



MINUTES
Committee on Public Service
Tuesday, January 30, 2018 @ 4:00 p.m.
City Hall, Conference Room, 10th Floor

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

Council Member Peter Spadafore, Chair
Council Member Jeremy Garza, Vice Chair
Council Member Jody Washington, Member

OTHERS PRESENT

Sherrie Boak, Council Staff
Andy Kilpatrick, Public Service
Amanda O'Boyle, Assistant City Attorney
Sarah Lehr, LSJ
Kathy Miles
Tayo Moss, Council Member Spadafore Intern

Public Comment

No public comments.

Minutes

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WASHINGTON TO PLACE ON FILE THE MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 27, 2018 AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Introductions of everyone present.

Council Member Spadafore distributed the Council Rules reading the details of Public Service "Reviews all matters pertaining to wastewater treatment, sewer and street needs, long range infrastructure and parks and recreation needs and development and the Municipal parking system, including parking enforcement and policies."

Discussion/Action:

Council Member Spadafore asked the other Committee members to speak to any concerns they have that the Committee should address in 2018.

Council Member Washington asked to address the task of how to get better sidewalks and streets, and explore traffic calming. End of one-way streets, look at a study on stop sign placement, and a focus on public transit.

Council Member Garza provided specific situations to Mr. Kilpatrick, asking for updates. The first was a concern at 5809 Schafer Road, where over multiple years there has been an issue with an existing with a driveway culvert, which has caused driveway flooding. He did acknowledge they had spoken to the City but the last communication was in June 2013. The second concern was at 808 Kendon, where there was a recent water main break, and the road is in work need of repair, in addition to be damaged by the heavy bus traffic to the school. Lastly, Council Member Garza voiced a concern with the North Cemetery, where is appeared a City truck backed over a memorial marker and any complaints to Parks and Recreation have only resulted in being told the repair would be done by the Friends of the Cemetery. He asked for the exact details on who should repair it and also if there are any plans to repair the archway that used to be the entrance and reinstall it.

Council Member Garza asked for verification on if the State of the City owned the intersection of Edgewood and Cedar. Mr. Kilpatrick confirmed that Edgewood was the City, but Cedar at that intersection was MDOT.

Council Member Garza asked the other Committee members if they could add parks to their list of tasks for the year, to address what he thinks are “eye-sore” parks.

Council Member Washington presented an email to Mr. Kilpatrick about stops signs at the intersection of Francis Court.

Council Member Washington asked to add maintenance of rain gardens on Michigan Avenue to the Committee list for the year, working with Public Service to see what plants need to be planted in there.

Council Member Spadafore added to the discussion his ideas for the Committee including agreeing on a focus on infrastructure. This would include looking at what the needs are for the infrastructure in the City limits, what the reality is for the resources to address the concerns, and what are the options to find the needed resources to funnel towards the infrastructure. Council Member Spadafore asked Mr. Kilpatrick for the assistance from the Public Service Department on ideas to address the needs, and work with them to explore ways to increase revenues into the budget to address these issues that the City has. Council Member Spadafore suggested the Committee work with the Public Service and the Mayor to provide an open meeting out in the public to open conversations on what the residents want to see. Before any of this, he noted, the Committee needs to know what City roads are and which ones are MDOT so they can understand what City can do.

Council Member Washington asked Mr. Kilpatrick if there is anything that would prohibit City Council from working with MDOT to address changing Saginaw Street to a two-way traffic instead of one-way. Mr. Kilpatrick answered that a study with MDOT was done a few years ago, which resulted in the determination that there does not need to be that many lanes and at that time they did not want the curb moved in. MDOT would be willing to consider, but the City would pay. The issue with taking Saginaw to two-way, Mr. Kilpatrick pointed out, was that they would have to start over at Frandor. The Department has also looked at the one-way streets in the downtown area, and doing an updated cost analysis, but there is still the issue of where the City streets cross the State owned streets. The Department hopes they have those costs in the next couple weeks.

Mr. Kilpatrick was then asked to provide the Committee with his goals and overview for his Department. The first point he made is that they are aware the roads are bad, however they don't know how bad and how much money it would take, and even some fixes are just "band-aids" and not what should have been done, and the same thing is with the sidewalks. He noted all of those projects are underfunded. As in Lansing and similar cities they have the same issues and concerns with the sewers, old infrastructure and with the biggest CSO project in the State it drives rates higher. In some areas they can do road and sewer, however sometimes based on the condition the sewer needs separation, meaning it is designed to take the sewer overflow and then separate the sanitary sewer out in its own overflow.

Council Member Garza asked if there was a 100 year goal. Mr. Kilpatrick stated the goal now, which was DEQ approved, is looking out to 2032 for 95% of where they started from, being eliminated. The mandate would be 100%. The CSO projects have been on hold for a few years, and will be started up again this year on a 2 year project, and 1.7% of medium household can be spent on the sewers. Regarding street projects, Mr. Kilpatrick assured the Committee they always make all attempts to coordinate with Consumers Energy and BWL so that they can do their utility work at the same time, however can never force them.

Council Member Garza asked Mr. Kilpatrick who makes the determination on what contractors to hire for repairs. Mr. Kilpatrick clarified that it would depend on the project and if it was bid out by the City or was a Federal funded road project, which would then be MDOT. Depending on the size of the project, anyone can bid, and the majority of them are Michigan contractors.

