



MINUTES
Committee on Public Safety
Thursday, February 13, 2020 @ 4:00 p.m.
City Council Conference Room, 10th Floor

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Council Member Jeremy Garza, Chair
Council Member Carol Wood, Vice Chair
Council Member Brian T. Jackson, Member- arrived at 4:48 p.m.

OTHERS PRESENT

Sherrie Boak, Council Staff
Chief Green, LPD
Lisa Hagen, Assistant City Attorney/Council Research Analyst
Scott Sanford, Code Compliance- left at 4:55 p.m.
Mary Bowen, Assistant City Attorney – left at 5:03 p.m.
Lucianna Solis
Kathy Toby
Andrea Parker, Autumn Ridge
Amanda O'Boyle, Assistant City Attorney (Present for Autumn Ridge Discussion)
Council Member Hussain- left at 4:55 p.m.
Joseph Abood, Chief City Attorney – arrived at 5:00 p.m.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Minutes

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 12, 2019 AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED 2-0.

Discussion/Action Items

RESOLUTION – Appointment of Lucianna Solis; At Large Member; Fire Board of Commissioners; Term to Expire June 30, 2022

Council Member Garza referred the Committee to the application asking Ms. Solis if she had anything more to add. Ms. Solis outlined her residency in Lansing and career in the medical field. Because of her experience with first responders Ms. Solis stated her interest in giving back to the community and particularly with this Board. Council Member Wood asked her intentions to meet with the public on their concerns and interests, and Ms. Solis admitted she had already met with Steve Purchase the Board Chairperson, discussed social media pages,

meetings at the Fire Stations, working with local publications and reach out to the other boards she currently sits on. The Committee encouraged Ms. Solis to also attend the monthly Ward meetings.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF LUCIANA SOLIS TO THE FIRE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS. MOTION CARRIED 2-0.

RESOLUTION – Appointment of Kathleen Tobe; 3rd Ward Member; Fire Board of Commissioners; Term to Expire June 30, 2023

Council Member Garza reviewed the application, referenced appointments to other Boards in the past and Ms. Tobe's strong advocacy in the neighborhoods. Ms. Tobe added to the conversation that she has also participated in the Citizens Academy and the LPD Academy. Council Member Wood encouraged Ms. Tobe to bring a discussion to the Board upon her appointment, to review and look into SMART 911. Council Member Hussain spoke in support of Ms. Tobe and her appointment to the Board.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF KATHLEEN TOBY TO THE FIRE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS. MOTION CARRIED 2-0

RESOLUTION – Set Show Cause Hearing; Make Safe or Demolish; 1522 W. Holmes Road

Mr. Sanford noted to the Committee that the single-family home was in front of the Demolition Board on 9/26/2019 where they made a decision for on make safe or demolish in 30 days. The documents noted the building was valued at \$52,200, and the estimated cost of repair came in at \$119,000. Mr. Sanford concluded by stating they have had not contact with the owner, there has been no work or no applications for permits he then asked for 60 days make safe or demolish. Council Member Wood noted the original red tag was February, 2019 but it never went to the Demolition Board until September, 2019. Mr. Sanford outlined the 180-day timeline that is required unless there is eminent hazard, per the State Ordinances. Council Member Hussain asked for confirmation that after the 180 days, then enter into the Make Safe or Demolish, then the Demolition Board sets and holds the hearing, they make their determination and referred to Council, and Mr. Sanford confirmed.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION TO SET THE SHOW CAUSE HEARING FOR MARCH 16, 2020 FOR 1522 W HOLMES ROAD. MOTION CARRIED 2-0.

RESOLUTION –Set Show Cause Hearing; Make Safe or Demolish; 215 S. Homer

Mr. Sanford informed the Committee that since the process began, the owner has passes away and now they are addressing the issue with the family. Recently on inspection, 90% of the building is on the ground an so they are working now with the family and the OCA to see if it can be cleared. The pictures were taken before it was 90% on the ground, but before it would cost \$10,000 to repair. Council Member Wood asked when the hearing was and told it was June 27, 2019 and Ms. Hagen confirmed it was red tagged May 3, 2019. Council Member Wood then asked what the delay in processing this was, and Mr. Sanford stated at the time it did need repairs, but now that the owner has passed away nothing has been done. A letter was sent to the family February 5 2020 and they are working with the OCA to remove under debris, but at this time they are looking for 60 day make safe or demolish.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION TO SET THE SHOW CAUSE HEARING FOR MARCH 16, 2020 FOR 215 S HOMER. MOTION CARRIED 2-0.

DISCUSSION – Walnut Park LPD Sub Station Status

Council Member Garza noted to the Committee that the Council staff did reach out to the owners, TWG, however they did not respond.

Chief Green confirmed he met with representative from TWG and been on site and they have and have completed everything promised. He noted, the only item they have an issue they tinted the windows which they can't see out of from the office. There has been an arrangement for them to install an LPD camera, and planned to be installed the week of February 17, 2020. The LPD has signage for the building and the office and coordinated a designated parking spot. Council Member Wood asked about the coordinate with Community Policing to utilize background checks on potential tenants. Chief Green could not speak to if that had occurred, but supported things were moving in the right direction. Lastly, Chief Green confirmed they are proposing new lighting in the senior complex area and been in conversation with BWL. Council Member Wood asked the topic be included on the February 27, 2020 agenda for an update on the background checks and lighting at the Abigail complex.

