



MINUTES
Committee on Ways and Means
April 4, 2017 @ 3:30 p.m.
10th Floor Conference Room, City Hall

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Councilmember Jody Washington, Chair
Councilmember Kathie Dunbar, Vice Chair-arrived at 3:31 p.m.
Councilmember Carol Wood, Member

OTHERS PRESENT

Sherrie Boak, Council Staff
Eric Brewer, Council Internal Auditor
Joe Abood, Chief Deputy City Attorney
Brandon Waddell, Assistant City Attorney
Amber Paxton, Financial Empowerment
Chris Swope, City Clerk
Robin Sites, Elections Clerk

Minutes

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM MARCH 27, 2017. MOTION CARRIED 2-0.

Public Comment on Agenda Items

No public comment.

Discussion/Action

RESOLUTION - WC#20629040002009252001 Workers Compensation Claim Settlement

Mr. Abood confirmed for the Committee that the claimant is not back on the job, was not offered another job, the claimant is not continuing the same job, and is in the retirement program and entitled to benefits. Council Member Wood asked if there was any impact on the retirement benefit. Mr. Abood stated he could not speak for the Retirement Board, but his opinion was that there was no impact on the retirement benefits.

Council Member Wood asked if the City did not settle, what the numbers would be. Mr. Abood acknowledged he knew those figures but could not discuss those in an open meeting, because the case is still a pending litigation and will be ongoing until the magistrate approves the

redemption. Council Member Wood noted that this year is the first year that the Committee and Council were not given that information in a public meeting.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR THE WC20629040002009252001 WORKERS COMPENSTIAON CLAIM SETTLEMENT. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

RESOLUTION - WC#20628760002019329 Workers Compensation Claim Settlement

Mr. Abood confirmed for the Committee that the claimant is not back on the job, was not offered another job, the claimant is not continuing the same job, and is in the retirement program and entitled to benefits. Mr. Abood stated he could not speak for the Retirement Board, but his opinion was that there was no impact on the retirement benefits.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR THE WC20628760002019329 WORKERS COMPENSATION CLAIM SETTLEMENT. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

RESOLUTION - WC#20629040002012718001 Workers Compensation Claim Settlement

Mr. Abood stated this case was handled in house not with the third party. The claimant is no longer on the job was not offered another job, did not come back to the same job, and is in the retirement program and entitled to benefits. This claimant will not impact the retirement or benefits, and the claimant was only receiving medical benefits.

Council Member Wood pointed out that all four (4) claims were old dates. Mr. Abood admitted the claimants had been in the workers compensation system, so the City is pursuing closing the files. These claimants are nominal redemptions, and they had not received much in benefits. Council Member Washington asked if that was because they were all in the retirement system. Mr. Abood stated they were not, there is a third party called COMP ONE that has been handling the claims, and the City did not get involved until a dispute was determined, but the City is now getting involved before the dispute phase.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR THE WC20629040002012718001 WORKERS COMPENSATION CLAIM SETTLEMENT. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

RESOLUTION - WC#20629040002009067001 Workers Compensation Claim Settlement

Mr. Abood confirmed for the Committee that the claimant is not back on the job, was not offered another job, the claimant is not continuing the same job, and not in the retirement program. Council Member Dunbar asked if the City has been paying annually since 1979 when it was filed. Mr. Abood stated claims are paid depending on the type of benefits they are entitled to. Workers Compensation covers wage lose, replacement or rehab services, medical according to workers compensation rate, and sometime mileage to a doctor and rehabilitation. All of those are lifetime benefits, and over time sometimes there is a negotiation. Council Member Wood added that if the claimant is in the retirement program, the Retirement Board does their own periodic checks and investigations.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTUION FOR THE WC20629040002009067001 WORKERS COMPENSATOIN CLAIM SETTLEMENT. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

RESOLUTION – Grant Acceptance; Federal Help America Vote Act and State Appropriated Fund for new Voting Systems

Mr. Swope informed the Committee that the grant is required to pay maintenance contract fees on the systems. The State of Michigan and Ingham County negotiated the best cost and vendor, who matched the lowest bid. There is additional equipment the City will buy to process absentee voters and they will also purchase spares. Those funds have already been planned for in the capital overlay. Council Member Washington asked if there will be testing. Mr. Swope confirmed they will have to within 10 day after they obtain the systems. Mr. Swope then detailed that the machines are optical scan machines, with oval completion, which is the next level of technology. This newer technology will take a picture of the ballot when it is put into the tabulator, then read the picture it took. This will increase accuracy. Not included in the grant is the high speed feeding of the ballots into the machines. This technology will cut the time half for processing ballots on elections day. Council Member Washington asked Mr. Swope what he needed to do with disposing of the old machines. Mr. Swope confirmed that the company will take the old, and then the City has to report when they are gone. The State has advised the local municipalities in 10 years they do not plan to fund future equipment purchases, therefore the City has starting putting funds into a line item budget for the future. Council Member Wood asked what the plan for the equipment was for 2017. Mr. Swope stated the May election will be old equipment and the August election the new equipment.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR GRANT ACCEPTANCE; FEDERAL HELP AMERICA VOTE ACT AND STATE APPROPRIATED FUND FOR NEW VOTING SYSTEMS. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

RESOLUTION – Grant by the Lansing Board of Water and Light for the LIFT-UP Program

Ms. Paxton outlined the request, which related to a grant already received by the City from the National League of Cities. The grant application is for the funds from BWL for the Financial Empowerment. The funds will be used for scientific study and a control group. To participate the residents have to be \$300 behind in their debt, and the control group will consist of those that qualify and are offered the assistance but don't take it. This study will allow them to look at those who have financial issues and those who don't. The department will have staff at the HACO office one day a week (Wednesday) for onsite assistance. Council Member Wood asked Ms. Paxton how they were going to capture data on those that were not taking the program, for the control group. Ms. Paxton stated they will collect their information from BWL, no name, address, no customer number. They will be offered the program via a phone call at which point they will need to provide permission for the Financial Empowerment Office to obtain any information. They will offer them the option to provide it over the phone or go to the HACO office on Wednesday. Ms. Paxton assured the Committee they will not be asking for or being provided information over the phone from the potential participants, but only the permission to contact BWL for the information mentioned earlier.

MOTOIN BY COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR THE GRANT BY LANSING BOARD OF WATER AND LIGHT FOR THE LIFT-UP PROGRAM. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

RESOLUTION - City for Financial Empowerment Coalition Meeting Sponsorship - Outreach and Engagement Sponsorship from Michigan State University

Ms. Paxton acknowledged the two sponsorships for the upcoming Coalition Meeting in April, where 15 cities will be in attendance. The funds will be used for the cost of meals for the 2 ½ days. The Committee discussed the funds, sponsorships and determined that the resolution is

not needed. The funds should be placed in account for donations then a transfer to cover the costs of the events will be done.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD TO PLACE ON FILE. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

RESOLUTION - City for Financial Empowerment Coalition Meeting Sponsorship – Outreach and Engagement Sponsorship from Jackson National Life

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD TO PLACE ON FILE. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

DISCUSSION – Sole Source Purchase: Quadguard Attenuator II TL-3; Carrier and Gable
Council Staff was directed to place on the next agenda under pending, and if Public Service does not attend again, it will be addressed during their budget hearing.

ADJOURN

Adjourn at 4:12 p.m.

Submitted by,

Sherrie Boak, Recording Secretary

Lansing City Council

Approved by the Committee on April 11, 2017