



MINUTES
Committee on Ways and Means
August 15, 2017 @ 3:30 p.m.
10th Floor Conference Room, City Hall

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:31 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Councilmember Jody Washington, Chair
Councilmember Kathie Dunbar, Vice Chair
Councilmember Carol Wood, Member

OTHERS PRESENT

Sherrie Boak, Council Staff
Eric Brewer, Council Internal Auditor
Andy Kilpatrick, Public Service
Mindy Biladeau, DLI
Jim Smiertka, City Attorney
Gregory Venker, Assistant City Attorney
Denise Estee
Kathy Miles
Elaine Womboldt
Mary Prince
Steve Maloney
Susan Brownlee

Minutes

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER DUNBAR TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE JULY 11, 2017 MEETING AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE AUGUST 1, 2017 WITH THE CHANGE TO THE LAST PAGE, PARAGRAPH 5, WITH THE CORRECTION ~~“She then asked if she could attend the Retirement Board meeting and get a document, at which Council Member Wood informed her that that Board does not deal with health-care. Ms. Estee asked Council Member Wood if the ERS Board received actual documents to authorize a deduction from someone’s pension. Council Member Wood stated no.”~~ MOTION CARRIED AS AMENDED 3-0.

Public Comment

Public Comment will be made at each agenda item.

Discussion/Action

RESOLUTION - Principal Shopping District (PSD) Assessment for FY2018 to FY2020

Ms. Biladeau was presented with copies of the letters and emails that were sent to the Clerk's office for the hearing on August 14th. Two communications were in opposition; AFLCIO and IPM, the other were in support. Ms. Biladeau stated that there is an option for them to appeal and receive a reduction up to 60% by completing a form and submitting the form to the Assessor. Ms. Biladeau stated she would contact those two opposed and direct them to the form.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR THE PRINCIPAL SHOPPING DISTRICT (PSD) ASSESSMENT FOR FY2018 TO FY2020. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

RESOLUTION – GRANT ACCEPTANCE; GRAND RIVER AVENUE BIKE LANES

Mr. Kilpatrick provided information on the project which would reconfigure portions of Grand River Avenue for bike accommodations. This will also allow additional parking on the bridge area. Mr. Kilpatrick explained the urgency was based on their earlier submission as CMAQ (Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality) project and was funded as TAP (Transportation Alternatives Program), whoever after submission to MDOT, after a second round of comments, MDOT informed the City would a resolution accepting the grant.

Council Member Washington asked if the City match was \$7,260, at which Mr. Kilpatrick confirmed, noting it was in the 2018 calendar year project; however Federal funding is behind and will come from FY2016.

Council Member Wood asked if the project had anything to do with the talks about the future round-about at the intersection of Grand River and Washington. Mr. Kilpatrick confirmed it was not, but does go through Washington, and will be compatible with whatever future plans for that intersection.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR THE GRANT ACCEPTANCE FOR THE GRAND RIVER AVENUE BIKE LANES. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Continued discussion the PSD Assessment

The City Attorney's arrived at the meeting and were brought up to speed on the action on the PSD Assessment, and what was stated by Ms. Biladeau on the request from the AFL CIO to be exempt. Mr. Venker agreed with the procedure Ms. Biladeau had outlined, and referenced the code provision 1026.06 that spoke to special assessments. It is not tailored to owners, but has language to state special assessments are tied to the proportional value of the property receiving the benefit of the services. The Committee discussed with the City Attorney office the determination of the value of the property, commercial and second story residential and exemptions. Mr. Smiertka noted that the statue is set up for commercial property, and the definition excludes residential.

Mr. Brewer was asked to research how the Stadium District and the areas on S. Washington where there is commercial and residential in the building are assessed.

Update from Law on Sole Source Purchases; Segal Waters Consulting Group, Human Resources

Mr. Smiertka distributed a draft dated August 14, 2017 of amendments to Section 206.05, which he stated he received his amendments from researching similar regulation in education and other municipal ordinances. He noted that the current ordinance has a “good faith” for sole source and anything over \$15,000.00 is supposed to be reported to the City Clerk and Council. His proposed amendments he noted would set forth more criteria and explain why it would or could be a sole source. Council Member Wood provided the example of the current topic of a sole source for HR consulting, where the Committee was told by Ms. Riley the HR Director it was an emergency and temporary, however they still have not done an RFP, and the Committee knows there are other companies that can perform the same duties. She then asked Mr. Smiertka if his amendments would get to the end of this and future situations where the correct exercise is not performed. Mr. Smiertka confirmed that currently it is broad for the departments, but the criteria will allow for control. Council Member Washington pointed out again that the Committee is aware in this case that there other companies, however they were not provided the opportunity, so the ordinance needs to be tightened up so there are no favors given out in the future. Mr. Brewer asked for protections to be added to the ordinance as an enforcement, and Council Member Wood asked time limits to be included that would provide deadlines on when they have to inform Council on the search for a sole source and on securing a sole source.

