



MINUTES
Committee on Public Safety
Thursday, December 12, 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
Lisa Hagen, Assistant City Attorney/Council Research Assistant
Mary Bowen, Assistant City Attorney
Brian McGrain, Economic Development & Planning
Scott Sanford, Code Compliance
Council Member Garza- left at 4:24 p.m.
Greg Venker, Assistant City Attorney – arrived at 3:34 p.m.
Sam Harkins, Deputy City Attorney - arrived at 3:34 pm,
Andy Kilpatrick, Public Service Director
Chris Swope, City Clerk
Vicki Parker
Vicky Wright
Ariana Parker
Andrea Parker

Minutes

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HUSSAIN TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 5, 2019, 2019 AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED 2-0.

Public Comment

No public comment at this time.

Discussion/Action

DISCUSSION – Communication from D. Wengelkowski RE: Collection Bins- Update from City Clerk on the Process

Mr. Swope outlined the process his office takes with bins, permits and complaints. When a complaint is reported to his office they take steps to see if it is unlicensed, then send letter to the owner of the bin and the property owner, but ultimately it is property owners responsibility to address that. In the case of a notice for a bin that is unlicensed, they have 7 days, and after

7 days and the bin is not removed, then the Clerk's office moves forward to enforcement. Mr. Kilpatrick added in this case, Public Service did not end up having to remove it, they contacted the owner of the bin and after telling them they had no permit, it was removed.

RESOLUTION – Traffic Control Order #19-015; Stop Signs-N. Cedar at Howe Avenue

Mr. Kilpatrick did a brief summary of the project located in Ward 1, which is an intersection where they believed there was not adequate sight distance, so they are recommending stop signs making a 4 way stop intersection. Council Member Wood asked if they would be trimming trees in the process, and Mr. Kilpatrick stated they will not, but if there is an issue they will contact the owners to suggest they trim their trees. Council Member Hussain confirmed the recommendation for this change came from the LPD.

Council Member Wood suggested to Mr. Kilpatrick that the TCO include the Ward # so that the Ward Council Members can reach out to their constituents on the proposed change.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HUSSAIN TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR TRAFFIC CONTROL ORDER #19-015. MOTION CARRIED 2-0.

RESOLUTION – Traffic Control Order #19-002; Stop Signs-Eastbound Hunter Blvd and Westbound Ridgewood Avenue at Hunter Blvd/Wildwood

Mr. Kilpatrick pointed out this location was in Ward 2, and the order calls for a change from yield signs to stop signs due to the research of the area of an approach speed less than 20 mph.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HUSSAIN TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR TRAFFIC CONTROL ORDER #19-002. MOTION CARRIED 2-0.

RESOLUTION – Traffic Control Order #18-064; Removal of Parking Prohibition; North Side of S. Genesee from Verlinden to Memphis

Mr. Kilpatrick noted this was in Ward 4, located near the former GM Plant. Currently parking is prohibited on both sides, and after discussions with the residents in the area, 92% were interested in allowing it on one side, so this TCO will implement that. Currently it is already occurring on a trial basis.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HUSSAIN TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR TRAFFIC CONTROL ORDER #18-064. MOTION CARRIED 2-0.

RESOLUTION- Traffic Control – RESCIND #94-028 and #94-029; Parking along both sides of Palmer from Willard Ave. to Dunlap St and Rosadell Ave from Almar Lane to Washington Ave.

Mr. Kilpatrick identified this TCO south of the McLaren Greenlawn Campus in the 3rd Ward. This resolution addresses multiple streets and was initially put in place before McLaren built their parking structure. The City sent out petitions to the residents, treating each street differently, giving them multiple options. The results were not strong either way, so they went with majority of residents wanted and the Public Service Board concurred. The area will be revisited once McLaren moves.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HUSSAIN TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION TO RESCIND TRAFFIC CONTROL ORDER #94-028 and #94-029. MOTION CARRIED 2-0.

