



MINUTES
Committee on Public Service
Monday, September 14, 2020 @ 3:00 p.m.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83566233715>; ID: 835 6623 3715; Dial In: (646) 876 9923

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL-via remote audio/video

Council Member Dunbar, Chair
Council Member Spitzley, Vice Chair
Council Member Spadafore, Member

OTHERS PRESENT

Sherrie Boak, Council Office Manager
Andy Kilpatrick, Public Service Dept.
Lisa Hagen, Assistant City Attorney
Greg Venker, Assistant City Attorney
Brian McGrain, EDP Director
Andy Kilpatrick, Public Service Director
Chad Gamble
Nancy Mahlow
Kiara Lancaster-Hay
Paul Roettger
Justin (no last name given)

Minutes

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER SPITZLEY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM AUGUST 31, 2020 AS PRESENTED. ROLL CALL VOTE, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Public Comment

Mr. Roettger spoke in opposition to the current parking enforcement process during COVID and the \$10 visitor parking permit and \$125 permit cost.

Justin asked the Committee for details on why parking on the streets are a nuisance and not allowed.

Discussion

Council Member Spitzley acknowledged that during these months of discussion Council has heard from both sides of the discussion, and the City needs to continue to keep the public informed. She noted her understanding was that they were not enforcing during the time Council was looking at the proposed amendments. Council Member Spadafore clarified it is

an active ordinance and is currently being enforced. He continued with his understanding that the enforcement is to keep streets clear for emergencies, cleaning and traffic, so if the City issues permits to allow parking it would defeat the goal. Lastly he noted that there are ordinances that do not allow inoperable or abandoned vehicles on the streets, blocking driveways or hydrants. Council Member Dunbar added to the discussion that parking has never been prohibited during the day, and this would be to address snow emergencies and cleaning.

Mr. Gamble stated the department is finding the challenge is that with more vehicles on the streets, it makes it harder for street clean up, maintenance, snow emergencies, and addressing flooding situations. Mr. Gamble confirmed that the ordinance currently on the books has only been enforced for a few months. Another concern Mr. Gamble noted was that the streets are being used as parking lots as an extension of their driveways. Mr. Gamble concluded that he was encouraging Council to consider how long a vehicle should be parked on the street. Council Member Dunbar pointed out that currently the only prohibition is parking from 2am – 5am. The Council has heard from residents who cannot afford the permit to allow that parking, and also speeding on the streets. Her opinion would be if cars are allowed to park on the street it would slow the speeds. Mr. Gamble encouraged the Council to consider amending the ordinance to address low income issues. Council Member Spitzley supported the Committee comments and noted they cannot make decisions based on “vehicular pollution”, and she noted that Council has heard the Mayor is not opposing these amendments.

ORDINANCE –Amendment; Repeal Section 404.01(j); Eliminate the prohibition of street parking from 2am – 5am

Council Member Spadafore shared his screen with proposed amendments.

Section 4. Nothing about this repeal shall affect, or be construed to affect, the City's authority to otherwise manage parking on City streets, including the ability to tow abandoned or inoperable vehicles.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER SPADAFORE TO AMEND THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE FOR SECTION 404.01(J) TO INCLUDE A NEW SECTION 4. ROLL CALL VOTE, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER SPADAFORE TO APPROVE THE ORDINANCE AS AMENDED. ROLL CALL VOTE, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

ORDINANCE-Amendment; Repeal Section 404.13; Eliminate Annual and Temporary Permits for Overnight Parking

Council Member Spadafore shared his screen with the proposed amendments.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LANSING, MICHIGAN, TO REPEAL CHAPTER 404, SECTION 404.13, TO ELIMINATE ANNUAL AND TEMPORARY PERMITS FOR OVERNIGHT STREET PARKING AND CREATE THE ABILITY FOR RESIDENTS OF INDIVIDUAL STREETS TO PETITION THE TRAFFIC ENGINEER TO UNDERTAKE A STUDY TO DETERMINE IF LIMITING OR PROHIBITING PARKING BY TRAFFIC CONTROL ORDER IS APPROPRIATE . THE CITY OF LANSING ORDAINS:

Section 1. That Chapter 404, Section 404.13, of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Lansing, Michigan, be and is hereby repealed entirely and replaced as follows:

404.13 – RESIDENTIAL PETITION TO TRAFFIC ENGINEER REGARDING STREET PARKING.