Council Member Dunbar asked what new criteria Segal Waters would have fallen under, and Mr. Smiertka stated #3 – “Special Services or Facilities are Required”. Council Member Washington reminded the Committee that Ms. Riley informed them on August 1st it was done for convenience.

Council Member Wood pointed out to Mr. Smiertka that in this case, labor agreements are involved and they speak specifically to The Hay Group, and it is required that all 3 groups agree to the change, and only 2 did. Mr. Smiertka read the intent of the current ordinance that stated “the agency responsible shall establish a conformance plan in conformance with Hay.” He stated his interpretation is not that is say they have to use Hay Group.

Mr. Smiertka ended by asking for the Committee to forward any additions and comments to him, and he will review along with look into the making the amendments mentioned at this meeting.

OTHER

Ordinance to Amend Chapter 286 to Add Section 286.16

Mr. Smiertka distributed a copy of his proposed amendments to the ordinance to include Section 286.16 that would require the City provide an employee with a summary of benefits when the employee separates from City Service.

Council Member Washington added the topic for further discussion to the next meeting.

Teamsters 580 Retiree Healthcare Coverage

Ms. Estee distributed letters from retiree Robert Engle and his spouse Isobel M. McCallum, asking they be placed on the record. (Attached) Ms. Estee then read from her notes (attached) which referenced a memo from Law dated July 31, 2017; a Committee meeting on September 7, 2016; a Committee meeting on August 1, 2017; the contracts; a 2006 letter from Terri Singleton, HR Director at the time; a 2008 letter from Jerry Ambrose; and her opinion on the situation thus far. Ms. Estee provided her notes and attachments to Council staff and asked the topic continue remain on the Committee agenda as a pending item.

Council Member Washington agreed to keep the item on the agenda, and admitted that currently there appears to be a stall until the new administration takes effect January 1, 2018, also noting she understood Mr. Smiertka explanations because he does have to go by the law.

Mr. Smiertka informed the Committee that per their direction he did reach out to the union representative for discussion, but had not gotten a call back as of the time of this meeting. He stated that his belief even though the union states they can't represent retirees, it is an issue that needs to be addressed with the union representative and the administration because the Charter puts *Labor* under the role of the Mayor.

Ms. Brownlee referred the discussion back to the proposed ordinance amendment language in the Ordinance 286, asking for comparative language to what it currently states, and pointing out it states "benefits" but not "pension", then asking for it to be specifically laid out. Council Member Wood clarified to Ms. Brownlee that the reason there was no comparative language in the draft Ordinance for 286, is because it is a complete new section, therefore there is currently nothing in 286.16 to compare to.

Ms. Womboldt asked if information can be submitted even though the Teamsters item is going to be "Pending". Council Member Washington assured her it could be, and at the end of the year she would originate a report to the whole Council from the Committee on the history of the topic for the 2018 Committee and the new Mayor.

Mr. Maloney submitted a letter speaking to the issue that affects his health care with the 1% cap. (attached) Council Member Washington asked Council staff to have Ms. Thelen with the City HR Department attend the next meeting to provide an explanation on how the 1% cap is determined for the options of health care choices for retirees.

Mr. Brewer was asked if he any information on his charge from the last meeting on how much and what process would need to be taken to make the retirees whole if this was resolved in their favor. Mr. Brewer did not have any information at this time, stated he had made a request to the Finance Director, and was informed it was forwarded to the City Attorney office. A copy of that request was provided to Mr. Smiertka at this meeting and he stated he would address it.

Ms. Estee asked for a copy of the final report the Committee does at year end, and Council Member Washington stated she would have Council Staff forward a copy when it is sent to the Administration.

Other

Council Member Wood informed the Committee that the Retirement Board is currently dealing with a situation that will eventually come to Council and this Committee to resolve. It has been brought to that Boards attention that even though Fire and Police retirement should not come out of their check until they are officially sworn in; there have been some officers that it was taken out from their first check when they were training, volunteering, or working in other areas. This timeline does not line up with their "time" earned for retirement, therefore now that some are getting close to retirement they are being told they have to buy time, because the time doesn't line up with the actual time they were sworn in and paid in compared to when they should have been. The Boards attorney, Ken Lane with Clark Hill, is drafting a communication and language for an ordinance the Committee and Council will need to review and take action on in an urgent time line. A hearing will need to be set once the document is received, which will require a 5 day notice.

Ms. Womboldt questioned how the practice could have occurred. Council Member Wood stated that payroll does not know when a person is officially sworn in.

Council Member Dunbar informed the Committee that Ms. Biladeau informed her she will also send a letter and information to IPM via their email inquiry.

ADJOURN

Adjourn at 4:48 p.m.