DISCUSSION – Autumn Ridge Apartments; Health Safety Follow Up

Ms. Andrea Parker noted to the Committee she had put stop payment on her rent check, put in escrow. She continued her time telling the Committee that she did not believe the inspection was done when they stated it would be, she provided examples of what occurred during her

inspection, and had provided a list of items to maintenance and would forward that to the Committee. Ms. Parker noted she still had concerns there were still raccoons in the building and witnessed a large hole in the attic firewall between the units. Lastly she added her concerns on retaliation.

Ms. Wright stated her concerns when the units become vacant, they are not cleaned until someone new moves in, therefore allowing bugs, mice and other rodents to dwell in the units until then. Lastly, she noted the outside lighting has not been addressed.

Ms. Vicky Parker had no additional concerns since the last meeting, but did hear recently that some of the laundry areas are flooding.

Council Member Garza referenced the recent email from Mr. Vincent and asked Mr. Sanford why another extension was granted until the end of January. Mr. McGrain first apologized for the earlier refusal of documents to Council Member Garza at his office and stated he would be getting the documents he asked for. He then addressed the extension mentioned by Mr. Klein and said they will not be doing any further extensions, and as of today they have \$6,600 in fines for failure to comply citations. Mr. McGrain then noted this will not go past January and he is working with the OCA on a conference call with the complex management and his office. Council Member Garza noted he had spoken to the complex management once, but they are now not returning his calls, he then personally apologized to the residents in the room.

Mr. McGrain then explained that with the extent of the \$6,600 in fines it does constitute a “pink tag” but that also represents a warning to all the tenants that things are serious and they should start escrowing their rent. In this case because of the time of year, they will not be physically using the “pink tag” but considering it as virtual tag. Council Member Wood asked them to physically place the “pink tag” on all the vacant units that require it so the management cannot rent them out until they comply. Mr. Sanford stated a pink tag is a warning notice that the City could ask you to move out, to start escrowing the rent, and if it is vacant they cannot rent out, but they do not want to cause a panic to the tenants, but beginning in January they will and also notify the State who will then cease any Section 8 payments. Regarding any vacant units, Mr. Sanford suggested “red tags” so they have to stay vacant, and Mr. McGrain confirmed that could be looked into.

Council Member Wood then referenced an email from Ms. Stachowiak in EDP on the site lighting, which stated because of the age of the project, the office no longer has the site plan so there is no way to confirm any lighting conditions. She did stated she would be contacting the owners informing them they are in violation of the current lighting ordinance and have to comply with working lights on the property. Council Member Wood then asked if the complex streets had ever been dedicated to the City and if so lighting would have been part of that and the City could address it. Council Staff contacted Public Service from the meeting to confirm but received no response during the meeting. Discussions in the meeting lead to believe it was not a City street since all the addresses had one address – 900 Long Blvd.

Council Member Garza then asked Mr. Sanford if Code had any updates on the raccoons. Mr. Sanford stated they have asked the management for a copy of the invoice from the pest company, and regarding the hole in the attic space, that could be there based on how it was built for ventilation, he would have to have building look at that.

Council Member Hussain asked Mr. McGrain again to make sure his staff is aware that if a Council Member requests information they can have access to that per the Charter. He then referenced that statement that the rental certificate expired, but two weeks ago at the last Committee meeting when he asked he was told they had their 60 day notice and still had 30

days, so this information is critical and a concerns since it is now being stated it expired 8 months ago. He asked that they begin ticketing immediately. Mr. McGrain confirmed he is working on processes in place and are committed to get through the units in a timely manner. In this case the rental certificate was up for renewal in the end of 2018 and they started the process in March, 2019. Regarding the information requested by Council Staff and again by Council Member Garza, his office is working on it and Mr. Sanford stated they would get to Council Friday or Monday. The Committee suggested the information on a flash drive so they do not need to make all the copies.

Council Member Wood informed the public that there was material present on the table from the City Housing Ombudsman to take and also that they invited MSU Housing and if they received information from them, they would forward that to them. In conclusion, she recapped that the City would be issuing penalties, they are researching the responsibility for the lights, "pink tags" will go up after 1/1/2020, but in the meantime will address any vacant units now and take those, so that the management cannot rent them out.