ALONG ANY STREET WHERE THE MAJORITY OF FRONT FOOTAGE OF BOTH SIDES IS ZONED FOR RESIDENTIAL USE, IF A MAJORITY OF THE PROPERTY OWNERS ON SUCH STREET SIGN A PETITION REQUESTING LIMITATION OR PROHIBITION OF STREET PARKING ALONG ONE OR BOTH SIDES OF SUCH STREET, THE TRAFFIC ENGINEER SHALL UNDERTAKE A STUDY EXAMINING WHAT PARKING IS NEEDED AND IF ANY LIMITATION OR PROHIBITION OF PARKING BY TRAFFIC CONTROL ORDER IS APPROPRIATE.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER SPADAFORE TO AMEND THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE FOR SECTION 404.13 TO ADD THE OPTION FOR A TRAFFIC CONTROL ORDER.

Council Member Dunbar asked Mr. Kilpatrick and Mr. McGrain if their departments would have any issues with the proposed changes, and they confirmed they would not. Council Member Spadafore asked if residential parking zones would not be effected and Mr. Kilpatrick confirmed.

ROLL CALL VOTE ON AMENDMENT, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER SPADAFORE TO APPROVE THE ORDINANCE AS AMENDED. ROLL CALL VOTE, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

ORDINANCE- Create Section 404.12: Regulate Street Parking during Snow Emergencies

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER SPADAFORE TO APPROVE THE ORDINANCE FOR SECTION 404.12. ROLL CALL VOTE, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

The Committee asked the administration to forward the policy so they can keep the constituents informed.

DISCUSSION – Fiscal Year 2021/2022 Budget Priorities

The Committee reviewed the recommended policies by the Board of Public Service.

Council Member Spitzley had a scheduling conflict and had to leave the meeting.

Board of Public Service Items:

1. Increase general fund support for implementation of the City's Street System Asset Management Plan, with a priority placed on reconstructing and preserving neighborhood streets, especially in those areas of the city which have been historically underserved. We encourage the Department to continue utilizing new and innovative ways to extend the life of our existing streets.
2. Maintain and expand funding for sidewalk repairs and right-of-way maintenance and improvement, with a priority placed on underserved areas; this should all be done while keeping safety a priority for Lansing residents and visitors, and meeting or exceeding the compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.
3. Maintain and expand funding to update and improve the fleet of city vehicles, with specific priority for the Department.
4. Establish Lansing as a leader in PFAS regulation, testing, monitoring and enforcement through maintaining and increasing funding for educational and training purposes, and working with relevant federal, state, county and local governments, and non-government organizations.
5. Expand opportunities for multi-family residential and business recycling.
6. Follow recommendations (to the greatest extent feasible) of the energy audit of all facilities and properties to save on energy and cut costs by replacing wasteful

devices with ones that are energy efficient and reduce the carbon footprint of the City of Lansing.

The Committee discussed each item and concurred to add all items on the priorities under the Committee on Public Services.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER SPADAFORE TO APPROVE ADDING THE ITEMS TO THE BUDGET PRIORITIES. ROLL CALL VOTE, MOTION CARRIED 2-0.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 4:18 p.m.

Submitted by Sherrie Boak,

City Council Office Manager, Recording Secretary

Lansing City Council

Approved: November 9, 2020

Boak, Sherrie

From: Jessica D. Cowles <jessicadc3@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 13, 2020 9:46 PM
To: Boak, Sherrie
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Overnight Parking Public Comment

Hello,

I was instructed by Kathie Dunbar to email you public comment on the proposal to repeal the ban on overnight parking, since I can't be present on the call. I don't know how long this is allowed to be, so if it's too long, please just skip to the last paragraph.

I've owned my house in the Eastside Neighborhood for 9 years now, and been a Lansing resident much longer. The parking situation is utterly ridiculous. On my street, there are very few houses that have their own driveway. Mine is one of the majority that shares a driveway with the next house over. Although my neighbor and I get along fine, our schedules are opposites of each other, as is my partner's. In order to let my neighbor out to go to work in the morning, my partner would have to get up at 6am every day to move his car to the street, which no one should be expected to do when they get home from work at 2am.

