



MINUTES

**Committee on Ways and Means
Thursday, March 22, 2018 @ 9:45 a.m.
10th Floor Conference Room, City Hall**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:45 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Council Member Jody Washington, Chair

Council Member Kathie Dunbar, Vice Chairperson – arrived at 9:52 a.m. left at 11:04 a.m.

Council Member Carol Wood, Member

OTHERS PRESENT

Sherrie Boak, Council Staff

Eric Brewer, Council Internal Auditor

Angie Bennett, Finance Director

Denis Prisk, LPD

Linda Sanchez- Gazella, HR Director

Jim Smierkta, City Attorney

Mindy Biladeau, Downtown Lansing, Inc.

Brett Kaschinske, Parks and Recreation Director

Nick Tate, Chief Labor Negotiator

Greg Venker, Assistant City Attorney

Lynne Meade, Teamsters 243

Judith Filice

Kathy Miles

Elaine Womboldt

Sean Hammond

Steve Maloney

Teresa Frassetto

Denise Estee

Minutes

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM JANUARY 25, 2018 AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED 2-0.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 22, 2018 AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED 2-0.

Public Comment

No public comment at this time.

Discussion/Action

RESOLUTION – Grant; Michigan Economic Development Corporation Grant

Ms. Biladeau confirmed this was a grant for \$50,000 with no City match for phase 2 of the Way Finding signs. In addition to these funds the CDBG has committed \$25,000. This will be put towards nine (9) pedestrian kiosks specifically, she added. Council Member Wood asked if the Downtown Lansing Inc. budget would be requesting additional funds for way finding signs that would tie to this phase. Ms. Biladeau confirmed there would be a request in the budget for the way finding signs, but not this phase.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR THE GRANT FOR MICHIGAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION. MOTION CARRIED 2-0.

RESOLUTION – MNRTF Ratification of the Notice of Consideration

Mr. Kaschinske informed the Committee that the MNRTF requires notification to the public for public comment on the five (5) MNRTF grants on the agenda. This resolution is to set that consideration. Council Member Wood asked if the five (5) projects were in the Master Plan. Mr. Kaschinske confirmed that the land acquisition grants, agenda items C. D. and G. were called out in the Master Plan. Goal one in the Master Plan is to acquire land, even the parcels were not listed specifically. Mr. Kaschinske continued that agenda item E., for the River Trail connection of Cambridge and France Park River Trail is mentioned in the Master Plan specifically on page 71 and 73. Lastly, the Agenda item F. that speaks to the walking trail in Rudolph and Dorothy Wilson Park is goal 5 of the Master Plan. When applying for all five (5) of the grants, Mr. Kaschinske stated the State verified they would all qualify.

Mr. Smiertka explained that this resolution was needed because the MNRTF and DNR requires a public meeting for public comment, and a notice of consideration was published March 21, 2018 for the March 26th Council meeting. Council Member Wood clarified for the public that this public comment is the effect of the resolution that the Committee of the Whole passed March 12, 2018.

Mr. Hammond spoke in support of the grant for the path through Rudolph and Dorothy Wilson Park, noting for the Committee that there currently is no path.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION ON THE RATIFICATION OF THE NOTICE OF CONSIDERATION FOR THE MNRTF GRANTS. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

RESOLUTION – Grant; Authorizing Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) Acquisition of Willard Avenue Parcel 33-01-01-27-426-001

Mr. Kaschinske stated this property acquisition would be blended with Scott Woods park, and square up the property. There are no plans for recreational amenities on this parcel because Scott Woods already has those. This parcel will also now provide a connection to the Hawk Island County Park.

Council Member Wood asked if confirmation of paid taxes is done prior to any of these land acquisitions. Mr. Kaschinske confirmed, and Mr. Venker added that there have been ongoing discussions with the owner who is interested in selling.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR THE GRANT FOR THE MNRTF FUNDING FOR THE ACQUISITION OF WILLARD AVENUE PARCEL 33-01-01-27-426-001 FOR \$5,800.00.

Mr. Kaschinske was asked to provide Council with the amount currently in the land acquisition account.

MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

RESOLUTION – Grant; Authorizing Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) for Acquisition of 4000 Hunter's Ridge Drive, Parcel 23-50-40-25-451-022

Mr. Kaschinske noted this property currently has an easement providing access to the property, but with acquiring it, it will make it one larger public parcel at 100 acres. He confirmed there had been a house there in the past, but it was damaged by a fire, and completely demolished and removed. The Assessing records reflect its new site of vacant land. Council Member Dunbar asked for confirmation that the basement was complete removed, at which Mr. Kaschinske confirmed.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR THE GRANT FOR THE MNRTF FUNDING FOR THE ACQUISITION OF 4000 HUNTER'S RIDGE DRIVE PARCEL 23-50-40-25-451-022. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

RESOLUTION – Grant; Authorizing Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) Grant Funding to develop the River Trail connection of Cambridge Road to Frances Park River Trail

Mr. Kaschinske detailed the future plans for this trail connection, because currently the trail ends at the road. This will now go up Cambridge, to Waverly, south to Jolly creating a connector. Council Member Washington asked about the funds, which Mr. Kaschinske confirmed it would be from the millage, and it will also be eligible for County wide millage. They are trying to match the County millage against the DNR trust funds, to limit the subsidy from the Lansing Parks millage. Council Member Wood asked if the County millage was broken out by new projects and rehabilitation projects. Mr. Kaschinske confirmed but stated it was not broken down by new trails vs other new projects. They separate out when ranking them however. Council Member Wood then asked what the County grants were used for last time the City got the funds. Mr. Kaschinske stated they were for new projects including the Fenner path, the kayak launches and the bank stabilization repair. Council Member Washington asked if the City did get awarded County funds what would that lessen the funds from the City. It was stated that the City currently gets \$2 million in County funds, and it is estimated at \$800,000 of that is for CIP and maintenance. Lastly Council Member Wood asked the width of the trail and if it would be cleared in the winter, at which Mr. Kaschinske confirmed it would be cleared and it is 10' wide.

Ms. Felice, on behalf of Friends of Francis Park, spoke in support of the project and stated her opinion that the project is a matter of safety and aesthetics.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER DUNBAR TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR THE GRANT FOR THE MNRTF FUNDING TO DEVELOP THE RIVER TRAIL CONNECTION OF CAMBRIDGE ROAD TO FRANCES PARK RIVER TRAIL. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

RESOLUTION – Grant; Authorizing Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) Grant Funding to develop a one mile walking path within the Rudolph and Dorothy Wilson Park

Mr. Kaschinske reminded the Committee that this park was the former West Side park, then provided details on the project which is a 1-mile loop adjacent to the GM properties where

Saginaw Street comes together. It will be an 8' path on an interior park, will not be maintained in the winter unless all other plowing was completed, and is supported by the neighborhood. The trail will run adjacent to the cell tower location which is along the tree line that separates the two parks. Council Member Wood asked if there were any funds provided for the project by the cell tower carrier. Mr. Kaschinske stated that each cell tower contract is different, and there is a resolution as to how cell tower funds can be spent.

Mr. Hammond spoke again in support of the project which he believed would be an upgrade to what is there now.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR THE GRANT FOR THE MNRTF FUNDING TO DEVELOP A ONE MILE WALKING PATH WITHIN THE RUDOLPH AND DOROTHY WILSON PARK. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

RESOLUTION – Grant; Authorizing Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) Grant Funding to acquire Wise Road Parcel 33-01-05-06-202-021

Mr. Kaschinske noted this is an acquisition of half acre parcel and will extend Davis Park, making it contiguous, and creating a buffer between the baseball field and the residences. Council Member Dunbar asked about the parcel with the home on it currently surrounded by the park. Mr. Kaschinske stated he could look into it.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR THE GRANT FOR THE MNRTF FUNDING TO ACQUIRE WISE ROAD PARCEL 33-01-05-06-202-021. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