Council Member Garza asked if the City replants a tree when a tree is removed between the sidewalk and curb. Mr. Kilpatrick confirmed they are starting to replant, however they were a year behind on critical tree and removal. Until they got caught up on the removal of ash bore, they were not doing any new plantings. They are also looking at sidewalk issues now when replanting trees, looking at a better use of resources to see if replacing the tree will damage the sidewalk.

Council Member Spadafore asked Ms. O'Boyle if the City had a "local bidder preference" in the ordinance. Mr. Kilpatrick acknowledged it was 5% and they could match whatever low bid was. Ms. O'Boyle confirmed she would double check the ordinance for the Committee to confirm.

Mr. Kilpatrick continued with the department goals, which outlined the fact there is a lot of need of services in the City, however limited resources. They City needs to look at other forms of funding, and they are limited on the tax side, but could look at the way property is assessed, however his opinion was that whatever gets done, residents and business owners will pay more. One option the department has discussed is offering an "opt-in" option. Council Member Washington stated that she believed the City of Lansing has the highest millage in the State. Mr. Kilpatrick pointed out that in the past the City has not passed along the Drain Commissioners assessments, and they have not assessed for curb and gutter repairs, which both could now be options. The ordinance would need to be amended to go to assessments for curb and gutter repairs.

Council Member Spadafore asked Mr. Kilpatrick if needs assessment has been done. Mr. Kilpatrick confirmed they are working on one, and close to have the road and sidewalk one done. Their plan is to have a tool for residents to view their property to see what a sidewalk and street projects would cost. They believe this tool would tell the story better, and allow people to see the costs, and allow more transparency on the projects that have been done. Council Member Spadafore asked Mr. Kilpatrick if it was possible to have the information available at the second meeting in February. (2/20) Mr. Kilpatrick did assure them the

department would be close and should be able to provide that information, which would include road project information back to 2015. The roads millage was a 6 year renewal, and they are currently trying to coordinate the details on the millage and the separate Eaton County millage.

Council Member Garza asked Mr. Kilpatrick if there was anything Council could do to make the Governor add more funding since the City of Lansing is the Capital City. Mr. Kilpatrick stated they could try, but at the Federal side funds are disbursed based on population. After that, there are disbursed based on road miles. In general the Federal funds provide \$1.5 million per year, which could generally do 2-3 projects per year. Mr. Kilpatrick went on to point out that all road funding only can be spent on the project, no staff, or no snow removal. In an example, he noted that in regards to a 1 mile one lane road, the City loses 1,000 lane miles a year. There is 25% the funding spent on replacing to keep at the current level.

Council Member Washington asked if a study has been done to compare how Lansing is compared to Grand Rapids and Ann Arbor. Mr. Kilpatrick noted that Grand Rapids a few years ago did a public infrastructure millage. Lansing would have to propose a huge millage to get caught up with things, at about \$2 million a year for local streets. To consider bonding, that is not a long term fix, and the needs for the overall road system is \$250 million which would only fix the roads based on the current condition not a complete reconstruct.

Council Member Spadafore asked Mr. Kilpatrick to provide a “snap shot” of the infrastructure at the February 20th Committee meeting, and where the City came in from the last 6 years and an outlook for next 20 years.

Mr. Kilpatrick stated to the Committee that the City also has the same issue with vehicles, parks and City buildings. The City needs to consider looking at how to increase the tax base, and if the properties need to be valued more than they are taxed. Council Member Washington agreed the City needs to talk about how to increase revenue.

Council Member Washington asked if Mr. Kilpatrick could provide at the future meeting what streets have been done, which he stated he could do, but was hesitant on listing any proposed project because that list changes during the construction season based on conditions they find when they work on a project. One project could take longer or be more extreme once they start and find other issues.

Council Member Spadafore stated that at the February 6th Committee meeting he will be addressing the recent Ormond Park discussion that was held at Council per a residents concerns. He asked Mr. Kilpatrick for costs of the work at the park, entrance and replacement of the park equipment that was removed. Mr. Kilpatrick stated all his department has is the cost of the driveway project, and it would be an estimate until the on final course is laid. Mr. Spadafore stated he would forward an email he received on the project from a resident. Council Member Washington asked that the February 6, 2018 meeting be canceled since she will not be here and Ormond Park is in her Ward. Council Member Spadafore canceled that meeting and stated Ormond Park would be addressed at a future meeting.

Ms. Miles stated she would support a millage if all the funds went to the roads.

Mr. Kilpatrick confirmed that there needs to be transparency on the details on where the funds that came in went. Council Member Washington reminded Ms. Miles and the Committee that currently the City cannot millage anymore because they have met the cap.

Council Member Spadafore inquired into if the City Treasurer could provide a list of where the City stands in comparison to other community millage rate.

Council Member Garza asked Mr. Kilpatrick if Public Service had any information on the website listing where the funds went. Mr. Kilpatrick answered the question by stating the department is working on putting it together and obtaining specifics from past years. They will be working on where road funding comes from, however the vast majority of the funding is from gas taxes, which is still only a drop in the bucket for what is needed.

Council Member Spadafore canceled the meeting on February 6, 2018 per the request from Council Member Washington since she will be out of town.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 4:47 p.m.

Submitted by, Sherrie Boak

Recording Secretary

Lansing City Council

Approved: February 20, 2018