



MINUTES
Committee on Public Safety
Wednesday, July 11, 2018 @ 3:30 p.m.
City Council Conference Room, 10th Floor

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting called to order at 3:31 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
Jim Smiertka, City Attorney
Lisa Hagen, Assistant City Attorney
Scott Sanford, Code Compliance
Chief Yankowski, LPD
Lisa Hagen, Assistant City Attorney
Mark Lawrence, Citizen Advocate; Mayor's Office
Ryan Peterson, Intern City Attorney
Scott Sanford, Code Compliance
Eric Pratl, LPD Community Service Officer
Brian McGrain, Economic Development & Planning
Kathy Miles
Andy Kilpatrick, Public Service Director
Elaine Womboldt
Cheryl Mason
Mary Ellen Purificato
Police Commissioner Coates
Council Member Washington – arrived at 3:42 p.m. and left at 4:47 p.m.

Minutes

No action at this time, Council Member Wood moved any action to the meeting on July 25, 2018.

DISCUSSION/ACTION:

RESOLUTION – Set Show Cause Hearing: Make Safe or Demolish; 500 Leshar Place

Mr. Sanford outlined the value and timeline on the property. It was red tagged on March 31, 2016, the estimate of repairs came in at \$136,740 and the SEV was \$16,900 with a land value at \$8,179 and building value at \$25,703. There was no historic value to the home, and no

permits have been pulled. Council Member Hussain asked why if, per the documents, the Demo Board saw it in April, 2017, why Council was just seeing it over a year later. Mr. Sanford stated they gave them time to fix it, however no action was ever taken, so the City is proceeding with the process. Council Member Garza referenced the photos, which were dated over 2 years old, and asked if there had been any progress since those photos. Mr. Sanford stated no. Council Member Wood asked how contaminants would be removed. Mr. Sanford stated it is outlined in the demolition requirements, and if the owner chooses to demolish, they would have to follow the same guidelines and restrictions in removing any contaminants. The material cannot be left on site.

Council Member Wood inquired to a property on MLK that is currently being demolished by the owner that was brought to his attention by Council Member Wood. Council Member Wood then asked the Department to provide information on if the taxes are paid on the properties.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION TO SET THE SHOW CAUSE HEARING FOR 500 LESHER FOR AUGUST 13, 2018. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

UPDATE – Ordinance- Trash & Recycling Bins

Mr. Sanford distributed a document that spoke to the Policy in the Economic Development & Planning office on reporting, tagging and removal of waste receptacles left at the curb. Mr. McGrain went through the handout and added that after the last meeting and discussion between his department and Public Service, they have implemented a sticker program to be placed on the containers in violation, dated and a photo to be taken. The policy will be that any employee in Code Compliance or Public Service can enforce the policy. A list of the addresses in violation will be kept in Public Service, and it will be tracked for violations, unresponsiveness, etc. and if the violation continues Public Service will remove the trash container after a third notice. Council Member Wood asked if Law had agreed to and signed off on the same policy for the recycling bins. Ms. Hagen admitted that Law has not been part of these discussions with the departments. Mr. McGrain stated he would work with Law on the policy. Mr. Kilpatrick added to the conversation that his department has reached out to the private contractors for their pick-up schedule. Council Member Wood asked if the departments were working on an educational piece for the public. Mr. McGrain stated that was not discussed but the sticker itself will be large enough to outline the process and why it was placed there. Council Member Wood requested a brochure to be created, and Mr. Sanford stated they can add the information to their existing "Good Neighbor" brochure. Mr. McGrain agreed to email the current information the department uses, and work with Law on the recycling policy.

Council Member Wood stated the topic will be discussed again at the July 25, 2018 Committee meeting, a Committee report will be created and sent onto the full Council. Mr. McGrain agreed to be at the July 25th meeting, offered to attend any neighborhood meetings and educate, and also work on an educational piece.

Ms. Purificato asked if the ordinance states you have to bag your trash before you put in the binds, and Mr. Kilpatrick stated it does not but the City requirements speak to it.

