



MINUTES
Committee on Public Safety
Tuesday, October 30, 2018 @ 4:00 p.m.
City Council Conference Room, 10th Floor

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:01 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
Mandeep (Manney) Singh
Balbir Singh
Steve Swan
Jim Smiertka, City Attorney – left at 4:46 p.m.
Joseph Abood, Chief Deputy City Attorney
Kyle Kaminski, Lansing City Pulse
Council Member Spadafore arrived at 4:08 p.m. - left at 4:40 p.m.
Council Member Washington- left at 4:07 p.m.
Kathy Miles
Elaine Womboldt
Mary Ellen Purificato

Public Comment

No comment at this time.

DISCUSSION:

DISCUSSION–Pleasant Grove & Holmes Shopping Center; Alleged Nuisance Violations

Council Member Wood stated to the owners, it was the Committee's understanding that the City Attorney office had made multiple attempts to coordinate a meeting, but when that was unsuccessful the Committee took the next step they have in the Charter to seek an investigation into the property. Since that time, the Committee received acknowledge that the owners got the letter and agreed to meet.

Mr. Mandeep Singh stated they have multiple phone numbers and with members of the family traveling, any contact attempt might have been to a number that was out of the country at the

time. Mr. Smiertka confirmed his office called a number, spoke to someone when they made other attempts the phone just rang busy.

Council Member Hussain provided his experience with the business in the past, referenced issues such as drinking on site, public urination, tenants concerned with onsite consumption, pan handling, etc. and ended by stating in his opinion, he believes the property owners are responsible for the issues.

Council Member Garza stated his concern that the property was an issue and been a continual discussion for the last year at this Committee.

Council Member Wood voiced concerns with the intersection issues and her belief that other owners have stepped up faster than this business. She noted that she appreciated the stipulations that were agreed upon in June and signed to in August.

Mr. Mandeep Singh first confirmed that they do not sell to minor, and their belief is that when the minor is refused sale, they go outside and find someone to come in and buy for them. They then deny the sale to that person also if they believe they are going to give to the minor. He continued addressing the items noting cameras were installed in the parking lot which they watch from the counter, and they have put up "No Loitering" signs.

The Committee and the Singh's went through the agreement signed in August.

1. Close on the sale of the Plaza and clear up liens on the titles within 90 days from June 27, 2018. - **Mr. Mandeep Singh confirmed the sale was complete and he had the signed, sealed documents from the Register of Deeds.**
2. Install working cameras in front of all tenant spaces within 60 days of closing on the sale of the plaza. - **Mr. Mandeep Singh confirmed the cameras were installed, buy at this time were not registered with the LPD.** Council Member Wood stated they have to be registered with the LPD. **Mr. Mandeep Singh confirmed the cameras were all installed two days ago, are along all sides of the buildings, and on a DVR 7-day rotation. They have also installed 2 cameras inside the store.**
3. Upon closing of the sale of the Plazas, they will sell the "Town Center" portion to South West Lansing Action Group. - **Complete**
4. Complete parking lot repairs. - **Mr. Mandeep Singh stated they are waiting on any repairs until the City park project is done, because they want verification of their property lines.** Council Member Hussain stated the project would not occur until spring 2019, and encouraged him to speak to Rachel with SWAG who should have a survey on the property from the SWAG property sale. **Mr. Mandeep Singh stated he would speak to his dad when he arrives back in 7 days about the project.** Mr. Singh was asked to provide an update to Council Office Manager with 7 days on their schedule and plans for the repairs.
5. Effectively communicate with LPD regarding any and all inappropriate and illegal acts. - **Mr. Mandeep Singh stated there are LPD cars in the parking lot daily and they do not have an issue with their presence there. They have placed "No Loitering/No Trespassing" signs up, but have not done the "No Loitering" letter with the LPD because it asks for specific names to be filled in and they do not know those names. He acknowledged that once they placed the signs up and told those customers they filed a letter, those customers have not been hanging around.** Council Member Wood stated she would provide them with the phone number for Officer Booth, the Community Policing Officer so they can meet with him to work on strategy. *(Phone number provided at end of meeting)*