Submitted by,

Sherrie Boak, Recording Secretary

Lansing City Council

Approved by the Committee on September 5, 2017

Robert John Engel
Retired Local 580
P.O. Box 201, Colebrook, NH 03576

August 8, 2017

Mr. James Smiertka, City Attorney
5th Floor, City Hall
124 W. Michigan Ave.
Lansing, Michigan 48933

Dear Mr. Smiertka,

Ms. Estee has shared your July 31, 2017 letter with me. But my complaint and claim is that I have been disenfranchised from my contract bargaining group; along with about 50 others including Ms. Estee. The administration has violated the equal protection rights under 42 U.S.C. 1983. With a policy that affects only a fraction of the Local 580 retirees from the 2003-2007 contract. Making retirees after February 20, 2004 pay for medical insurance from their pensions' while the majority does not have to pay. A policy made in 2010 that's retroactive to 2004, on a contract than ended in 2007 making changes for only part of a larger group that where all under the same contract, with absence of justification.

We are protected under class of one violation; when discrimination or unequal treatment is not based on a membership in a particular class or group. We have been intentionally treated differently from others similarly situated and that there is no rational basis for the difference in treatment. The city has 12 contracts groups; and none of them required the retirees to pay for medical insurance out of their pension, retroactively, and after the fact in 2011!

The damages caused by this discrimination have been severe. When my pension was reduced by \$600.00 a month in 2013; I was recovering from cancer. I could not make my mortgage payment on my house in Lansing, the loan was foreclosed and I had to file bankruptcy. That house was part of my retirement plan to provide rental income by the time I reach 80. This has had a negative effect on my health.

My claim was made in 2013, after asking the city for two years to show some justify of this action, now I've been asking for eight years without a response; further proof of hostile discrimination. To avoid further unpleasantness, I demand that the discrimination stop, the city respond to my claim and make me whole again.



Robert John Engel

cc. Ms. Jody Washington – Ways and Means Chairperson and Council Member
Ms. Wood – Ways and Means Committee and Council Member
Ms. Denise Estee – City Retiree and former Teamster 580 Steward

Isobel M. McCallum, R.N.

93 Colby St - P.O. Box 201, Colebrook NH 03576
Tel (H) 517-579-8677 (C) 603-331-1687

Council Member and Ways and Means Committee Chairperson: Ms Jody Washington
Council Member and Ways and Means Committee Vice Chairperson: Ms Carol Wood
City of Lansing - City Hall
124 West Michigan Avenue
Lansing MI 48933

August 15th, 2017

It is with great regret that I am unable to attend your meeting as an interested party in the Healthcare - 2004 Tie Bar situation, as the spouse of Robert J Engel, as I am working in the State of Maine and my schedule does not permit us to attend.

As you may recall from past meetings, that Mr Engel took Option A of the City's Retirement Package offered to City Employees during the period July-Sept 15th, 2005.

In Attachment A (copy attached) of above mentioned Package, the second bullet under "Additional Terms of Agreement" states: *"I understand that the terms of this agreement become binding and irrevocable seven days after I sign this agreement and City of Lansing Exit Incentive and Severance/Separation Agreement and Release."* It seems to be that the terms of the agreement, which were binding and irrevocable as of Sept 15th, 2005, have been revoked and agreement broken by the whim of some person(s) in the Mayoral Governance of Lansing 5-6 years after the fact and also, outside of the Teamster 580 Collective Bargaining contract which ran from 2003-2007. I use the word "whim", as despite multiple requests, by Mr Engel and even more by Ms Denise Estee, no one has been able to say under what authority this was done, and there are no Council Meeting Minutes which give their approval to this tie-Bar. Mr Engel has written on various occasions to the City Attorney, including the September 2016, when he handed a letter in person to Mr Abood for Mr Smiertka, and now, 11 months later, still no reply. This is abominable! If during his employment with the City, Mr Engel had taken over 11 months to respond to memos/letters, he would have been shown the exit door. So why, in retirement, is he not offered the same courtesy and respect he gave the City during his employment.

What is even more sad, is the fact that three decades of loyal and faithful service to the City, means nothing and is very demoralizing to us.

At this time, Mr Engel took a deduction in his pay, so that I would continue to get the same benefits, should Mr Engel predecease me. What happened to the City's self-funded plan as in BC/BS PPO, which in a letter dated March 29th, 2006, was to be the primary insurance, "the City is now giving each employee and retiree covered by BC/BS Community Blue PPO, notice that you are now covered under the City's self-funded arrangement with BC/BS. There is no change in your coverage. The City is still using BC/BS Community Blue riders; however, the cost is being totally borne by the City". With BC/BS, we would have been covered for emergency care abroad (where I have immediate family: father and 2 brothers), under United American Insurance Company (AmWins), Mr Engel is not covered, as we would have to pay out of pocket first - another whamee we have received from the City. Is United American Insurance Company (AmWins) part of this self-funded plan? So begs the question: is BC/BS PPO still 'self-funded' and if so, why at the age of 65 the change to United American Insurance Company (AmWins)? There was no prior notification that this would be the case upon turning 65.

I would hereby request that for the cost of health insurance Mr Engel has had to pay out for myself, be restituted, as this was prepaid per agreement signed between Mr Engel and the City on September 8th, 2015.