RESOLUTION – Grant; FY17 Technology Innovation for Public Safety (TIPS) Grant

Mr. Prisk informed the Committee that the grant for TIPS is awarded under the Department of Justice, under the JAG Assistance Grants, and it is a technology grant used for the public safety. The grant is \$453,000 for goods and services in the purchase of the program NC4I a computer sharing of crime analysis with response at all levels. The program is designed to increase shared information with the intent to allow for conclusions faster. This program will allow live streaming data. Mr. Prisk confirmed for the Committee that it is a 2-year grant, awarded for the years of 2017 – 2019, however they already anticipate asking for an extension, but they will not know that until they are 90 days in. The technology has been vetted through the City IT department for compatibility, and they are on board to install into the current laptops and cellular phones. The department has also reached out to 911, who is also on board. Council Member Wood asked what other agencies were currently using the program. Mr. Prisk acknowledged he did not have any reviews from other agencies but will get that for the Committee. Council Member Wood asked if there was a maintenance cost, and who would cover that. Mr. Prisk stated there is an annual maintenance cost of \$30,430, and the first 3 years are paid for by the grant. The IT department is aware of the maintenance and legacy costs for maintenance fees, so in the 2021 FY budget the City will have to budget for it. The City IT department will be doing the in-house maintenance, so the City will only have to pay the fee if the system fails, which is \$88,897 at \$332,228 for the first 3 years, with a \$0 City match. Council Member Wood asked Mr. Prisk to provide details on the company and their products when he comes back for the Sole Source.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR THE GRANT FOR FY17 TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION FOR PUBLIC SAFETY (TIPS). MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

UPDATE – Teamsters 580 Retiree Healthcare Coverage: HR Director

The document from the Mayor, dated March 21, 2018, was distributed to the group present.

Mr. Smiertka started the discussion by outlining the document and charge that was given. There were two issues; 1) a claim that the retirees from Teamsters 580 between 2003-2007 are entitled to a level of health care that was in existence at the time, and 2) the application of a 1% cap on retirees on the premium they pay. After many Ways and Means meetings, letters to the claimant, and denying the claims, the City Attorney provided an opinion. With the new Administration on board, the Committee on Ways and Means once again asked for a revaluation, and to report back in 60 days. The Human Resource Director was in consultation with the Administration, and City Attorney, who then in turn consulted with the Finance Director, Chief Labor Negotiator and the Administration. Ms. Sanchez-Gazella acknowledge she took the charge from the Committee and reviewed everything and work with Law and Finance for background and supporting documents. They took their findings to the Mayor who made his final decision. Mr. Smiertka pointed out to the Committee that from the legal perspective and the Mayor's decision both reflects the State agencies where case law states, unless specific in a CBA that there is a promise of life time benefits, the benefits do not go past termination of the CBA. It is to the interpretation of the contract and no promise for a life time and the language summary is that a retiree follows active employees. Mr. Tate noted that there are three (3) case laws out recently that if the language is unambiguous you can look no further. In the 2003-2017, the CBA states they are covered by the same insurance as the active employees. Most recently a case with the Supreme Court determined that if have unambiguous language, they look no further. There were even cases in the 6th Circuit Court that wrestled with that distinction, and both prior cases settled. Mr. Smiertka added to Mr. Tate's explanation that if they do not find it in the CBA, and a CBA is treated like another contract, if the language expires, it ends. Council Member Washington asked where the "tie-bar" date came from and how would that affect. Ms. Bennett answered the question by stating that the letter issued in 2010 was that they discovered at that point that many health care changes that should have occurred after the 2003-2007 CBA did not happen, so they initiated those changes. The date of February, 2004 was used because in 2004 that was the start of the health care effective date, so they believed that was the date to be feasible. Council Member Wood asked how that would divide the coverages for the retirees. Ms. Bennett again stated it was because to came to light in 2010 and reflected back to February, 2004, which at the time was the start date of the health plan.

Council Member Wood aske Mr. Smiertka why the opinion from the former City Attorney was different than this opinion, noting if it would have been acted on then, the court decisions that were referenced earlier, would not occurred. Mr. Smiertka stated that the opinion was an Attorney/Client Privileged opinion to the Mayor at the time, and that Mayor chose not to act on it. If he would have acted on it, Mr. Smiertka continued, it could not have been changed now and those new cases would not affect it.

Council Member Wood then asked if there had been any discussion with the Mayor that if the retirees were to agree from this point forward they would receive benefits as the others who were affected, that they would not have to be a pay back to the City and it would only affect what they would have to pay in. Mr. Smiertka answered that he cannot talk about any discussions he had with the Mayor. Mr. Tate confirmed he did not have any discussion with the Mayor on that subject, as did Ms. Sanchez-Gazella. Ms. Bennett stated her only discussion was about the CBA. Council Member Washington asked if the Union was at the table when the tie bar date was agreed to conditions. Ms. Bennett stated the CBA are agreed by both parties. Ms. Meade informed the Committee that the Union was not at table when the unilateral date

was determined. Ms. Bennett corrected her earlier statement, clarifying the union was at the table when they talked about retirees following actives.

