



MINUTES
Committee on Public Safety
Thursday, October 24, 2019 @ 3:30 p.m.
City Council Conference Room, 10th Floor

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:47 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
Lisa Hagen, Assistant City Attorney, Council Research Assistant
Mary Bowen, Assistant City Attorney
Scott Sanford, Code Compliance
Samantha Harkins, Deputy Mayor
Chief Green, LPD
Professor Linda Nubani, MSU
Brian McGrain, Economic Development & Planning
Council Member Garza
Mary Ellen Purificato

Public Comment

Council Member Garza inquired in to the status of work orders at Autumn Ridge apartments and provided information that he was told there are rodents in the walls, there is no landscaping maintenance, some appliances do not work and he then submitted photos to Mr. Sanford. Mr. McGrain asked that all complaints be forwarded to his office. Council Member Wood asked Mr. McGrain to follow up with Council Member Garza after they inspect the site and they can provide and email update to the Committee.

Minutes

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HUSSAIN TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 3, 2019 AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED 2-0.

DISCUSSION/ACTION

RESOLUTION – Set Show Cause Hearing; Make Safe or Demolish; 818 Nipp Avenue

Mr. Sanford went through the case details including a red tag date of 1/2/2019, the estimate cost of repairs at \$6,350 because it is a garage only, and the Board is asking for 60 days make safe or demolish. At this time there have been no contact made by the owners.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HUSSAIN TO SET THE SHOW CAUSE HEARING FOR 818 NIPP AVENUE FOR NOVEMBER 18, 2019. MOTION CARRIED 2-0.

RESOLUTION – Set Show Cause Hearing; Make Safe or Demolish; 819 Cleveland

Mr. Sanford informed the committee this proper had a fire on 8/30/2016 and was red tagged on 11/29/2017. It went before the Demolition Board on 6/27/2019 who are asking for 30 days make safe or demolish. Currently, he added, there has been no contact by the owners nor have they applied for permits. The estimated cost of repairs is \$71,400.00. Council Member Wood asked if there was any insurance in escrow since it was a fire, and Mr. Sanford was not able to provide that information at this time. (After the meeting, Mr. Sanford emailed the Committee stating that there was no insurance money being held by the City).

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HUSSAIN TO SET THE SHOW CAUSE HEARING FOR 819 CLEVELAND FOR NOVEMBER 18, 2019. MOTION CARRIED 2-0.

RESOLUTION – Set Show Cause Hearing; Make Safe or Demolish; 3309 Viking

Mr. Sanford confirmed the property was a single-family resident with an estimate cost of repair at \$107,000 and after the Demolition Board met on July 25, 2019, they are asking for 60 days make safe or demolish. At this time, Mr. Sanford stated that there were no permits, no actions taken by the owner and no contact from the owners.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HUSSAIN TO SET THE SHOW CAUSE HEARING FOR 3309 VIKING FOR NOVEMBER 18, 2019. MOTION CARRIED 2-0.

DISCUSSION – Update on LPD Substation at Walnut St. Apts.

Council Member Wood recapped what Chief Yankowski had stated to the Committee in July on the project including secure doors, keypad entry and additional security items added to the room. There was a discussion at some point on who would cover the cost, but at this point Council is not aware of any discussions, decisions or actions. The LPD has informed the Committee that there is now a designated CPO in North Lansing; however, the neighborhood is still anxious for this substation. Chief Green confirmed his knowledge that TWG has been asked to make the modifications, and the most recent communication he has with the owners, TWG, was in August when they agreed to put in the key pad. He added that his communications with the management is that TW itself is still working on the action plan to put in place. Council Staff was asked to send a letter to the owners to attend a future Committee meeting, either 11/7/2019 or 11/21/2019.

DISCUSSION – CPTED- Crime Prevention through Environmental Design

Council Member Wood started the discussion by noting Council is looking at problematic areas and where to increase safety. Professor Nubani provided examples of where CPTED has been successful and brief history on the design method, which began in 1970's. At that time, it received funding from the Department of Justice, however it ceased so there are not many case studies after the late 1980's in the United States. In other countries they have seen an 80% drop in crime. Areas in the United States that are starting to utilize it again have incorporated lighting, landscaping and addressed signage to increase a drop in crime.

The Committee and Professor Nubani briefly discussed options for liquor stores to increase visibility which included the reduction of signs to only cover 20-25% of the windows, and what some cities are using which is a \$300/day fine if the sign is not removed.

