



MINUTES
Committee on Public Safety
Thursday, October 3, 2019 @ 3:30 p.m.
City Council Conference Room, 10th Floor

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Council Member Carol Wood, Chair
Council Member Patricia Spitzley, Vice Chair - excused
Council Member Adam Hussain, Member

OTHERS PRESENT

Sherrie Boak, Council Staff
Amanda O'Boyle, Assistant City Attorney
Lisa Hagen, Assistant City Attorney, Council Research Assistant
Jim Smiertka, City Attorney – arrived at 3:37 p.m.
Mary Bowen, Assistant City Attorney
Brian McGrain, Economic Development & Planning Director
Scott Sanford, Code Compliance
Eric Brewer, Council Internal Auditor
Mary Ellen Purificato

Public Comment

No public comment at this time.

MINUTES

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HUSSAIN TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 19, 2019 AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED 2-0.

DISCUSSION

DISCUSSION – Ingham County 911 Dispatch Director

Council Member Wood informed the group that Council staff received a last minute communication that the 911 Dispatch Director would not be able to attend, and the Committee determined the next date they would be attending would be the November 7, 2019.

Due to quorum, the Committee meeting on October 17th has been moved to October 24th.

DISCUSSION -

Discussion – Correction Notice Fees and Fines

Mr. McGrain acknowledged he could not speak to the justification of the amounts but could talk about repeat offenders. Council Member Wood stated at the last meeting there was a

discussion on if it is a fee or fine, and a fee cannot exceed the cost of what it costs to do business, so before making any amendments the Committee was trying to find out what metric was used to determine the amount. Mr. Sanford confirmed that the administrative fee is \$265, and he calculated the fees and fines in the document before the Committee he looked at hourly, fringe, cost of car and discussed with Mr. McGrain and OCA. The changes included second notice fees of \$75, a 3rd notice of \$150 and subsequent to \$300 per visits. The fine for grass is at \$265, but those complaint, they noted, have decreased. Council Member Wood ask how many complaints were repeat complaints. Mr. Sanford stated they are not able to sort them that way. Council Member Hussain asked if there was a decrease due to the symptom of down officers or no rechecks. Mr. Sanford acknowledged premise is consistent, but residents are realizing that it is cheaper for them to just comply and mow then to have the city send a contractor. Council Member Wood asked Mr. McGrain what the impact on the budget would be and Mr. McGrain stated it would not be a giant impact to budget, get because they are currently getting 90% of compliance, and this would be an additional incentive. Council Member Wood inquired into how many complaints they get on trash and mowing from people who cannot afford to correct it. Mr. McGrain confirmed they try to work with them. Council Member Wood asked Mr. Sanford to work with Mr. Brewer on a spreadsheet to document repeat complaints.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION TO RAISE THE FEES FINES FOR CORRECTION AND CODE ISSUES. MOTION CARRIED 2-0.

Discussion – Ordinance on Relocation Assistance

Ms. Hagen acknowledged she was still working on it and had no updates. Mr. Smiertka asked to combine this item with "Discussion - Ordinance on Fines for City Staff Man-Hours on Continual Offenders/Landlords of Rental Properties". The OCA representatives stated they working on these items, including speaking to District Court and researching the former Ordinance Violations Bureau the City used to have. Mr. Smiertka did added that they found that the Ordinance Violations Bureau does not serve a purpose, and the process in place now with District Court is working and all money comes back to the City. If the civil infraction is issued then they would be into the District Court and the court could file for receivership, and handle it there. Mr. Smiertka encouraged an early intervention approach that would be to write a ticker immediately on the property owner and get it in front of the courts. Ms. O'Boyle spoke briefly on Woodside and the current status. Mr. McGrain added to the discussion that his department has been using the pink tags and actively working on getting some serious issues addressed. He asked that the Committee allow the department to work with the OCA cases; case by case. Council Member Wood asked if there was a log to show the number of hours spent on each property by the OCA, Code and Building Safety, so when they go to court to get the costs they can also go to the judge for costs incurred by the City. Ms. O'Boyle stated the OCA court costs and time are set by statutory standards, so she was not sure if these can be collected. Mr. Smiertka added to the response that they are all under the State civil infraction limit and might be able to think about increasing the civil infraction fines. Council Member Wood noted to the OCA, that their document could at least be used show the City tax payers how much is being spent. She then asked the OCA to be back before the Committee on both these items before the end of the year. The OCA confirmed he was currently working on a booklet he hoped to have complete in the next 2 weeks, and Mr. McGrain noted he already had a meeting set up with Jackson Code Enforcement on their process.

Discussion – CPTED – Crime Prevention through Environmental Design

Chief Green at the last meeting stated he would reach out to MSU and Ms. Hagen was going to continue to reach out to Grand Rapids on their ordinance. This will be added to the agenda on October 24, 2019.

Discussion – Committee Report on Ordinance Amendments to Chapter 404, Section 404.13
Parking

Council Member Wood noted to the Committee that earlier in the week the Mayor's office proposed the document that was in front of them now, Section 404.11. The OCA was asked their comments on who work on it with the Mayor, and Mr. Smiertka stated they only looked at the language. The Committee asked that Ms. Harkins and the Mayor be invited to the October 24, 2019 meeting. Ms. Hagen was asked by Council Member Wood to compare the Committee Ordinance for Chapter 404 Section 404.13 with the recent document from the Mayor.

OTHER

Council Member Wood asked Mr. McGrain for an update on the vacant positions in Code Compliance. Mr. McGrain confirmed they will be hiring within the next month, current do have an officer out, so essentially down a code and premise officer. The clerical openings are currently filled with temporary staff, and they hope to have those posted within the week.

ADJOURN

Adjourned at 4:09 p.m.

Submitted by Sherrie Boak,

Recording Secretary

Lansing City Council

Approved as presented: October 24, 2019