



MINUTES
Committee on Public Safety
Thursday, February 27, 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

OTHERS PRESENT

Sherrie Boak, Council Staff
Chief Mackey, LFD
Lisa Hagen, Assistant City Attorney/Council Research Analyst
Chief Green, LPD
Mary Bowen, Assistant City Attorney
Stephen Purchase, Fire Board Commissioner
Joe McDonald, HRCS Housing Umbudsman
Dan Komm, Lansing Fire Department Paramedic

Public Comment

No public comment at this time.

Minutes

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 13, 2020 AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Discussion/Action Items

OVERVIEW – Lansing Fire Department – Chief Mackey

Chief Mackey provide information on their recent annual report, and then summarized his work history and personnel work ethic through all position in a fire department before becoming the City of Lansing Fire Chief. Highlighted in the annual report it was noted that the LFD had a 36% higher call load increase, and roughly 90% of the calls are EMS, with one station in Lansing being the 16th busiest in the country. This call load takes an effect on the officers. Chief Mackey the highlighted the conditions of the Fire Stations in the City. Council Member Wood informed the Chief that Council has asked for an evaluation of all fire station facilities over the past years in their Budget Priorities. Chief Mackey confirmed that practice has not been done, and would supported the practice. Chief Mackey briefly noted that they have an engines from 2009, 204 and will be getting a new engine in June. They started with 4 ladder trucks, and now only have 2, so there needs to be a replacement plan. Council Member

Wood informed Chief Mackey that Council was told they pay a fleet fee, and money from this fleet fee fund would go into their vehicle, but now understand that currently the funds are paying for the garage, not set aside for vehicles. Chief Mackey was not able to speak to that process, however did inform the Committee in this new budget he is requesting a new ladder truck and new engine. Lastly, Chief Mackey stated he has begun a process with a sub-committee to review policies, best practices and operating guidelines

Mr. Purchase, from the perspective of the Fire Commission, they have looked at their own rules and living up to the Charter responsibilities. Their annual report will align with the fiscal year so it can be related to budget dollars. In their upcoming report, they will see the inventory of the equipment; age, when replace, and plan to replace. The Commissioners have been holding their meetings at the different Stations so they can approach the officers when on site to see what they are looking for.

Mr. Komm spoke about the stations and equipment life span, and the need for tools and equipment to get the job done. Council Member Garza asked the representatives to provide any data they can to Council so Council can assist them in getting the tools and equipment they need. Chief Mackey acknowledged that the City's budget is not like a budget he has worked with in the past. These budgets go up and down every year, instead of planning and pacing out for one purchase per year. Council Member Wood asked if the Fire Department Staff was familiar with how much of the public safety millage they get; broken out from streets, police and fire. Looking back they should see the impact if the millage was not renewed, what impact it would have on them. Mr. Purchase added there is an option to use a Capital Improvement option to separate the personnel from equipment. He added that in 2019 the State changed the way they did fire allocation grants and now are fully funded.

Council Member Wood asked how much funding was the City receiving from the fireworks licensing. Chief Mackey was not able to provide an amount.

Council Member Wood asked what the ISO rating was and if there will be changes in the future, and Chief Mackey informed the Committee the rating is a 2, and there will be changes, but some insurance companies do not use ISO.

Council Member Wood asked Chief Mackey to clarify a statement he made to the Lansing City Pulse on the recent Ordinance for no parking 2am – 5am. Chief Mackey stated when he was asked, they had not gotten a complaint, but the City does have small streets, and with people parking on streets, it could hinder their travel. Council Member Garza noted for the record that he has spoken to first responders and they have told him it is hard to get a rig down the street. Mr. Komm added that if there is snow it changes everything on the streets, and a large rig and with cars on the street create problems.

Council Member Jackson asked if it was possible to not both a rig and ambulance to the same scene. Chief Mackey stated they are running 2-person rescues, and some calls require more than 2 person, so it all depends on the call types. In the future if they can staff the emergency vehicle/ambulance with 3, they could take off that double vehicle.

Chief Mackey stated he would provide a list of EMS, the numbers on how many, number of EMS responders and engines. He did add that they do need more.

Mr. Komm spoke on the response teams and appreciated the respect given by the City.

UPDATE – Ordinance on Social Clubs – “Tools Currently Available”

Council Member Garza referenced an email sent before the meeting from Ms. Hagen requesting clarification on the “ask” to draft an ordinance. He noted that after a discussion with the 2019 Committee Chairperson, his understanding was the “ask” was from the LPD Chief initially. Ms. Hagen provided a list of items that can currently regulate labeled “Social Club Tools”. Ms. Hagen then asked the Committee that if there is a desire on what “social clubs”, she would need direction because at this time she does not have a specific request. Council Member Wood recommended that since the request initiated with the LPD Chief, Ms. Hagen meet with him on the perimeters. Ms. Hagen confirmed there was a meeting in the past on social clubs with the Chief, and at that time he did not ask for an ordinance. At that time, were getting requests from LPD on how to resolve matters in the court system. Ms. Bowen assured the Committee that the “tools” have been effective, because there was District Court action. Once a matter is brought to the OCA, they review the facts and pursue in court. Ms. Hagen added that if Code or OCA is having specific issues, but not enough to write a report, they can refer to the Property Enforcement Team, and talk about specific properties. Council Member Wood asked the OCA to reach out to Chief Green to see if he has enough in the “tool box”, and if he does not what he would be looking for. Ms. Hagen agreed to work with the Chief and would email him and CC the Committee Chairperson.

DISCUSSION – Update on Walnut Park Property - Chief Green

Chief Green was not in attendance, and an invitation was extended to the next meeting, 3/12/2020.

DISCUSSION – Update on Autumn Ridge

Council Member Wood acknowledged that the topic for discussion is because of ongoing issues at the property, and tenants being advised to place their rent in escrow, and now facing eviction because of it. Mr. McDonald has been asked to attend this meeting to provide additional information on what avenues the tenants have. Mr. McDonald noted to the Committee they can provide advice on their rights, but cannot provide legal advice. The Committee discussed options for an outside meeting to provide residents with advice, including inviting MSU Housing Clinic or Legal Aid and Mr. McDonald. The Committee was able to finalize a date (after the meeting) for Wednesday, April 8th at 6pm at the Plumbers and Pipefitters Hall.

ADJOURN

Adjourned at 4:56 p.m.

Submitted by Sherrie Boak,

Recording Secretary

Lansing City Council

Approved as presented July 9, 2020_____