I hereby want to support, and thank Ms Denise Estee for her commitment to the Tie Bar issue and by this means, I am authorizing her to represent me at the Ways and Means Committee and/or Council Meetings. And would like to thank her for hand carrying this letter to the Ways and Means Committee at their meeting.

And lastly, I would appreciate complete and accurate inclusion in the Minutes of today (August 15th, 2017)'s meeting. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Isobel M. McCallum

Attachments:

- Attachment A 2005 Targeted Retirement Incentive Agreement
- Memo/Letter March 29th, 2006, signed by Terri Singleton

ATTACHMENT A
2005 TARGETED RETIREMENT INCENTIVE AGREEMENT
FOR ERS MEMBERS PURCHASING SERVICE CREDITS

Employee Name <u>ROBERT JOHN ENGEL</u>	Social Security Number XXXXXXXXXX
Bargaining Classification <u>580</u>	Department <u>PLANNING DEVELOPMENT</u>
Service Credits eligible to purchase <u>51</u> months	Unit purchase price for each month \$ 11.00

I agree to purchase 51 months of eligible service credits for the total sum of \$ 4,400.00 as follows (you may select any or all of the methods listed but the total number of months may not exceed the service credits eligible to be purchased as stated above):

- ☒ 6 months through City contribution of \$ 8,074.80 (14% of my Final Base Salary)
- ☐ _____ months by \$ _____ cash purchase (check payable to City of Lansing as payee)
- ☐ _____ months by \$ _____ assignment of my final leave balance payout (net after tax)
- ☒ 45 months by \$ 9,925.20 direct rollover from my Lansing IRS 457 Deferred Compensation Plan
- ☐ ING
- ☒ T. ROWE PRICE

Additional Terms of Agreement:

- I acknowledge that I have been provide the Actuarial Cost Worksheet that contains the statement of the cost for me to purchase service credits under the 2005 Targeted Retirement Incentive.
- I understand that the terms of this agreement become binding and irrevocable seven days after the date I sign this agreement and City of Lansing Voluntary Exit Incentive and Severance/Separation Agreement and Release.
- I understand that if I select the option to purchase service credits by assignment of any of my final leave balance payouts, then, by my signature below, I am assigning my final leave balance payout stated above and hereby authorize the City to transfer the funds to purchase the identified service credits.
- I understand that if I select the option to purchase service credits by direct rollover from my Lansing IRS Deferred Compensation Plan, it is my responsibility to arrange, through the plan administrator, to sign the necessary forms to effectuate and complete the rollover within 30 days of my retirement/separation from employment or I will not receive the service credits by this method.
- I understand that by signing this form, I represent that I have verified the stated funds to be rolled over from my Lansing IRS 457 Deferred Compensation Plan are currently in my 457 account.

CITY OF LANSING EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
APPLICATION FOR SERVICE RETIREMENT

To the Board of Trustees, City of Lansing Employees' Retirement System,

I, ROBERT JOHN ENGEL, a member of the Retirement System, hereby apply for service retirement.

Social Security Number: [REDACTED] Date of Birth: [REDACTED]

I request my retirement be effective: 9-15-05

My title on the payroll is: DEVELOPMENT AGENT Department employed in: PLANNING

I desire my retirement allowance benefits be sent to: DIRECT DEPOSIT

I elect to receive my retirement allowance in the following manner (please put an X next to benefits requested)

Straight Life (terminating at death)

Equating

Option A (100%) X

Option B (50%)

Write the plan elected: OPTION A

[Signature]

Signature of Witness

[Signature]

Signature of Member

NOMINATION OF BENEFICIARY

I nominate as my beneficiary ISOBEL MCCALLUM SS# [REDACTED]

(name/address) 335 N. SYCAMORE ST Place of Birth ARGENTINA

LANSING MI 48933 Relationship WIFE

Date of Birth [REDACTED] Sex F

Date of Lansing, Michigan this 8 day of Sept, 2005.

[Signature]

Signature of Witness

[Signature]

Signature of Member

CERTIFICATE OF BENEFICIARY'S DATE OF BIRTH

I hereby certify that the date of birth of my beneficiary is true and correct:

Dated at Lansing, Michigan this 8 day of Sept, 2005. Signed [Signature]

Subscribed and sworn to me this 8 day of Sept, 2005.

My commission expires 6-22-07 Notary Public [Signature]

ESTHER GROFF notary
NOTARY PUBLIC (STATE OF MI) notary



Virg Bernero, Mayor

CITY OF LANSING PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT

124 West Michigan Avenue
4th Floor, City Hall
Lansing, Michigan 48933

Benefits / Classifications
Labor Relations / Recruitment
Safety / Selection / Training
Worker's Compensation

(517) 483-4004 (Voice/TDD)
(517) 483-4490 (Jobs Hotline)
(517) 483-6064 (FAX)
www.cityoflansingmi.com

March 29, 2006

Dear Employee/Retiree:

As you may know, on January 1, 2005, the City of Lansing moved to a self-funded plan with Blue Cross-Blue Shield ("BC/BS") for the BC/BS Community Blue PPO, our base health care plan with all of our Unions. The reason for this change is to simply realize savings by changing the "funding mechanism" (i.e., the way we pay for this health care coverage). As such, the current level of benefits shall be maintained.

