



**MINUTES**  
**Committee on Public Safety**  
**Thursday, March 11, 2021 @ 4:00 p.m.**

Access the meeting via: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82136155042> ; ID: 821 3615 5042; Dial In: 312-626-6799

Held virtually in an effort to protect the health and safety of the public & to mitigate the spread of COVID 19

**CALL TO ORDER via ZOOM**

The meeting was called to order at 4:03 p.m.

**ROLL CALL-via ZOOM**

Council Member Jeremy Garza, Chair remotely from Lansing, Michigan

Council Member Carol Wood, Vice Chair remotely from Lansing, Michigan

Council Member Brian T. Jackson, Member remotely from Lansing, Michigan

**OTHERS PRESENT- via ZOOM**

Sherrie Boak, Council Staff

Lisa Hagen, OCA

Jim Smiertka, City Attorney

Joseph Abood, City Attorney

Ben Rumbaugh

Caroline Jacobs

Shelly

Beth

Chief Green, LPD

Susan Daugherty

**Minutes**

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 25, 2021 AS PRESENTED. ROLL CALL VOTE, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

**Public Comment**

No public comment at this time.

**Discussion/Action Items**

**Moore's Park Neighborhood Public Safety Enforcement Update**

Council Member Garza has seen some issues on social media but not heard anything personally. Council Member Jackson stated the primary concerns he has heard is gun shots, mostly at night, and to their knowledge there have not been injuries except one. In the warmer months, according to residents there are gatherings starting at 10 p.m. until an officer is called then they resume. One complaint he received in email, was the residents are concerned with drug trafficking in the park. In summary, complaints he has heard is gun shots and late night partying into the night. Council Member Garza asked if anyone knew if there was a public safety camera in that area, and Council Member Jackson stated he was not aware of it, but

agreed it would be a good strategic placement for one. Council Member Wood asked Chief Green for statistics in and around the park over the last year, ask about Community Policing back in that area and see if they plan to, have that officer flex the schedule so they are working when there is more activity going on in the park. Council Member Wood then asked for a discussion with the Parks Director on the lighting in or around the park, to enhance that area, including BWL in those conversations. Staff was asked to state those inquiries to those staff for the next meeting, March 25, 2021.

Ms. Jacobs, acknowledging the concerns stated earlier by Council Member Jackson, but added there is a concern with speeding on Moore's River Drive. It was noted there was a discussion in the past on the speed bumps in the area, and would still be interested in that option. Last summer, 2020 a gate was installed at the park, however because of the timing of the installation, they do not have any information on those stats. Lastly, Ms. Jacobs stated she has heard about concerns with landlords in the area as well.

Chief Green stated the concerns are a constant and revolving door, and there is an option for public surveillance for the area, but not sure on where the funds would come from. Regarding the speed bumps, not sure if they would work, but could look into a traffic unit in the area for a steady enforcement in the area.

Council Member Garza referenced some previous budgeting for speed bumps and speed trailers. Council Member Wood noted that when the traffic study was done in that area, they put in speed bumps and a traffic circle. They did not put on Moore's River Drive, it is a main artery road, and they were not supported on that street. She asked to bring in Mr. Kilpatrick to speak to if that still stands, however she noted her understanding was that Mayor Schor has started a practice for the neighborhoods to petition for speed controls, and since there are no funds it could be a special assessment to that neighborhood. Council Member Wood encouraged the residents seek that out before Council spends time and funds on speed bumps.

Ms. Jacobs, based on Chief Green statement, if concern for years, probably not best pattern, and did not support more police in the area. Offered to continue proceeding with a petition to have speed bumps and resident support of it.

Chief Green stated that with public surveillance, the community should approve that, so that should be discussed when speaking on speed bumps. The camera is only as good as the lighting is and the cameras are good after an incident, but not as it occurs, and there needs to be staffing to watch all the cameras. Council Member Garza noted in his opinion he supported a camera if the area is well lite, and encouraged Ms. Jacobs to work on a petition if she wants to follow up on speed bumps, cameras and lighting.