The Committee reviewed Draft 2 dated June 6, 2018 provided in the packet by Law. Those changes included eliminating any designation specifically to "Public Service Department" picking up the containers, and eliminating an reference to "City or private" collection to speak in general to all collection containers.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER GARZA TO INTRODUCE AND SET THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE AMENDMENTS TO CHAPTER 1060 ON JULY 23RD FOR AUGUST 13TH. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

UPDATES – Nikos Signage – Pennsylvania & Jolly

Council Member Wood clarified to Mr. McGrain that this was questioned as to if it was zoned for used car sales. Mr. McGrain stated he would have to follow up with Ms. Stachowiak. Council Member Garza also asked him to ask about the enforcement of the signs and flags on site. Mr. McGrain was asked to provide any updates before the next meeting, and if he was not able to he would be asked to update the Committee at the next meeting. Council Member Washington and Hussain also asked that they look into the flags on South Pennsylvania. Mr. McGrain acknowledged he would follow up and also informed the Committee that they just recently posted the open position of Corridor Enforcement. Council Member Wood stated she believed his department does send out letters for sign violation, but suggested that they set up a data base to track when the deadline has occurred so they can enforce and re-inspect.

UPDATES – Fire Inspections at Logan Square and Pleasant Grove/Holmes

DISCUSSION- Procedures on the Appointment of the new Fire Chief

Council Member Wood stated that after a conversation with the Mayor, he was not aware that the Committee and Council had asked for the fire inspectors to perform inspections and report on them, so they were scheduled to inspect the week of July 9, 2018. A report will be done at the next meeting.

Mr. Singleton was invited to speak on the appointment of the new Chief, and would be invited again.

DISCUSSION/Place on File – Rules of Procedures for the Board of Police Commissioners

Chief Yankowski confirmed the Commission agendas and minutes are on the website, and they do have public comment at the beginning and the end of the meeting. He stated his office should have forwarded the changes to Council Staff on Monday, July 9th but Ms. Boak confirmed they did not have them yet, so he stated he would follow up when the meeting was over. Council Member Wood suggested putting the agendas on the Police web page. Commissioner Coates was present to answer any questions.

Council Member Hussain stepped away from the meeting at 4:41 p.m. and returned at 4:42 p.m.

Ms. Womboldt acknowledged the structure of the committee meetings.

DISCUSSION – Gun Safety Task Force

Chief Yankowski assured the Committee that gun safety is a priority in the LPD and one of their goals is holding gun crimes in the criminal system with severe penalties. They have been Work with Major Cities on policies, what has been asked for of Congress, such as universal back ground checks, expanding the screening process and seeking red flag measures.

Council Member Wood noted one of her concerns was that the City Attorney or the Prosecutor's office drop charges and the City does not want to see that happen. Council Member Washington also spoke in opposition for pleading down on charges, and added that when it comes to gun crimes the City needs to do something to make the Prosecutors not plead down. She also encouraged the Task Force to work on an education piece in the schools, a legislative liaison to rally for the City. Chief Yankowski noted that there is a GREAT program that does deal with "do no result to gun violence" and they support an education for parents and youth.

Council Member Hussain suggested the Task Force first start with what can be done locally with a policy and staying within the Federal law. This Committee should first determine what the Task Force will look like and who the members will be. Council Member Wood suggested that at the next meeting Committee members bring back names of those they would like to see on it.

Chief Yankowski pointed out to the Committee that criminal justice is not just the LPD, but the City has a relationship with the County, State and Federal resources.

Council Member Wood suggested the Task Force could be an extension of this Committee and would meet on the off week of the regular Committee meeting for just the Gun Safety discussions.

Ms. Miles spoke on a personal experience with her neighborhood and the LPD, and Council Member Wood suggested she set up a private meeting with the Chief outside of this Committee meeting.

Ms. Purificato provided details on a "Challenge Day" program Holt schools does that she was made aware of.

Ms. Womboldt voiced her frustration on the plea bargaining down on charges attorneys and judges do.

Council Member Hussain spoke on the Holt school program outlined by Ms. Purificato stating that Lansing needs to focus on how to impact the places and spaces in the City that are critical.

Council Member Washington acknowledged the Committee for taking up the Gun Task Force topic, and hoped to think outside the box and also address issues with girls.

Council Member Garza suggested getting the youth involved in neighborhood clean ups.

OTHER

Chief Yankowski was asked if the LPD was aware of the homeless camping behind the businesses at S. MLK and Holmes, and he confirmed he was aware.

Council Member Hussain asked the Officer Arnold and the owner of 501 Walton be brought back in for a discussion on the activity at the property.

Council Member Hussain asked that the Committee hold a discussion on the issues with Lansing Connect, and Council Member Wood stated she would have Mr. Boyce, City IT Director attend.

Council Member Hussain asked for a discussion in the future on the ordinance regulating tall grass and weeds. Council Member Wood recalled an earlier discussion on the ordinance and changing the timeline to that which is used for snow removal.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Submitted by

Sherrie Boak, Council Office Manager

Lansing City Council

Approved: July 25, 2018