In compliance with State of Michigan requirements, the City is now giving each employee and retiree covered by BC/BS Community Blue PPO, notice that you are now covered under the City's self-funded arrangement with BC/BS. There is no change in your coverage. The City is still using BC/BS Community Blue PPO riders; however, the cost is being totally borne by the City. A new contract with BC/BS will become effective July 1, 2006.

There have been some concerns raised about a decrease in certain benefits or "guarantees". Concerns which have been expressed include, but are not limited to: confidentiality of claims, state mandatory benefits. In response to those concerns, the current level of benefits and the process for protecting personal health information shall be maintained.

Another area of concern raised was the appeal of claims. While the appeal process has the same two steps, with the City's move to a self-funded plan, the appeals process has been slightly modified. Under the prior arrangement, an employee, after exhausting the internal BC/BS appeals process, could then appeal to the State of Michigan Insurance Commissioner. The State Insurance Commissioner's office reviewed legal/policy claims internally and made a decision. Any medical claim appeals were sent to an Independent Review Organization (IRO) for a determination. The City of Lansing has contracted with the same IRO used by the State of Michigan to provide this service after appeals of claims have exhausted the BC/BS process. The contact information for the IRO is listed below:

Maximus
50 Square Drive, Suite 210
Victor, NY 14564
Phone: (585) 425-5280
Fax: (585) 425-5296

March 29, 2006

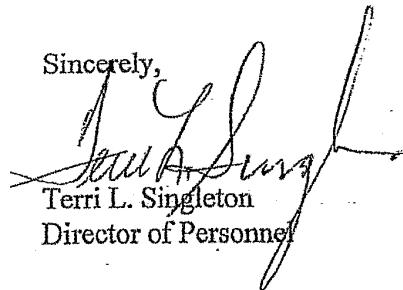
Page 2

In order to provide information to our employees and retirees who participate with the BC/BS Community Blue Plan covered under our self-funding arrangement, the City has prepared a basic question and answer pamphlet which is enclosed in this packet.

Employees who desire a new benefits guide book may request one through the City's Benefits Administrator at (517) 483-4004. Retirees who desire a new benefits guide book may request one through the City's Retirement Office at (517) 483-4508.

No action is required as a result of this notification. If you have further questions or concerns, please contact the Personnel Department, at (517) 483-4004.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terri L. Singleton", is written over the printed name and title.

Terri L. Singleton
Director of Personnel

Enclosure

Cc: Gerald Ambrose
Jill Rhode
John Bensinger
Scott Dedic
Michael Parker
Sheryl Langdon
Bryan Epling
Bruce Holliday
Lisa Phillips
Karen Phelps

Comments: Ways and Means, August 15, 2017, 3:30 PM

First of all I am submitting letters from Robert Engel, retiree and his wife, Isobel McCallum. They would like these to be entered into the minutes.

Regarding the James Smiertka memo dated July 31, 2017 called "Denise Estee Claims". The complaint made in June 2014 is not all about me. This memo should have been mailed to my home. What about the other 90 plus retirees?

At the September 7, 2016 Ways and Means meeting, Mr. Smiertka was requested by the committee to do a written report and address three (3) items:

1. The 2-20-2004 tie-bar date: Where is it and what is the significance of this date?
2. Why did this only apply to 50 retirees in 2010?
3. Why is it legal to pre-date a policy by 6 years?

It's almost one year later and we still don't have his report. The Denise Estee memo does not address or include these 3 items.

Addressing other comments/discussion from the August 1st Ways and Means committee:

1. Mr. Smiertka stated that the 2004 tie-bar was a policy by the Administration. He further stated that he deals with the law, not policies. However, a public employer has an obligation to negotiate a policy if the public employer is unionized. The 2004 date was not bargained with the union before it was adopted. Health insurance benefits are a mandatory subject of collective bargaining in Michigan.
2. Mr. Smiertka has stated on many occasions that the 2003-2007 contract died in 2007. **Well apparently the first part of the contract from February 1, 2003 through February 19, 2004 (more than one year) is alive and well. Retirees from 2003 and the first part of 2004 continue to receive life-time benefits which are being 100% paid by the City. Level of benefits remain intact.** Now how can that even be with the same exact language under the same exact contract. Does anyone ever apply logic or common sense to an issue?

Also alive and well is the 2000-2003 Contract which has the very same exact language as the 2003-2007 contract. Further alive are contracts ending in 2000, 1997, 1994, 1993, 1990 and 1987. All say the same thing: Eligible retirees shall be covered by the same insurance as active bargaining unit members. **So apparently contracts don't die until 2004 and after?** Language from 1997 through 2007 is attached.

Also attached is a FOIA request from October 25, 2013: this shows that the City was maintaining 6 different health plans for Teamster 580 retirees. Approximately 81 Teamster 580 retirees (under the age of 65) were allowed to keep their vested plan at 100% City paid. (Page 401 of binder.)