We also don't make a ton of money. We're working hard to change that, but it is what it is for now. We can't afford a \$125 lump payment every year just to be able to park at our own home. That amount is outrageous. It's a tax on people who don't make enough money to afford a house with its own driveway. Should we next start charging \$125 a year to people who use the sidewalk because they can't afford a car? Where's the sense in this?

There are plenty of options out there to explore that don't disproportionately affect low-income families. Specify which side can be parked on. Alternate it every day if it's really necessary. Send out a cell phone alert when the City expects heavy snow, they can already do it for other purposes.

The bottom line is that Lansing residents need to be able to park at their home. When some people are able to do that because they have enough money, and others are not, there is a HUGE problem. I'm just as much of a Lansing resident as everyone who has their own driveway, but when I'm fined for not having one, it sure doesn't feel like it. Please do what's in the best interests of ALL Lansing residents, not just the high-income ones, and eliminate this classist and ridiculous ordinance.

Thank you for your time!

Jessica Cowles
409 N Clemens

Boak, Sherrie

From: Nmahlow2012 <nmahlow2012@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 14, 2020 1:37 AM
To: City Council
Cc: Wood, Carol; Spadafore, Peter; Hussain, Adam; Garza, Jeremy; Dunbar, Kathie; Jackson, Brian T.; Spitzley, Patricia; Betz, Brandon
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Parking Issue

Councilmembers

I'm sending this to the general council email address and your individual ones. My concerns regarding the parking issue.

1. What is the big rush? You spent hundreds of hours last year holding constituent meetings in all four wards, you came up with an ordinance based on those meetings and talking to residents. We paid your wages to do this and now you want to change again. This doesn't say much about integrity and the ability to make decisions. Some of you are listening to a small group without taking the whole city into consideration.
2. Not enough parking enforcement to cover our neighborhoods on a daily/nightly basis. There are enough parking issues all day and night. Hire at least one for each shift.
3. There are homes where their "driveway" is in an alleyway. When vehicles are parked on the street, it becomes difficult to see when pulling out.
4. I will continue to say this: Landlords are making a living on human lives. They are running a business and creating hardship for renters whether they are students, family, etc. If you have a house on the Eastside and the same size on the southside the rent will be double on the eastside just because of MSU. That is discrimination, and to be very blunt they are raping these students of their finances. Students need to have several living in a residence in order to afford it. There may be four or more living in one house which is a violation of the city code.
5. Many park on the street for days or weeks without moving. This makes it difficult if guests want to park by their visiting residence. I have received many calls complaining about vehicles not moving. During a snowstorm I saw two vehicles parked on Michigan Avenue buried in the snow because they didn't move.
6. A **HUGE** concern is parking too close to a corner and/or hydrant and this happens all the time. The city ordinance says you must be 20 feet from a corner and/or a hydrant. There needs to be a "no parking here to corner" sign on **all** streets that allow parking. It becomes a safety issue when trying to pull out from the intersection and a **HUGE** concern for our fire department. Parking enforcement doesn't have the time to get out and measure the distance.
7. It makes it very difficult to pull out of driveways when the street is full of vehicles. This also adds to more vandalism. It gives criminals easier access.
8. Many streets are too narrow and even parking on one side can create a problem for emergency vehicles and others trying to get down the street. You cannot put a "blanket" ordinance in place.
9. Some individuals "collect" vehicles to "restore" and there isn't enough space in their driveway and park these vehicles on the street. Also, park recreational vehicles in the street for days.
10. Residents have a single or double garage that is full and can't park in it. This should be a code violation and causes a problem for the neighbors.
11. Keeping the parking permit would help solve some of the problems and it isn't that expensive. **Many** cities provide parking permits **AND** have to pay for a parking space if they want to rent. It's part of the rental agreement.

12. I have two neighbors who are homeowners that have very short driveways with a garage and the driveway only holds one vehicle and when parked their vehicle hangs over the sidewalk. In this case, there should be some way to accommodate their issue.

I'm sure I could think of more but this is enough to hopefully give you a reason to stop and think this through. Thank you

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Nancy Mahlow
nmahlow2012@gmail.com
517-372-3249