



MINUTES
Committee on Public Safety
Wednesday, August 29, 2018 @ 3:30 p.m.
City Council Conference Room, 10th Floor

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting called to order at 3:32 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
Scott Sanford, Code Compliance- left at 4:45 p.m.
Brian McGrain, Economic Development & Planning Director- left at 4:43 p.m.
Harold Leeman
Dr. Linda Brundage
Kathy Miles
Elaine Wombold
Mary Ellen Purificato
Chery Mason
Joseph Abood, Chief Deputy City Attorney
Andy Kilpatrick, Director of Public Service- left at 4:56 p.m.
Council Member Washington - arrived at 4:41 p.m.

Minutes

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER GARZA TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM AUGUST 8, 2018 AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Public Comment

Public Comment taken during each agenda item.

DISCUSSION/ACTION:

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER GARZA TO DISCHARGE THE RECENTLY REFERRED REAPPOINTMENTS TO THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

RESOLUTION - Make Safe or Demolish; 500 Leshar Place

Mr. Sanford provided information off the overview sheet in the packet, including the SEV \$16,900; Building Value \$25,703 and Estimated cost of repairs \$136,740.00. The Department

is requesting 60 days to make safe or demolish. He also confirmed that since the City Council hearing there has been no contact from the owners and no permits have been pulled.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HUSSAIN TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION TO MAKE SAFE OR DEMOLISH THE PROPERTY AT 500 LESHER PLACE IN 60 DAYS FROM THE DATE OF THE RESOLUTION.

Mr. Sanford informed the Committee that it will take between 60-120 days for them to demolish if it comes to that because they will have to abate, remove the basement, driveway and curb.

MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Council Member Garza asked if they test for radon and was informed no.

ORDINANCE – Amendments to Chapter 106-; Broaden and Clarify Enforcement of Trash and Recycling Bins

Mr. Kilpatrick was asked if there was a policy on enforcement and he stated that once there is an ordinance in place they will have the policy. Council Member Wood clarified that she wanted a policy the night the Ordinance is adopted so they can inform the public of the policy at the same time. Mr. Kilpatrick noted it appeared the ordinance states they can start ticketing so can start ticketing, and they already pick up carts in violations. He was asked if he had had any information on if Granger will participate in the enforcement of their carts. Mr. Kilpatrick acknowledged communicating with them, but did not have a definitive answer. Council Member Wood stated she would call Granger herself. Committee Members Hussain and Wood concurred to not move forward with the Ordinance until a policy is in place. Council Member Wood asked if this new ordinance speaks to not allowing or allowing carts to be placed at the front of the house once they are required to move them from the curb. It was confirmed the interpretation of the ordinance is that it addresses not leaving them at the curb. The discussion was held with Law, Committee and staff about the ordinance, page 1, line 10-13 and if it should be considered to be eliminated or rewritten to address the potential concern. Law was asked to look into the potential language change, and was referred to the definition for front yard in the enforcement of front yard parking. Council Member Hussain inquired into if a policy should be created for private haulers, and Mr. Kilpatrick stated it could be written in their annual contract.

Sign Enforcement Update

Mr. McGrain assured the Committee that Code Compliance has been out picking up all signs in the right –of-way. Regarding illegal signs on private property, Ms. Stachowiak does notice and follow up. Mr. McGrain also updated them on earlier questions for enforcement with the Lansing Center vendors and their signs. He noted that the contract that LEPFA uses does speak to it, but currently not a strong enforcement from them, so he is in discussions with them. Council Member Wood suggested the contract include a bond or deposit for signs to be removed. She then asked if the department was contacting the owners who place their name and numbers on the signs to inform them it is illegal, at which Mr. McGrain acknowledged they are cleaning them up and making calls. Mr. Abood assured them that there is an ordinance and it can be enforced, so Council Member Wood asked Mr. McGrain to forward the names and numbers to Law. Mr. Abood was then asked if it is a repeat offender, can they be fined and prosecuted if not caught in the act of placing the sign. Mr. Abood noted they would need the evidence, so Mr. McGrain and Mr. Abood agreed to meet and report back to the Committee. Council Member Wood asked Mr. Sanford to document the number of signs the officers are picking up every Friday, the amount of time spent and City funds spent on it. He

was also asked to reach out to surrounding communities for their enforcement policy. Council Member Hussain asked for an ordinance.

Ms. Miles gave her opinion that Code Enforcement has more to do than pick up signs.

Council Member Hussain asked if the staff was pro-active on window sign enforcement. Mr. McGrain stated staff is enforcing and some is complaint based. The question was if it was still a violation if they took it off the window and then hung it unattached to the window on the inside. Mr. McGrain stated it was still a violation.

Policy Update – Trash & Recycling Bin Enforcement
Addressed earlier during the Ordinance Amendments.