3. The Dept. of Labor says to save your plan documents such as Collective bargaining agreements, Personnel rules, etc. to reference retiree benefits. According to Mr. Smiertka these all die or something.

4. Vesting: Mr. Smiertka claims there is no promise of retiree healthcare once the Contract dies. Odd since the contract talks about the number of years needed to be eligible for retiree healthcare; it talks about pre-funding of retiree healthcare; City Ordinances talk about vesting.

Mr. Smiertka argues there is no duration listed in the contract.

A. But obviously the contract talks about **converting** the retiree to complementary coverage at Medicare age of 65. This language covers before age 65 and after age 65 and the clear intent of duration is there.

B. Letters/memos from Terri Singleton, HR Director dated 2006 states “no change in your coverage” (page 388 of binder) and a letter dated 3-25-2008 from Jerry Ambrose, Chief of Staff to the Mayor/Finance Director that states “Rest assured we will honor our legal and collectively bargained contractual obligation to our retirees.”

Letters/memos have been found by the courts that “there was a genuine issue of material fact regarding whether a contract had, in fact, been created...”.

Other Attachments to document promises made:

2005 early-out: Employee must have 15 years of service for retiree healthcare.

Exit documents **signed** in the retirement office prior to leaving.

Commonly asked Questions: BCBS - Will normally be exactly what you currently have as an employee. **As further explained there may be a cost to switch from Ward coverage to Semi-private.**

Signed document about Semi-private differential.

5. CA comment about nothing has been done up to this point so it has to be done under current law.

NOT TRUE. In March 2015 several retirees received partial refunds of premiums based on the Janene McIntyre Part 1 Report. This was supported by the Mayor. McIntyre Part 2 memo is a continuation of that decision. This is dated at the end of November 2015. Ms. McIntyre had an abrupt departure from the City approximately 6 weeks? later. Certainly some type of dispute with the Mayor? Did the retirees got caught in the “cross-fire” because of their dispute. Certainly not fair. Why would the Mayor support the Part 2 opinion in the middle of the so called scandal?

Summary: Common sense and logic should have been applied to the “smell test” on this issue.

1. Applying a new policy to only 50 Teamster retirees (2010) out of 850 (more or less) retirees city-wide is very odd.
2. Declaring the first year of the 2003-2007 contract “alive and well” and the other three years of it died in 2007 is also odd.
3. Having the same language “retirees have the same insurance as actives” in all the Teamster contracts from 1985 on but it only applies to those retired after 2-20-2004...very odd.
4. Letting just some 580 retirees keep the level of benefits at 100% City paid and not others... odd.
5. Having the Mayor support the McIntyre report Part 1 but not Part 2 because of a scandal...again odd.

No I don't believe these five items passed the test.

I further believe that the employer, City of Lansing, has due diligence to ensure that it does not discriminate in its selection of who gets what benefits and at what cost.

I am respectfully requesting that my comments and 7 pages of attachments be made part of the minutes.

Thank you.

Denise A. Estee
Teamster 580 retiree

CBA 2-1-1991 → 1-31-2000

2) Members of the bargaining unit, up to a maximum of fifteen percent (15%) of each bargaining unit, will be allowed to opt out of the City's health care plan annually, during the City's open enrollment period¹ provided the employee provides written proof of coverage from another source.

Re-enrollment in one of the City's medical insurance plans will only be permitted at the time of the City's open enrollment which is at least one (1) year from the initial date of the opt out with the following exception. In the event the bargaining unit member loses his/her alternative coverage and provides written documentation of loss of such coverage, re-enrollment in one of the City's medical insurance plans will be permitted and the effective date of coverage will be as soon as allowable by the applicable insurance vendor.

3) Payment. Any employee who opts out of the City's health care plan will be eligible to receive \$1500 in any year which they receive coverage from another source. Such payment shall not be eligible to be considered in the calculation of the employee's final average compensation. In addition such payments shall be made at least twice a year, by separate check, following the period of time the employee had alternate coverage. Employees who do not choose to opt out shall incur no additional cost other than those costs provided in above sections which the employee may currently be paying.

4. Cancellation. In the event that IRS Code, Section 125 and/or opt out plans are no longer permissible under State or Federal statutes or IRS Regulations, the City may cancel this option.

G. Retiree Health Care Coverage. Eligible retirees shall be covered by the same insurance as active bargaining unit members.

1. Employees hired on or after July 1, 1987 shall not become eligible retirees under this provision unless they work at least fifteen (15) years for the City, and are eligible to receive age and service retirement benefits or they are eligible for duty disability retirement, under the terms of the General Employees' Retirement System ordinance.

2. Employees hired before July 1, 1987, shall become eligible retirees under this provision when they are eligible to receive age and service retirement benefits (deferred or immediate) or a disability retirement under the terms of the General Employees' Retirement System ordinance, consistent with the practice then in effect.

¹Initially a special opt-out period may be implemented outside of the City's open enrollment period.