6. Upgrade lights to LED lights within the Plaza. – **Mr. Mandeep confirmed all those were done.**
7. (Item crossed off agreement) Remove the concrete barriers that invite loitering, and consider other options such as bollards. – **See discussion later in minutes.**
8. Sign and post a “No Loitering” letter. – **Mr. Mandeep Singh stated again they have posted signs, but not signed the letter.** He was asked and acknowledged that he would get it done within seven (7) days. He was asked to speak to Officer Booth on this time also.
9. Sign up for the “Scram Program”. – **Mr. Mandeep Singh did not acknowledge this was done.** Owners were encouraged to speak to Officer Booth on this item as well.

Mr. Balbir Singh voiced a concern with a homeless man on the property they have been dealing with. Council Member Wood stated she would make sure Officer Booth was aware.

Council Member Wood asked the Singh’s why they sell cups of ice. Mr. Mandeep Singh stated people do buy them for the ice and pop. He cited other stores, including Quality Dairy, that also sell cups of ice. Council Member Hussain and Wood voiced their concerns with the sale of them and asked them to consider other options. Mr. Mandeep Singh suggested using clear plastic cups so if the purchaser did put alcohol in it anyone outside could see it. Council Member Wood wanted other options and asked them to consider options by the next time they meet.

Council Member Wood asked if they were still selling individual cigarettes and Mr. Mandeep Singh stated they stopped back before their first meeting with the City.

Council Member Wood asked Mr. Swan if there were any outstanding building safety issues, and Mr. Swann confirmed there were items not serious in nature nor different than issues found at other locations. Council Member Wood asked him to provide a list to the Committee at a later meeting. The owners were then asked if they were in compliance with all the Fire Marshalls inspections, and Mr. Mandeep Singh stated LFD was given access to all the units and he was waiting for the report which was mailed to him. Council Member Wood asked for both lists; fire and building safety; within 30 days.

Council Member Hussain acknowledged the Singh’s for the work done so far, but still had a concern with the nuisance issue and owners not present on site

Mr. Smiertka asked the Singh’s if they check driver’s licenses for cigarettes and alcohol, and Mr. Mandeep Singh stated they have a scanner they swipe the card through to verify age for both items.

Mr. Smiertka asked about the item on the agreement that was “struck out” when signed; removal of the concrete barriers. Mr. Balbir Singh stated they are in place to prevent vehicles from driving into the building, which has occurred twice and insurance did not cover the damage. He asked if the City assisted with the installation of bollards because he would be interested in their assistance. Council Member Hussain stated he was not aware of private property getting assistance with bollards and stated his concern with the barriers and loitering. Council Member Wood stated she would check into bollard install assistance.

Mr. Abood acknowledged he met an individual at the store, however it was not either of the representatives at this meeting. Mr. Mandeep Singh stated that would have been his uncle.

Mr. Smiertka encouraged the owners to contact LPD when there are people or customers trespassing or drinking alcohol on site, and if they press charges to contact his office; Office of

the City Attorney, so they are aware the charges are coming. This will allow them to offer and engage in enforcement activities.

Council Member Wood provided the owners with the phone numbers for Council Office Manager, the Wise Road LPD Precinct, and the Officer Booth. She added that once the minutes and the timeline on the agreement is updated, it will be emailed to them.

Ms. Miles was concerned with them selling cups of ice.

Ms. Womboldt spoke on recent events in the area, and her concern also with them selling cups of ice.

The Committee spoke to the owners on the opportunity in the area and encouraged them to be involved with the neighborhood and the tenants.

ADJOURN

Adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Submitted by Sherrie Boak,

Recording Secretary

Lansing City Council

Approved as presented: November 7, 2018