Inspection Update – Logan Square

Mr. McGrain noted that Building Safety did do an inspection and on a recent inspection it was noted that the pot holes were filled, all illegal signs were removed, and the other items were addressed. In addition violation notices on the trash were written, Mr. Shaw met with the owner, walked the property and went into the vacant units. His office is currently working with Law and got an administrative search warrant what was executed today, 8/29/2018. Lastly Mr. McGrain informed the Committee that Fire and Building Safety were on site today as well. Council Member Wood confirmed that Officer Blake called and stated Fire was going on site. She then asked if there were any sewer issues on the property. Mr. Kilpatrick confirmed that the sewer is private up to the public right of way, nothing has collapsed so Public Service is not pursuing anything on site. He added if there is a defect in the private system, he would then have to meet with Law to see if there is there is anything the City can do. Mr. Abood added that his understanding was that initially there was a concern the pot holes on the property were from a sinking sewer system, however the City is no responsible. Mr. McGrain was asked to have a report on the inspections he mentioned earlier at the September 12, 2018 meeting. Council Member Wood then inquired into if fire suppression is required and there are issues, can the property be forced to close. Mr. Abood stated that under the 2009 Fire Code, which is a statutory code and strong for municipalities it can be addressed.

Ms. Womboldt spoke on behalf of Rejuvenating South Lansing and supported the work on the site.

Council Member Hussain questioned work in units and if there were permits. Mr. McGrain stated that Mr. Shaw was on site, and aware of the unit facing Holmes where there is a Chinese restaurant going in. He will have Mr. Shaw check all sides of the buildings for ongoing construction with or without permits.

Enforcement Update – Pleasant Grove Holmes Shopping Center

Council Member Wood went through the agreement and asked Mr. Abood how it was signed and received, and he stated he was not sure how it got signed, and believed it was sent to the office. Going through the agreement, Mr. Abood could not confirm all the liens were cleaned up on the property, the agreement stated cameras would be installed in 60 days, the scheduled closing on the property sale between the current owner and SWAG is scheduled to occur on September 10, 2018 and Council staff was requested to verify it occurs. Any progress on the parking lot repairs has not been witnessed. There was referenced to the concrete being removed from the site and the owner crossing out that option, which was now questioned by the Committee since the purchasers agreed to it on June 27th. Law was also asked if the purchasers (Singh's) were invited to this meeting, and Mr. Abood confirmed he called, left messages and went to the Von's on August 28th. He added he has not had any meaningful conversations since he since the letter was signed.

Council Member Wood asked for details from Liquor Control on the sales at that location. Mr. Abood stated he spoke to the Attorney General and Von's had a conditional license under MPR Liquor LLC, and the application for a permanent license was denied due to violations. An appeal is set for 9/18/2018. The business is operating under the new owner with the conditional license. The conditional license will have to be surrendered and placed in escrow. Council Member Wood asked if Law will speak up during the appeal on 9/18/2018, and Mr. Abood stated that the City is not a party and LPD will prosecute with Liquor Control. There is no agenda and they do not take public comment. Mr. Abood stated he would look into the nature of the MPR Liquor LLC license. Council Member Wood asked if they could do an administrative search warrant, and Mr. Abood stated that even though there is a sale to the Singh's, Dr. Salam is still the owner of record because it is a land contract sale. The title will be with Dr. Salam until the land contract is paid in full. If the inspections are refused then the judge can issue a search warrant. Council Member Wood suggested Council subpoena so the owners and purchasers come to Committee. Mr. Abood stated that a subpoena would be backed by contempt powers of the court but this case would not be contempt.

Council Member Hussain stepped away at 5:10 p.m.

Council Member Washington spoke on her frustration with what is occurring in the area of this property.

Council Member Hussain returned at 5:11 p.m.

The Committee and Law spoke on the area of Lansing, liquor licenses, enforcement and options.

Council Member Garza stepped away at 5:12 p.m.

Mr. Abood offered to provide Council Member Wood with the contact information for Terry Quindy to talk to Council about Liquor Licenses.

Council Member Garza returned to the meeting at 5:14 p.m.

Discussion – Gun Safety Task Force

Committee Members were asked to provide names to the Committee Chairperson on their recommendations for members. Council Member Hussain concurred with a recommendation from Council Member Spadafore on inviting Teresa Szmanski with the School District and former LPD Interim Chief. Dr. Brundage introduced herself and provided the Committee with a flyer from the Michigan Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence.

FY2019/2020 Budget Policies and Priorities

Council Member Wood asked the Committee to review the document and make any recommendations by September 7, 2018. Council Member Garza suggested a priority of a 2nd Ward Community Policing Officer.

Other

Council Member Hussain made a complaint on 3801 Walton after talking to Officer Arnold who informed him it was a public safety nightmare.

Council Member Hussain made a complaint on the multiple abandoned fireworks stands, specifically at Metro Bowl, and asked for enforcement.

Council Member Hussain made an inquiry into the enforcement of the recent ordinance on newspapers in driveways. Council Member Wood stated material on the enforcement needs to be created for social media.

Council Member Wood asked that the City Clerk be present at their September 12, 2018 meeting to discuss the status of the Medical Marihuana Licensing. Mr. Abood stated that the recently ruling by Judge Jamo stated no licenses will be issued until all appeals are heard.

ADJOURN

Submitted by 5:40 p.m.

Sherrie Boak, Council Office Manager

Lansing City Council

Approved: September 12, 2018