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provides written documentation of loss of such coverage, re-enrollment in one of the City's medical insurance plans will be permitted and the effective date of coverage will be as soon as allowable by the applicable insurance vendor.

3. Payment. Any employee who opts out of the City's health care plan will be eligible to receive \$1500 in any year which they receive coverage from another source. Such payment shall not be eligible to be considered in the calculation of the employee's final average compensation. In addition such payments shall be made at least twice a year, by separate check, following the period of time the employee had alternate coverage. Employees who do not choose to opt out shall incur no additional cost other than those costs provided in above sections which the employee may currently be paying.

4. Cancellation. In the event that IRS Code, Section 125 and/or opt out plans are no longer permissible under State or Federal statutes or IRS Regulations, the City may cancel this option.

H. Retirement Health Care Coverage. Eligible retirees and eligible members of the City's Defined Contribution Money Purchase Plan (DCMPP) shall be covered by the same insurance as active bargaining unit members; However, Blue Cross/Blue Shield Traditional health care insurance will remain available as an option to eligible retirees and eligible members of the city's DCMPP. Any additional costs for Traditional coverage in excess of the base plan will be paid by the retiree.

1. Defined Benefit Plan Employees hired on or after July 1, 1987 shall not become eligible retirees under this provision unless they work at least fifteen (15) years for the City, and are eligible to receive age and service retirement benefits or they are eligible for duty disability retirement, under the terms of the General Employees' Retirement System ordinance.
2. Defined Benefit Plan Employees hired before July 1, 1987, shall become eligible retirees under this provision when they are eligible to receive age and service retirement benefits (deferred or immediate) or a disability retirement under the terms of the General Employees' Retirement System ordinance, consistent with the practice then in effect.
3. Retirement Health Insurance for Employees Hired Prior to October 29, 1990 who Previously Transferred Out of the Employees Retirement System to the Defined Contribution Money Purchase Plan.

These employees shall become eligible for retirement health care coverage with sixty-five (65) points that applies to Teamsters Local 580 bargaining unit members of the Employees Retirement System, as specified in Article 24.

CBA 2-1-2003 → 1-31-2007

employee provides written proof of coverage from another source. Employees shall not be eligible for the opt out provision until they have successfully completed their probationary period.

Re-enrollment in one of the City's medical insurance plans will only be permitted at the time of the City's open enrollment which is at least one (1) year from the initial date of the opt out with the following exception. In the event the bargaining unit member loses his/her alternative coverage and provides written documentation of loss of such coverage, re-enrollment in one of the City's medical insurance plans will be permitted and the effective date of coverage will be as soon as allowable by the applicable insurance vendor.

3. Payment. Any employee who opts out of the City's health care plan will be eligible to receive \$1500 in any year which they receive coverage from another source. Such payment shall not be eligible to be considered in the calculation of the employee's final average compensation. In addition such payments shall be made at least twice a year, by separate check, following the period of time the employee had alternate coverage. Employees who do not choose to opt out shall incur no additional cost other than those costs provided in above sections which the employee may currently be paying.

Effective February 20, 2004: The health care opt-out payment referred to above in this subsection, shall be increased to eighteen hundred dollars (\$1,800).

4. Cancellation. In the event that IRS Code, Section 125 and/or opt out plans are no longer permissible under State or Federal statutes or IRS Regulations, the City may cancel this option.

H. Retirement Health Care Coverage. Eligible retirees and eligible members of the City's Defined Contribution Money Purchase Plan (DCMPP) shall be covered by the same insurance as active bargaining unit members; However, Blue Cross/Blue Shield Traditional health care insurance will remain available as an option to eligible retirees and eligible members of the city's DCMPP. Any additional costs for Traditional coverage in excess of the base plan will be paid by the retiree.

1. Defined Benefit Plan Employees hired on or after July 1, 1987 shall not become eligible retirees under this provision unless they work at least fifteen (15) years for the City, and are eligible to receive age and service retirement benefits or they are eligible for duty disability retirement, under the terms of the General Employees' Retirement System ordinance.

7/01/05



7-6-05

CITY OF LANSING

2005 TARGETED RETIREMENT INCENTIVE

Pending City Council approval, the City of Lansing is offering a Targeted Retirement Incentive (TRI) in order to minimize layoffs during this critical budget time. Part of the TRI will allow current qualified employees to purchase up to four (4) years and three (3) months service credit in the Employees' Retirement System (ERS**). Highlights of the TRI are listed below:

ELIGIBILITY:

All interested ERS employees who meet the criteria listed below and are members of the following:

Teamster 580 CTP, Teamster 580 Supervisors, Teamsters 214, Teamsters 214 Supervisors, UAW, Exempt, and City Council staff. ϕ 54A?

