



MINUTES
Committee on Public Safety
Wednesday, March 14, 2018 @ 4:00 p.m.
City Hall, Council Conference Room

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

Council Member Carol Wood, Chair
Council Member Adam Hussain, Vice Chair
Council Member Jeremy Garza, Member

OTHERS PRESENT

Sherrie Boak, Council Staff
Chief Yankowski, LPD
Brandon Waddell, Assistant City Attorney- left at 5:37 p.m.
Mark Mello, Business Representative Sheet Metal Workers Local Union #7
Elaine Womboldt, Rejuvenating South Lansing
Council Member Washington- arrived at 4:06 p.m. and left at 4:27 p.m.
Kathy Miles
Mary Ellen Purificato
Joseph Abood, Chief Deputy City Attorney-arrived at 5:37 p.m.

MINUTES

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HUSSAIN TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM MARCH 14, 2018 AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Mello spoke in support of the draft ordinance on the Fire and Smoke Dampers, and suggested it include ICB and ANSI Certification.

DISCUSSION/ACTIONS

Council Member Wood moved the discussion item on the Ordinance on Fire and Smoke Damper Inspections to the start of the meeting.

DISCUSSION – Ordinance; Fire & Smoke Damper Inspection Program

Council Member Wood asked Mr. Waddell if the certifications mentioned earlier by Mr. Mello could be added. Mr. Waddell confirmed they could be. Council Member Garza asked that Law make the changes to move the ordinance forward.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER GARZA TO APPROVE A RESOLUTION TO INTRODUCE AND SET A PUBLIC HEARING FOR APRIL 9TH FOR AN ORDINANCE TO INSTILL A FIRE AND SMOKE DAMPER INSPECTION PROGRAM. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

PRESENTATIONS

LPD Chief Update on School Security

Chief Yankowski began his presentation assuring the Committee LPD is a strong supporter for the safety of our students. The LPD has different resources and we do have a focus on the youth, and the Lansing School District (LSD) is one of only a handful of districts that have public safety officers on site in the State. They are MCOLES certified personnel assigned by the Lansing School District on school property. The MCOLES training is performed annually before the start of the school year. In addition to that personnel, the Chief confirmed there are 3 school resource officers, assigned to all three high schools. Lansing is also the only one of a handful of districts in the State that has dedicated police officers with police powers in schools. The officers are on site and interact with kids.

Council Member Wood asked if the Officers in the schools are armed. The Chief detailed that the LPD are armed, in casual uniform, with a vest, radio and tools, but not in full uniform. They have a patrol car on site and have access to school cameras system. At end of the day they are also present in the parking lots. The LPD and LSD (Lansing School District) have also added a "School Watch Program", which is an extension of the neighborhood watch, where volunteers assist with LPD from 2pm-4 pm. They drive a marked vehicle, are given a phone, and wear identifying clothing as a volunteer and are focused on the three high schools. The Chief continued by explaining about the G.R.E.A.T Officers who are trained to educate on conflict resolution, and they too are located in the schools. The newest program is "ok to say", where kids can call in with tips, which is monitored 24/7. The LSD also offers a \$50 reward on anything going on criminally related in and around the schools. The LPD monitor tips and all issues go to the Prosecutors office, and if they believe it is a credible threat they will log the complaint. The mission is to provide a safer environment for kids to learn, and LPD works closely with the school district.

The schools are currently upgrading their cameras and technology and it should be up for the school year 2018/2019 which starts in September. Over the last year the schools in Ingham County have been holding discussions on best practices and lessons learned and have come up with a system to be used in all of Ingham County. This will focus on prevention, working and educating parents, students, supervisors, principals and law enforcement. Council Member Wood asked if they had trained children in the classroom. Chief Yankowski admitted they are still looking at how in-depth that law enforcement will go. Currently school district leaders are having those conversations. They all admit you cannot train for every scenario, but they will give them mind and tools to barricade and get themselves self away from the situation or fight. They will always be sharing tactics and lessons learned.