Council Member Garza stated his interest in any testimony from people who have experienced the crime due to the lack of change Council Member Wood pointed out to Chief Green and Professor Nubani that with the recent ordinance changes and the new Corridor Officer, the

City is receiving complaints from the business owners and sign companies. Professor Nubani noted that some people resist because there is not a lot of creativity, but the business could use a digital screen, could still use signs but not over 20-25% of the window. She offered to provide details on what can, cannot work in CPTED, and offered to provide key findings that would support it. She noted that she has also done research with criminals, who state they look at visual access in a business; they want to see and not be seen, so the City needs to look at blind spots outside the store, the signs outside, landscaping, etc. Council Member Hussain asked her thoughts on barriers in front of buildings, and also asked if she had looked at the Grand Rapids Ordinance. Professor Nubani stated she has looked at code, which is similar to other communities, she has researched. Council Member Wood asked if there are any justice funds and Professor Nubani admitted they had hoped to have grant funds, however they had applied jointly with the City LPD and MSU on a reduction grant but they did not get it. They will apply again. Professor Nubani was asked to look at the Grand Rapids ordinance. Mr. McGrain admitted his office has been working with the OCA on what his office has seen since enforcing the new sign ordinance and having a Corridor Officer, and hoped to bring back their concerns with the ordinance to the Committee in the future. Currently they are working through each situation case by case. They have been able to connect businesses with façade grant improvement programs. Council Member Hussain asked that the group discuss how the ordinance can be good for the business and the patrons. Professor Nubani offered to research information and provide it to Council, and Council Member Wood encouraged Mr. McGrain to work with the professor on a potential public service announcement on City TV providing additional facts. Mr. McGrain acknowledged the request and noted they are working on an enhanced communication platform.

Other

Council Member Hussain asked Chief Green for an update on a noise nuisance at 1603 Victor. Chief Green stated the initial step would be for LPD to speak to the owners because have found that 70% can be resolved verbally between the resident and LPD. If it is not resolved, a violation is written up and it goes through the OCA.

Council Member Hussain then asked about 4700 Pleasant Grove, and Chief Green stated that special operations is working on the case.

Discussion/Action - Continued

DISCUSSION – Committee Report On Ordinance Amendments to Chapter 404, Section 404.13 Parking

Ms. Harkins informed the Committee that the Mayor worked off what was adopted, the Draft 4 and the comparison memo done by the OCA. She noted the Mayor's version spoke to the limitations and most of the other changes were clarification. Council Member Wood noted that the Committee was working on only two (2) zones; downtown and residential. At one point Council was told the Mayor's intentions were for each neighborhood to decide if they wanted it, which is not supported by the Committee. The Committee understands that the downtown area that was addressed in the ordinance drafted by the Committee on Public Service addressed those residents who live downtown where there is no vast parking, but this Committee wants the other residential area in the City to be all one zone. Ms. Harkins stated her understanding was that from the first ordinance, downtown was created and the Mayor would create the other zones. Council Member Wood informed Ms. Harkins that in 2019 when this Committee began finalizing an ordinance they were told by the OCA that the newest adopted ordinance on the parking sponsored by the Committee on Public Service was for downtown but also created other zones. Therefore before that could amended they were advised to create this recent Ordinance for Chapter 404, Section 404.13 for Residential Parking. Ms. Harkins admitted she was not aware of that statement so they were working under the understanding that the Mayor was creating zones. Council Member Wood stated

this Committee is not interested in doing that which would put one neighborhood up against another in their determination. Council Member Hussain asked if the Mayor was interested in the “parking must be needed” piece in the ordinance, and Ms. Harkins confirmed the Mayor agrees it should be determined by the Parking Manager. Council Member Hussain confirmed that during the process and adoption of the ordinance for the downtown Council Member Spadafore reached out to this Committee and assured them it did not address residential, it wasn’t until this Committee wrote the ordinance to address residential 2am – 5am parking that Mr. Abood stated the first ordinance by the Committee on Public Service did address residential so it would have to be amended after this new ordinance was adopted. At the time it appeared that Council did not understand that zones were incorporated into that first ordinance. Therefore the Committee is looking for two (2) zones, one downtown and one residential; the initial plan with Mr. Gamble (Parking Manager) was to pass this new ordinance for Chapter 404 Section 404.13 by September or October with it to take effect January 1, 2020 allowing the department time to create the permits, provide resources for enforcement and provide education to the public. Mr. McGrain concurred and has a commitment from the Mayor to provide the resources. This would not be LPD, a new parking officer with limited hours and potentially more hours in the future. Council Member Wood encouraged Mr. McGrain and Ms. Harkins to speak to the Council Internal Auditor who has statistics on the previous parking officer who did it before and the revenue it. In addition to writing tickets for no 2am – 5am parking that officer was able to address front yard parking and parking in front of hydrants. Ms. Harkins was invited back to the November 7, 2019 meeting with an update from the Mayor, and Ms. Hagen was asked to look at the notice requirements for the public hearing and it zoning would apply.

ADJOURN

Adjourned at 4:53 p.m.

Submitted by Sherrie Boak,

Recording Secretary

Lansing City Council

Approved as presented: November 7, 2019