Ms. Andrea Parker stated she heard that residents from Capital Village were placed in Autumn Ridge vacant units because of issues at their complex. Mr. Sanford confirmed he received a communication on December 10th that once unit was vacated because of heat.

Council Member Wood stated, that unless there is a major development, this will be referred to the 2020 Committee for their first agenda.

Status of 3801 Walton

Code Compliance noted that Mr. Walter Allen will be going his rental inspection on 12/18/2019, they were billed for the renewal in June and paid July, 2019. Council Member Garza asked to be able to be on site during the inspection. Mr. Venker could not provide a verification at this time, so stated he would research and get back to the Council.

ORDINANCE – Amendments to Chapter 404, Create Section 404.13; Permit for Residential Overnight Parking

Council Member Wood went through the draft #7 of the ordinance, noting the only changes from the last meeting were on page 2, line 20 adding "current"; page 6, lines 16 making provisions for 4 temporary permits annually, and on page 8 eliminating lines 5 which appeared to be a duplicate of item 10 on line 6. Since that last meeting, Council Member Wood noted that there had been discussions with the Mayor, and they were interested in changing page 6, line 16 back to 2 permits in a 72 hour period. Ms. Harkins confirmed they would recommend that change. Council Member Hussain confirmed he had a conversation with the Mayor, but also that during their multiple meetings in the community and hearing from LPD and Public Service workers, their goal was to make the vehicles move and address the congestion on the residential streets.

MOTION BY HUSSAIN TO AMEND DRAFT 7 ON PAGE 6, LINES 13-16 TO STATE NO MORE THAN 2 TEMPORARY PERMITS MAY BE GRANTED IIN THE SAME 72 HOUR PERIOD TO THE SAME RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS.

Council Member Wood asked Ms. Harkins if someone could have an annual permit and get 2 temporary permits for 72 hours throughout the year, and Ms. Harkins stated the way she read the ordinance it did not prohibit it. Mr. Venker quickly referred the Committee to the definition for units or residential address, and the Committee agreed to keep it at per "residential address", not per "unit".

MOTION CARRIED 2-0.

Mr. Venker confirmed that with Draft 8, it will address all the changes from the last meeting in Draft 7 and now making the recent change in temporary parking. It will also be noted it will take effect March 1, 2020. Mr. McGrain acknowledge the Committee for the three months, noting they hoped to have things ready sooner.

The Committee reviewed the recent resolution for the fees, which noted \$125 for an annual permit and the temporary permits at \$30 each. Council Member Wood noted that the way it was written it would be in effect until 7/1/2020, unless during the budget process the department could ask for an increase if they believe the fee is not covering their needs. Council Member Hussain asked if there was any program for an economic hardship. Mr. McGrain admitted they had not contemplate that, but have heard the discussions. Ms. Harkins admitted the Mayor's office has also heard those questions, but at this time does not have any action planned.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HUSSAIN TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR THE FEES ASSOCIATED WITH ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS CHAPTER 404 SECTION 404.13.
MOTION CARRIED 2-0.

DISCUSSION – Ordinance on Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design

Council Staff confirmed the LPD Chief was invited on 12/6/2019, however did not respond and was not resent. The item was moved to the Committee agenda in 2020.

DISCUSSION – Ordinance on Social Clubs

Ms. Hagen confirmed she did not have any updates and was continuing conversations with Grand Rapids who currently have ordinances for specific clubs. Council Member Wood asked her again to get with Grand Rapids and report back.

OTHER

Committee reviewed a 2019 Committee report and their recommended policies with Animal Control.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HUSSAIN TO APPROVE THE 2019 COMMITTEE REPORT WITH THE ONE CHANGE IN THE FIRST PARAGRAPH TO "IMPLEMENT".
MOTION CARRIED 2-0.

Council Member Wood stated she would write up a summary of the Committee's 2019 discussions, decisions and topics for the 2020 Committee.

ADJOURN

Adjourned at 4:43 p.m.

Submitted by Sherrie Boak,

Recording Secretary

Lansing City Council

Approved as presented: February 13, 2020