



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

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m. by Council Member Hussain

ROLL CALL

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

OTHERS PRESENT

Sherrie Boak, Council Staff
Steve Swan, Building Official
Joseph Abood, Chief Deputy City Attorney
Lisa Hagen, Assistant City Attorney
Council Member Spitzley
Harold Leeman
Kathy Miles
Officer Trevor Arnold
Jason Wilkes
Andy Kilpatrick, Public Service Director
Chief Purchase, LFD
Marshaun Blake, Fire Marshall
Kyle Kaminski
Elaine Womboldt

Minutes

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HUSSAIN TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 12, 2018 AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED 2-0.

Public Comment

Public Comment taken during each agenda item.

DISCUSSION/ACTION:

UPDATE – 3801 Walton & Future Enforcement

Council Member Hussain updated on the history of the site and enforcement. It was noted a meeting was held with the owner and promises were made, but items were not addressed. Joe confirmed City Attorney office was following up with departments on other properties, but not this one. He acknowledged they were asked to reach the owner and invite to future

meeting. Officer Arnold updated the group on status on the property and his efforts, concluding that he was to the point where they cannot make progress without help from the owners. Concerns included bed bugs, mice, no lease agreements, and the call log documented 96 calls in one year which is a decrease from the previous year which came in at 164 calls. Council Member Garza stated he had a conversation with the neighboring property owner and they too are concerned. He then asked Mr. Swan to investigate the electrical at the property because complaints. Council Member Hussain said his concerns that the owner had promised things but never complied, so he was now asking Law what to do next. Mr. Abood stated he would follow up with Officer Arnold on the facts and specifics to see if there is a case on the health, safety and welfare of the tenants. If so they could pursue an administrative search warrant to check for code and building safety violations. Council Member Garza asked if all apartments were safe to be rented, and Mr. Swan referred to the inspection report on Unit 7, which is the only one currently tagged unsafe. Council Member Garza suggested that if the owner cannot keep up on the maintenance he should let it go to a management company. Council Member Hussain suggested inviting the owner again to a Committee meeting and have him agree to a letter of agreement. Council Member Spitzley asked how many properties this owner had in the City, and no one could provide that. She then suggested it be looked into and an overall agreement on all properties be done. Council Member Hussain agreed, noting all the properties could be like this one, and he wanted a quick fix on this one.

Ms. Womboldt spoke on her frustration with the property and the landlord.

Council Member Garza asked Mr. Swan if their office had been on site over the last two weeks, and Mr. Swan confirmed they had not, but will make a personal site visit.

UPDATE – Logan Square

Chief Purchase informed the Committee about the inspection, where they did have an issue of access and did do inspections of the occupied units. They were having issues with getting into the unoccupied units, but after a meeting with the LFD and Fire Marshall, and hearing Code Compliance was allowed and found deficient fire suppression, so this made it possible to inspect by the LPF because of the fire safety. A letter was then sent to the owner with the intent to inspect, via certified mail. This gives the owner an amount of time to respond and have the inspection, but they never received communication, so they worked with the City Attorney and got a warrant for inspection. Once they got the warrant, the owner did respond and they inspected August 28th. The owner was on site and went through with the inspectors, and since that time Chief Purchase stated he has spoken to him on numerous occasions. Fire Marshall Blake provided the results of the inspection where he met with owner, went into unoccupied suites, found debris and furniture but not much. The majority of the violations, the Fire Marshall stated, were untested or unmaintained fire suppression, which would be due to the business at the time. Once it is installed it is to be operating and secure whether vacant or not. The debris and furniture, the owner was told to remove. Since the inspection, the Fire Marshall has received word the owner has contracted with a suppression company to address those items, which was confirmed to begin on October 8, 2018. There is a meeting scheduled the week of October 10th, 2018 to review and he was also asked to secure the unsecured areas. He added, they will ask, even though it is not required, to make changes on site to make it aesthetically pleasing. Chief Purchase noted that the owner has called him numerous occasions to keep him updated and he has been required to put lock box, with keys to all the suites, on site, which is a code requirement. The code required placard for hazards to fire fighters the LFD will install. Regarding the suppression system, the LFD made an allowance that the system will not be active, only utilized when there is a fire. With no heat in vacant units, it would freeze so they do not have to be active for vacant units. Council Member Hussain asked Mr. Swan if the damaged signs were fixed and pot holes repaired. Mr. Swan stated that building went with fire and noted some cracked walls, foundation issues and

have spoken to the owner who has an engineer working on it, and so far they are within the time frame for a 30 day correction notice. He then distributed a redevelopment opportunity flyer from EDP that was done and provided to the owner who was interested and also interested in selling. Mr. Abood was asked for an update from Law, and stated that the City Attorney was still working on department interviews. Council Member Hussain asked if they would be done by October 10th, and Mr. Abood could not commit to a date.