Council Member Garza asked if the school resource officers had technology the students can use to connect to them. Chief Yankowski stated not every student because in a scenario, one of the students could be the shooter and then everyone on the social media including the shooter would know the tactics for the situation. LPD currently has an application specific to any active violence, but nothing in place other than that for an alert system. The LSD has an email system that notifies students and parents.

Council Member Wood asked if the LPD is seeing greater or lesser amounts of weapons brought into the schools. The Chief confirmed that when the school gets notifications they will do proper checks and the same with school resource officers. The Officers monitor parking lots and walk the grounds. Regarding any arrests at the schools for weapons, those have

gone way down. If there is a weapon located and found to be a criminal activity, they take the findings to law.

Council Member Wood asked the Chief to explain the difference between D.A.R.E. and G.R.E.A.T. The Chief clarified that D.A.R.E. addresses the issues with drugs, and G.R.E.A.T. helps teach the kids not need to join gangs; helps mold their minds and encourage them for more positive interaction. G.R.E.A.T. itself stands for Gang Resistant Education And Training and was started in 2007 through a grant. When the grant funds ended, the Chief re-instituted the program in 2013 because of the good results. This program continues throughout the summer with events and a youth leadership academy. He concluded by reiterating the importance to have the LPD in the schools so they see the uniform and the cars in parking lot.

Council Member Hussain if they will assist the LSD with their policy decisions on this topic. The Chief acknowledged they have had discussions over the years, but at end of day it is the LSD decision. The LPD always makes sure their policies and procedures are forwarded onto LSD Administration.

Council Member Garza asked if the LPD had seen any opioid epidemic at the schools. Chief Yankowski detailed that that is unique because when looking at the data the average age was 40-44, and now is down to 34, but they have seen cases as old as 70 and then much younger in their teens.

Ms. Womboldt asked if the schools were working with the parents. Chief Yankowski referred her to the Lansing School district for that answer.

Ms. Purificato asked how much training is needed to be the volunteers the Chief mentioned earlier. Chief Yankowski stated it was 2 hour general protection training and how to work with kids.

Council Member Hussain asked to bring the Lansing School District in for an update, at which Chief Yankowski suggested Cordella Black.

Ms. Purificato acknowledges the LPD work in her neighborhood.

DISCUSSION/ACTION-continued

DISCUSSION – Community News Delivery – Gannett

Council Member Wood outlined the attempts that were made to have LSJ representative for the Community News. Mr. Conover was advised by LSJ not to come to a Committee meeting or meet with the City attorney. Council Member Wood confirmed a meeting with Mr. Conover with Community News was held before this Committee meeting to discuss the resident's concerns. The City Attorney had advised the Council that there has been a longstanding issue with the understanding that there is an issue with freedom of speech and they have right to distribute the newspaper. Council Member Wood informed the Committee that she was informed by Mr. Conover that the LSJ believes that once the papers are on the property, not on the sidewalk or in right of way they are doing their best. They admitted that they have instructed their drivers to stop and pickup multiple papers in a yard and then to stop delivering.

Council Member Wood then stated the LSJ is asking Council to educate the residents; however she noted that Council is continuing to work with the City Attorney's office on how to resolve. Mr. Waddell offered that the simplest charge is littering, but it is also the hardest to prove. It was not being contested that the papers are in the streets, but he admitted it is hard to prove who put it there. Mr. Waddell then noted there could also be an option to get a T.R.O with the court to stop them from distributing them.

Council Member Garza asked if there were street cameras that could catch the deliveries. Mr. Waddell you would have to find an area that had the camera and the issue. Again he noted a T.R.O. is an option but a long legal fight. Council Member Hussain asked Mr. Waddell about the Orion Township case, and which Mr. Waddell admitted they were not sure of the terms of the decision. Council Member Wood asked if there was any way to make them obtain a license similar to the donations bins and door to door vendors, this would then hold them accountable. Mr. Waddell answered that he would have to look at it. Council Member Garza asked if there was anything the residents could do. Mr. Waddell confirmed he heard there was a phone number they could call. Council Member Hussain stated they could email the Community News at communitynews@lsj.com.

