



MINUTES
Committee on Public Safety
Thursday, July 9, 2020 @ 4:00 p.m.

via Zoom audio/video: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81413124503>; Meeting ID: 814 1312 4503
Dial- 312-626-6799

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- absent

OTHERS PRESENT

Sherrie Boak, Council Staff
Scott Sanford, Code Compliance
Barbara Lawrence
Lisa Hagen, City Attorney Office
Mary Bowen, City Attorney Office
Jim Smiertka, City Attorney
Amanda O'Boyle, City Attorney Office
Patty Greer
Kyle Kaminski, Lansing City Pulse

Public Comment

No public comment at this time.

Minutes

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 27, 2020 AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED 2-0.

Discussion/Action Items

RESOLUTION – Make Safe or Demolish; 1522 W Holmes Road

Council Member Garza briefly went through the timeline of the process which included red tag date of February 26, 2019, the demolition board hearing on September 26, 2019 and the show cause hearing on March 16, 2020. The cost of repairs came in at \$119,000 and the SEV value of the home was at \$31,900. He then asked Mr. Sanford if the request was for 30 day or 60 day Make Safe or Demolish. Mr. Sanford confirmed it was not a fire damaged home and therefore 60 days was being requested.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR THE MAKE SAFE OR DEMOLISH AT 1522 W HOLMES ROAD. ROLL CALL VOTE, MOTION CARRIED 2-0.

Mr. Sanford asked to leave the meeting, and after confirming he had no updates or was involved in a later discussion on Autumn Ridge, he left the meeting.

RESOLUTION – Appointment; Barbara Lawrence; First Ward Member; Board of Fire Commissioners; Term to Expire June 30, 2021

Council Member Garza referred the Committee to the application and confirmed Ms. Lawrence moved to the City in May, 2019, so at this time is qualified under the one-year residency.

Ms. Lawrence briefly introduced herself, confirmed her residency, and reason for the interest in City boards and commissions. She noted that when she first moved here, she participated in the Citizens Academy and at the end of the academy was provided with the list of vacancies on the boards and that is where her interest began with this Board. Council Member Wood asked her how she intended to reach out to the public. Ms. Lawrence confirmed she was already involved in her own neighborhood, and intended to go to other neighborhood meetings in her Ward. Council Member Wood offered to provide her with a list of those.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF BARBARA LAWRENCE AS FIRST WARD MEMBER TO THE BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS. ROLL CALL VOTE, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Other

Council Member Garza asked for any updates from OCA on Autumn Ridge, because the last discussion was that the City was going to ask for a Show Cause Hearing.

Mr. Smiertka confirmed the owners lost the motion against the City, and now there is a motion for judgment on Wednesday, July 15th. Ms. O'Boyle confirmed it is ongoing litigation and the City has taken motion in essence to prevent the owner from renting units that are tagged. Council Member Wood asked if the OCA can do anything for the tenants who have put their rent in escrow or not paid, that now have stated they are being taken to court for eviction. Ms. O'Boyle stated confirmed that they would have to seek legal advice from a private attorney. The City is not speaking to tenant's rights, this law suit is about the City interest that the housing there meets the habitable standards of the City. Council Member Wood then reminded the Committee that before COVID-19 started in March, there was going to be a meeting off site with the residents and MSU Legal assistance, and therefore recommend that if anyone gets inquiries from the tenants to refer them to the MSU Legal Clinic. Council Member Garza clarified for the record that meeting was a broad meeting for all City residents tenant's rights, not just Autumn Ridge. Council Member Garza then asked Ms. O'Boyle what the next steps were, and she confirmed that they are seeking a court order from Judge Jamo to stop that practice on the rentals, however they are asserting they do not need to be in compliance to have a rental certificate. The meetings is July 15th at 1:30 p.m. via ZOOM from Judge Jamo's court, and viewable by the public. Mr. Smiertka asked since they lost the request for relief, is the City's case now broad enough to expand. Ms. O'Boyle stated the hearing is based on the motion before the Judge, and Mr. Smiertka suggested they continue their discussion and consider raising the question. Lastly, it was noted that Dave Klein with the City inspector's office did do inspection on some units, and some issues still remained.

ADJOURN

Adjourned at 4:18 p.m.

Submitted by Sherrie Boak, Recording Secretary, Lansing City Council

Approved as presented: August 13, 2020