Council Member Jackson asked if the cameras are stationary or move, and asked for confirmation on the cost of \$5,000 each... He then asked if it goes live feed for someone to watch. Chief Green responded that there a number of camera's in the City, and to use in a real time action, the staffing level vs. calls and service, does not allow someone to sit and watch all the camera's. Council Member Jackson stated his understanding that the community does want camera's, and asked what is needed. Chief Green stated they need a letter of support from those community leaders, and to make people aware of the cameras and signage that the area is under surveillance.

Beth, spoke as a resident, and made the Committee aware that in her 5 years living there, she has never seen it this populated. She noted when calling LPD they do respond, and people

do leave. Regarding the park, believes the new gate will help, the lighting installed over the last couple years has helped.

Ms. Jacobs spoke again, this time on closing the gate at the park, however Parks and LPD have noted they do not have someone to close and lock. She then asked the percentage of residents needed to sign the petition, and it was stated 25%.

Chief Green stated LPD cannot lock the gate nightly, depending on the call level, the officers changing shifts and sharing the lock, and did not know if LPD could close and open daily. Council Member Garza asked who locks the other parks. Chief Green stated Frances Park has staff that does that, and he offered to reach out to his executive team. Council Member Garza stated Council could ask for the traffic speed trailer to be placed out there, and encouraged Council Member Jackson to reach out to Mr. Kilpatrick.

Council Member Wood suggested Chief Green reach out to Brett Kaschinske and Andy Kilpatrick on their employees who work other shifts, and utilize some of them to open and close the gate. And if they needed assistance to clear the lot, then they can call LPD.

Ms. Daugherty stated there are discussions in the neighborhood about LPD clearing the lot, so the person locking the gate wouldn't be responsible for that, just limited to create a habit.

Council Member Garza recapped topics to discuss at the next meeting and invite the appropriate departments to attend:

Traffic trailer

Parks

Enhanced lighting

Options on who can lock the gate to the park.

Encouraging residents to get a petition signed for speed bumps and installation of a camera...

Council Member Wood asked to invite Public Service and Fire at the next meeting to speak to if there is something that can be done on Moores River drive, this should be done before the residents put the efforts into a petition.

#### Police and Fire Millage

Mr. Smiertka stated the OCA has been working on the resolution and ballot language, but are still waiting on numbers and the HEADLEE Rollback at the end of March. MS. Boak confirmed the deadline for the August 2021 ballot is May 10<sup>th</sup> and the November 2021 ballot is August 9<sup>th</sup>. She noted the last Council meeting before the May 10<sup>th</sup> deadline, for Council to take action would be May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Mr. Smiertka went onto explain this is a 4 mill ballot language and covers Police, Fire and essential services. The City is doing a resolution "restoring a charter cap", and under Home Rules City Act, the City is limited to 20 mills. The City Assessor will provide the numbers the end of March and the ballot will "restore" everything to 20 mills. Within the ballot language there is the representation the 4 mills will be used for police, fire and essential services. Chief Green LPD spoke in support of the millage and did some brief estimating on projecting numbers based on what LPD gets now in the millage, and if they do not get the millage it could be a loss of 34 officers, which is 16.5% of the police department taking them from 206 to 172 officers. In addition with the loss of the millage and then leading to loss of officers, there would be reorganization of staffing levels, special assignments, and people would have to go back into patrol to make sure they can handle the call loads. Council Member Wood asked that at the next meeting the LPD and FIRE attend to let the Committee know what it would mean to the department to not have their share of the 4 mills.

**Other**

Council Member Garza asked for a call log for Woodbridge Manor from the LPD and Code Compliance for the next meeting. This call log should go back two (2) years.

**ADJOURN**

Adjourned at 4:54 p.m.

Submitted by Sherrie Boak,

Recording Secretary,

Lansing City Council

Approved as presented: March 25, 2021\_\_\_\_\_