Ms. Womboldt supported licensing the delivery person to the area they are delivering.

Council Member Wood stated that Mr. Conover stated he would take complaints and contact issues from Council Members.

Ms. Miles spoke in support of the residents contacting the advertisers in the paper.

Council Member Wood asked Law to research the option of licensing them similar to the collection bin ordinances, and if that is not possible, she stated the Committee would have to look into a particular neighborhood to be willing to testify for trespassing.

DISCUSSION– Zoning Ordinance Amendment Requiring Parking Lot Lighting-

Mr. Waddell outlined the proposed ordinance which is setting out minimum standards for lighting and focus on what lots are going to be required. Referencing the ordinance, Council Member Hussain asked why it had a starting size of parking lots with a minimum of 10 vehicles. Mr. Waddell stated it was a determination in law which they thought was realistic, but assured the Committee if they wanted to make it less or more he can make that change.

Ms. Womboldt spoke in opposition to 10 and asked for the Committee to consider less.

Mr. Waddell clarified that “loading” in the details was for loading docks, not the load/unload zones.

Mr. Waddell then went through the rest of the ordinance with the Committee.

Council Member Wood referenced the current situation at Logan Square and asked if the ordinance would address lighting on existing properties that are burnt out and not maintained. She then referenced the minutes from the last meeting where Law was asked to including a guideline or condition that no property could be considered grandfathered and not have to abide by the new ordinance. Mr. Waddell recalled that request and made note to make the correction, noting that the City Attorneys intent was that not only if you have them you have to fix them, but if you don’t have them you have to put them in.

Ms. Womboldt asked if there was a quota on how many a lot has to have based on the size of the parking lot. Council Member Hussain suggested Mr. Waddell check in the building code.

The discussion of the Committee moved to the listed exceptions. The question was raised on the “public recreational facilities” as an exemption, if that included the parking lot at the facility. Mr. Waddell was not able to verify or deny, so he stated he would look into it for clarity.

Law was asked to bring the ordinance with amendments back April 11th or for an earlier meeting the first week of April. Once the Committee finalizes it, it will go to the Planning Board.

UPDATES –

Commercial Board-Up's

No information was discussed.

3801 Walton Property Inspections and Next Steps

Council Member Hussain asked Mr. Waddell for an update on the violation letters that were going to be sent regarding the fence. Mr. Waddell assured them he had made all the contacts and provide the direction to the enforcement departments, but has not gotten a response. Council Member Wood stated she would contact Mr. McGrain to inquire into what was done and then send a letter from the Committee based on the guidance from law on what they were to do and ask for an update.

Holmes Street School Property Inspections and Next Steps

Ms. Waddell informed the Committee that there is a hearing scheduled for March 20th with Judge Alderson's court on the property.

Other

Council Member Hussain asked Mr. Waddell for an update on the discussion of a gambling ordinance that mirrored the State law. Mr. Waddell confirmed they are still in discussions because they might just adopt the State law.

Council Member Wood asked Mr. Waddell to bring back the criteria of what is a public nuisance.

Ms. Womboldt spoke on issues at Logan Square, loitering at the plasma Center and a Kroger site, and then asked about and email regarding Stabler and Hodge. Council Member Wood stated she would follow up.

Council Member Wood scheduled a Committee on Public Safety meeting for March 26th at 4:30 p.m. where Brian McGrain, Jim Bennett, Susan Stachowiak and Scott Sanford will be requested to attend to discuss Logan Square inspection updates and the fencing issues mentioned in the past at 3801 Walton and 804 LeGrande.

Council Member Wood started a discussion on the plasma center on Cedar and what appears to be loitering and dumping of medical waste. Council Staff was asked to obtain the loitering ordinance and forward to Law to review and determine how to enhance it. Council Member Wood asked Law if there was a State requirement on how to deal with medical waste. Mr. Aboud noted there are within their profession and in the center itself on how to maintain. If the dumping is not within the center they would have to catch the person dumping it.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Submitted by,

Sherrie Boak, Council Office Manager

Lansing City Council

Approved: March 26, 2018