Council Member Wood asked Ms. Meade for her interpretation on "follow actives". Ms. Meade explained it means the eligible retirees will follow actives, going back to 1984, and what it meant was that they were not going to offer retirees less than what the actives were offered. It had nothing to do with the how they were going to pay for it. Mr. Smiertka stated to the Committee they were charged to look at 2003-2007, not others because there are so many variables in other CBA's.

Mr. Brewer asked Mr. Tate to explain the CBA and the benefit statement in letter where it stated they are not taking any other information. Mr. Tate referenced those statements made because of the Supreme and Circuit Court cases. If there is no language in the CBA that says it does not extend beyond CBA. There is an understanding other pieces out there but per the court cases, they cannot look any further. Mr. Smiertka also answered Mr. Brewer that there is another piece involved which is the opinion when dealing with CBA's, unless they find a life time promise, it terminates with the CBA.

Ms. Estee spoke to the Committee clarifying that it was not just about her, but about 98 retirees from 2004-2010, then noted she had no comments on Mayor's letter. She then moved onto her contract page 25, which was effective 2/20/2006, where she noted it was a promise of lifetime benefits. Ms. Estee then referenced the actuarial reports to the City that say "for the life of the retiree". She added that if there was no validity to the issue or claim, it wouldn't have made it for 5 years.

Council Member Washington stepped away from the meeting at 11:02 a.m.

Ms. Estee stated she had provided two questions, the first being the language which made the determination that affected her, and the second question she had was why the City discriminated against the contract she references.

Council Member Washington returned to the meeting at 11:04 a.m., and Council Member Dunbar left the meeting at 11:04 a.m.

Ms. Estee spoke briefly on the pending item on the agenda and her frustration with the previous administration

Ms. Womboldt spoke in support of the Teamsters retirees and their request, and opposition to the memo and attachments that was distributed.

Ms. Miles spoke in opposition to the decision from the Administration.

Mr. Maloney asked for a discussion on his concern with the "1 % cap" for retirees and the that decision. Ms. Bennett clarified to Mr. Maloney that the "1% cap" applies to the premium sharing plan that is in place and follows the actives. It does not apply if the retiree chose to buy up to a better plan. It only applies to the City base plan offered, which is also explained in the union contracts. Ms. Meade confirmed the language in the CBA is that the "1% cap" applies to the base plan only, and there are two bases; PHP and Blue Cross. Ms. Meade added that she could not recall if the union agreed to which ever plan was cheapest and that was the base for 1%. Regarding the concern with the 2010 determination to go back to 2004, Ms. Meade assured the retirees that the Union was not at the table for that determination.

Council Member Washington stated her opposition to the opinion that was provided from the Administration, Law and Finance, and then stated what was written in the final paragraph from Mayor Schor, "I am bound by the law presented to me and the clear statements of the City's obligation contained in the CBA's. Therefore, I consider the proper and responsible course of action for my administration is to follow the opinions of the Finance Director, City Attorney and Chief Labor Negotiator on these issues. I therefore, will not recommend a change in practice regarding Teamsters 580 healthcare administration." With that, Council Member Washington informed the public, Committees and retirees that Council's hands are tied because they cannot tell the Mayor what to do in the contracts, and as they had hoped there would be a different outcome, there is nothing more Council can do.

Ms. Estee referenced the City's actuarials, alleging false information was provided. She then provided the HR Director with a document that stated her determination on how she believed she had been discriminated against. Lastly, she acknowledged the Committee for their five (5) years of work on the claims she brought to their attention.

Council Member Wood spoke in opposition to the decision that was made by the Mayor, Law and the Finance Director. She, as Council Member Washington had, hoped there would be a different outcome to rectify it for the retirees. She then advised Ms. Meade in the future to make sure, when doing the CBA, that they are written to not penalize people in the future.

Committee apologized to the retirees for not the solution that would make the retirees whole.

PENDING

- Report from Internal Auditor and City Attorney on Retiree Reimbursement
Council Member Wood acknowledge that the Committee would never receive the information for the Internal Auditor to do a report, so asked Council Member Washington to remove it from the agenda. Council Member Washington stricken the item from the agenda.

OTHER

Ms. Meade acknowledged the Committee for their work on the issue.

ADJOURN

Adjourn at 11:29 a.m.

Submitted by,

Sherrie Boak, Recording Secretary

Lansing City Council

Approved by the Committee on May 10. 2018