DISCUSSION – Autumn Ridge Apartments; Health Safety Follow-Up

Council Member Garza referred to emails from the Economic Development & Planning Department with updates on the pink tags and parking lot lighting in January, and then asked Mr. Sanford for updates since those emails. Mr. Sanford referred the question to Ms. O'Boyle in the OCA office. Ms. O'Boyle noted that currently the units are pink tagged, along with the units in Capital Village. Mr. Sanford noted there was 618 unit. Ms. O'Boyle continued, noting the pink tags were for compliancy on rental registration which is expired and the owners are currently working on the issues to get a rental registration. After the property was tagged, Ms. O'Boyle confirmed the owners reached out to the OCA and they met with them and their management. At that time, they reached a tentative agreement, set a timeline for fixing the issues. Council Member Garza asked if there were any fines charged to the owners. Mr. Sanford stated there was \$7,000 in failure to comply and once it goes to court the judge will issues fines. Council Member Wood asked if fines were tacked on for removing the tags, and Mr. Sanford stated that per Mr. Abood in the OCA, they are waiting on the courts and at this time they do not have a decision. Council Member Wood asked them to be charged for each tag they removed, and Ms. O'Boyle noted the City is trying to work with the owners. Council Member Garza noted is frustration that they have been too considerate. Ms. O'Boyle confirmed they have strict deadlines and are doing spot inspections today, 2/13/2020. Council Member Garza asked how far back the violations went, and was told by Mr. Sanford the first inspections were May, 2019. Council Member Garza then asked if when they do follow ups if they are finding they are in compliance, and Ms. O'Boyle noted that every time they inspect, they have a target goal. Council Member Wood asked for the OCA to send the agreement they made with the owners to the Committee.

Ms. Parker in unit #234 outlined issues she has had with her unit, communications from the management and her pending court date due to escrowing her rent.

Council Member Wood asked Mr. Sanford how many units were red tagged and was told 15 in Autumn Ridge and 12-15 in Capital Village. He was asked for a count of the vacant units, and Mr. Sanford could not provide that number. Council Member Wood reminded the group at that earlier meetings in the end of 2019 the Committee asked all vacant unit be red tagged since they were advised if they were red tagged, they couldn't be rented. Ms. O'Boyle stated that they cannot rent a pink tag unit either, at which Council Member Wood noted that no one is watching to see if they are renting the pink tag units. She then asked if OCA or Code has worked with the City Housing Umbudsman to make sure he is having a tenants meeting with the tenants that are affected. Ms. O'Boyle stated she was not sure if Mr. McDonald had a

tenants meeting, but he was invited to an internal meeting with the OCA and Code Enforcement. Council Member Wood asked Council Member Garza to invited Mr. Willard Walker, the interim HRCS Director to a future meeting and also asked him if Mr. McDonald has had a tenants meeting so they know what their rights are.

DISCUSSION – Ordinance on Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design

Chief Green acknowledged he had reached out to Professor Nub ani to attend, however she was not able to attend. He did note that she is currently working on a CPTED Program at MSU. The Committee asked that Professor NuBani be invited to the March 26, 2020 meeting. Ms. Hagen was asked to review the red line ordinance from Professor NuBani and draft an ordinance and reached out to Chief Green to collaborate with him and Professor NuBani.

DISCUSSION – Ordinance on Social Clubs

Ms. Hagen acknowledged she has been in discussions on implementing an ordinance, but did not feel she was getting a clear direction on what the intent is to regulate. At the end of 2019 she was asked to look at other municipalities and found much of those related to zoning locations. Ms. Hagen continued, stating that it appears the City wants regulations, and the City currently does have ordinances on show licenses and noise. Council Member Wood asked Ms. Hagen to provide a list of what the City currently has in the ordinances that can be used for enforcement. She also asked Ms. Hagen to look into liquor licenses at social clubs, clubs where it is BYOB and how that differs from enforcement from Liquor Control and situations that don't trigger a violation of Liquor Control. Council Member Jackson asked if there was a working definition of "social club". Council Member Wood responded that they have been told it can be anything from The Elks Club, a Union Hall, private establishment or bike club. She also noted, that the concern with social clubs partially came from concerns from LPD on regulating them and giving them the best tool to address. Chief Green acknowledged that the Michigan Liquor Control, which deals with social clubs, but their definition is non-profits such as fraternal clubs or entity and have non-profit status. Lots of the clubs where they have had issues do not have the non-profit status so not governed by Michigan Liquor Control. Ms. Hagen was asked to have something at the March 26, 2020 meeting, in the form of the list of tools the LPD can use along with a draft ordinance. If she is not prepared by March 26, 2020, it can be added to the April 9, 2020 agenda.

DISCUSSION - Status of 3801 Walton

Council Member Garza stated to the Committee that in late 2019 there was a resolution asking for the property to be addressed as a nuisance. Mr. Abood informed the Committee that according to the OCA the owner has completed all items on their list and there has been a reduction in calls to LPD. Council Member Garza stated he has been on site, and there is still no video on the cameras for the Community Policing Officer to review. He then asked if the LPD has been involved in the background check on the leasing agreements, and Chief Green confirmed the vetting of leases have not been done and his officers have voiced their frustration. Council Member Garza asked for a walk through the site with a code officer. Council Member Wood asked the City Attorney that is addressing the property attend the meeting on March 12, 2020 to provided direction on how to address the outstanding items. Council Member Garza stated he would speak to Code for a site visits and Chief Green asked that the Community Policing Officer also participate in that visit.

Other

Council Member Wood asked Council Member Garza to invite LFD Chief Mackey to the February 27 2020 or March 12, 2020 meeting.

ADJOURN

Adjourned at 5:11 p.m.

Submitted by Sherrie Boak,

Recording Secretary

Lansing City Council

Approved as presented: February 27, 2020_____