Council Member Wood stated to the public that any violation needs to be forwarded to Ms. O'Boyle in Law.

Ms. Miles cited a potential violation at 1124 Woodbine, and stated in the past she had already filed complaints on this property.

Council Member Wood informed Law that the property on Harold, 3501 Harold, has an owner or tenant that does not live there, but stops by at night, and in August upgraded his electrical.

Council Member Hussain encourage the public that if there is a situation they need to create a log on when, where, etc.

Mr. Smiertka moved onto an earlier question on updates to the International Code, etc., and his office will provide more information at a future meeting.

Mr. Smiertka then provided an update on a potential violation at Capital Commons with heat and air conditioning. The mechanical and maintenance code both have heat provisions, however the mechanical code has nothing on cooling. If it is amended locally to include air, they can enforce for the landlord, but the landlord can then appeal because it is not in the mechanical code. The Law department is still working on a conclusion to the issue.

Council Member Hussain left the meeting at 4:33 p.m.

Mr. Smiertka spoke to Council Member Wood on a follow up to the Walton Property.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 4:34 p.m.

Submitted by,

Sherrie Boak, Council Office Manager

Lansing City Council

Approved: November 15, 2017