Note: *Elected Officials, Mayoral staff, including Chief of Staff and Executive Assistant, and Department Directors are NOT eligible to participate.*

CRITERIA:

Employee must be a current employee who:

- ❖ Is a current member of ERS **
- ❖ Is within nine (9) months or less of having the required service credits to be vested for retirement pension benefits
- ❖ Elects to retire (including deferred retirement) under this TRI and timely submits appropriate City forms identified for this purpose
- ❖ Will not exceed the IRS Code Section 415 benefits limitations (*1)

INCENTIVES:

The City will:

- ❖ Add nine (9) months of service credit to an employee's existing service credit balance for retirement vesting and retirement allowance multiplier calculations.
- ❖ Allow for the purchase of up to four (4) years and three (3) months of additional Target Retirement Incentive service credits for retirement pension benefit calculations (TRI service credits) through City contribution and voluntary employee purchase options. This will require an actuarial calculation for each employee. (*2 and *3)

CITY CONTRIBUTION:

The City will contribute a sum equal to 14% ** of an employee's final base salary (*4) towards the purchase of the additional TRI service credits. (*5)

EXAMPLE..... For a final base salary of \$40,000

$\$40,000 \times .14 = \text{Amount Eligible for Employee Purchase} = \$5,600$

EMPLOYEE PURCHASE OPTIONS:

The City will allow the following voluntary options for an employee to purchase the remaining TRI service credits: (*6)

- ❖ An employee may apply all or any portion of the employee's final leave balance payout.
- ❖ An employee may use funds in his or her City 457 Plan Deferred Compensation in an IRS Code rollover.
- ❖ An employee may use cash from his or her personal funding sources.

POST RETIREMENT HEALTH CARE BENEFIT:

An employee must have at least fifteen (15) years of actual service with the City of Lansing, which does not include any TRI service credit nor the TRI additional nine (9) months service credits to receive post-retirement healthcare benefits.

AA

✓ Vision 6, 22 a month

Pg 1 of document
signed on 8-11-05

January 2002

**EMPOLYEES RETIREMENT PLANS
(Defined Benefit Plans)**

**COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS OF THE RETIREMENT OFFICE
(all information is subject to change)**

WHAT HAPPENS TO MY MEDICAL AND DENTAL INSURANCE WHEN I RETIRE?

The following medical coverages are currently offered to City retirees:

Blue Cross/Blue Shield - Will normally be exactly what you currently have as an employee.

Blue Care Network - Will be the same as when you were an employee. Employees covered through Blue Care Network will probably want to consider changing to Blue Cross during open enrollment prior to retirement as most retirees are more mobile than they were as employees. The City's contract with Blue Care Network is for the Lansing area facilities only.

Physicians Health Plan - If you have PHP upon retirement and PHP considers you to be retiring early, you may continue coverage. Remember this contract is with the Lansing area PHP only.

Delta Dental Insurance - Coverage remains the same as it was during employment with the City (one exception: in some cases, orthodontia is no longer a benefit). Union members please consult your contracts; non-union members should refer to personnel rules. There currently is no cost to the retiree for this coverage.

Premiums - You will be required to pay for all premiums for health care in excess of your eligible base plan.

The criteria used to determine dependent eligibility is the same for retirees as for employees. You must be able to claim individuals according to the IRS dependency test in order for them to remain on your medical or dental insurance.

Medicare Reimbursement - If you are eligible for Medicare (age 65), be sure to sign up and immediately upon receipt of the card, mail a copy to the Retirement Office. You will be reimbursed by the City for the basic Medicare premium which is deducted from your Social Security check, as long as the City's cost for Blue Cross Complementary coverage is less than Medicare. THE CITY WILL REIMBURSE FOR MEDICARE EXPENSES ONLY AFTER RECEIVING VERIFICATION THAT THE EMPLOYEE OR DEPENDENT IS ENROLLED IN MEDICARE, and following completion of enrollment for Blue Cross Complementary coverage. If you are not eligible for Social Security, you may have to pay directly for Medicare. Remember

The undersigned hereby authorizes the Finance Department of the City of Lansing, Michigan, to deduct from my pension payments the required premiums on the health care group hospital-surgical-medical service coverage. Semi-private differential, subject to change each February. Open enrollment is still available every January for retirees also.

8-11-05
Date

The undersigned hereby authorized the Finance Department of the City of Lansing, Michigan, to deduct from my pension payments the required premiums on the group life insurance. The cost is subject to change as the cost is experience rated. I am aware that the following applies. No cost to employee, per Fire Contract.

8-11-05
Date

Date _____

Date _____

c:/wp/data/retire.for
Retirement 10/92

August 15, 2017

City of Lansing Ways and Means Committee,

Three years have past since I first attended a Ways and Means Committee meeting regarding the Teamsters 580 Health Care Increase. After all this time, I have not been given a clear verbal or written explanation as to why the negotiated 1% cap on health care premiums was taken away from me in 2014. Without this cap on premiums, the increased cost to keep the same insurance plan that I retired with is so expensive that it forced me to choose an affordable plan with less coverage, higher deductables and higher co-pays. I should never have been required to choose a plan other than the one I had when I retired. It should be unacceptable to everyone involved that this issue still has not been resolved.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Maloney". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Steve Maloney

T580 Retired Code Compliance Officer