Ms. Miles stated her opinion the private sewer was deteriorating based on what she thought she heard at past meetings. Mr. Kilpatrick stated it is not in emanate danger, but they do have issues they need to address.

UPDATE – Pleasant Grove Holmes Shopping Center

Council Member Hussain stated the only item to address was an update from the City Attorney office on his “interviews” with all the departments involved in this project, and since it was stated earlier they do not have that there will be no update at this meeting. This item was moved onto the next agenda. He did update the group on items he was aware of such as the Beacon Sports Complex is progressing, SWAG closed on the property on the corner for the Town Square and there are discussions on the reactivation of the school in the area.

Chief Purchased admitted his department has been addressing this property as well, and as Logan Square, they have attempted to reach the owner to get access and have sent certified letter. If there is absence a response, the Chief stated they will seek an administrative search warrant to access.

Council Member Hussain asked Mr. Swan if there were confirmed rat droppings at Logan Square and he confirmed.

ORDINANCE & DISCUSSION - Amendments to Chapter 1060; Broaden & Clarify Enforcement of Trash and Recycling Bins

Council Member Hussain recapped the last Committee meetings where the Committee questioned if the ordinance not speaking to where the container has to be placed is enforceable if they leave it in their front yard behind the sidewalk. Mr. Abood stated that Law does not have any issue with the language in ordinance, and they do not have the right to tell people where, outside of the right of way, to keep their dumpster. He stated if the Committee say it is not enforceable they can take the language out, but in his opinion Mr. Abood stated he say no need to take out, but it would provide to the residents that this is the desire of the City. Council Member Garza stated it had no “teeth” for enforcement it can be taken out. Council Member Hussain understood keeping it in for guidance, but was concerned Council would get calls on why they are not enforcing. Council Member Hussain moved the conversation to the Committee meeting on October 10, 2018. Mr. Abood stated his office would provide a proposed alternative draft without the language so they have both versions to make their decision. Council Member Hussain asked if there will be a substantive change since the public hearing, that they would have to have a second hearing. Mr. Abood stated that it would not be so substantial, but will confirm with the City Attorney. Ms. Boak informed the Committee and staff that recently it was brought to the office's attention that Waste Management might also be picking up residential in addition to commercial and therefore the Clerk's office was contacted to check Waste Management contract to make sure that was authorized and if not to contact them and have them come in. Mr. Kilpatrick was not aware of Waste Management picking up residential and was directed to speak with the Clerk on an update.

RESOLUTION –Concur with Ingham County/City of Lansing Community Corrections Advisory Board Reappointments- Mick Grewal; Jacqueline Straub

MOTION BY COUNCIL GARZA TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION JEREMY FOR THE REAPPOINTMENTS OF MICK GREWAL AND JACQUELNE STRAUB TO THE INGHAM COUNTY/CITY OF LANSING COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS ADVISORY BOARD. MOTION CARRIED 2-0.

Other

Ms. Womboldt asked for information on a rumor she heard that City employees have to clean the ramps, particularly the South Capital ramp, and are being exposed to needles without appropriate hazardous material training on it. She asked for the Committee to look into a procedure. Mr. Kilpatrick stated it would not be hazardous training but "sharps training" and they would have the equipment. He noted it was not Public Service, but Parking. Council Member Hussain stated they would reach out to Mr. McGrain and Mr. Gamble on the training and reporting process. Mr. Leeman asked for a bigger focus on the whole area.

Ms. Womboldt spoke about her concern with a plaza located across from Metro Bowl, and her assumptions that there is a club in one unit, concern with a door buzzer at the opening of a beauty shop, one unit having blacked out windows, and admitted she smelled marihuana in the area. She asked for information on what constitutes a "club". Mr. Swan stated his office could inspect it based on her opinion there was "gathering" outside the unit she believe is a "club". Ms. Hagen stated she would look into a definition of "club" and Council Member Hussain stated he would ask Council Member Wood to place on the next agenda.

Council Member Hussain spoke briefly about a task force in the past that's only focus was on problem properties and as they addressed them another property was added.

Mr. Wilkes asked what the residents are to do if the trash carts are not removed, and Mr. Kilpatrick stated they can speak to the Clerk, Public Service, Council, the Mayor or the City Attorney.

ADJOURN

Adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Submitted by Sherrie Boak,

Recording Secretary

Lansing City Council

Approved as presented: October 10, 2018