MINUTES
Committee on Ways and Means
September 19, 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
Jim Smiertka, City Attorney
Gregory Venker, Assistant City Attorney
Eric Brewer, Council Internal Auditor
Angela Bennett, Finance Director
Anethia Brewer, 54th District Court
Tom Donaldson
Kathy Miles
Elaine Womboldt
Lynne Meade, IFT 243
Denise Estee
Mary Kelly, 54th District Court
Danielle Strouse, 54th District Court
Amber Paxton, Financial Empowerment Center

Minutes
MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE SEPTEMBER 5, 2017 MEETING AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED 2-0.

Public Comment
Public Comment will be made at each agenda item.

Discussion/Action

RESOLUTION – Appointment; Tom Donaldson; At-Large Member of EDC/TIFA/LBRA Board; Term Expire 2/28/2022

Mr. Donaldson provided a brief history on his work experience with the Lansing Community College small business development center, and his interest in the Board to become embedded in the business community. Mr. Donaldson also reminded the Committee of his recent appointment to the Saginaw Corridor Authority.

Council Member Wood asked Mr. Smiertka to confirm that Mr. Donaldson can sit on two boards. Mr. Smiertka confirmed both boards are statutory boards and have no restrictions.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF TOM DONALDSON TO THE EDC/TIFA/LBRA BOARD. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

RESOLUTION – Budget Appropriation; National League of Cities/Met Life Foundation Grant for Financial Empowerment Center

Ms. Paxton stated to the Committee that a year ago the Center received a grant for $30,000, which is wrapping up currently. There is a Part 2 of the grant for $10,000, which will kick in once it is approved by Council. There grantor has approved to extend the grant past December. Ms. Paxton continued with her presentation, noting that Part 1 was used for marketing, and working with the parent groups regarding Lansing Save evaluating messages used to reach the parents. Those services have since ended. The intention was increase parental participation in Lansing Save and the Lansing Empowerment Center. The program has increased from 1% to 11.7% in participation rate through deposits, and an increase in family financial counseling from 1.8% to 7.6%. Ms. Paxton then provided information on the Part 2 which she stated is two parts on is testing ways to increase the deposits made by K-3rd graders. They are considering a marketing reminder tools. Out of the $10,000, $7,187 will be used for an application working with Lansing Promise. The application is for the parents to get answers to questions regarding the program. The application itself will run around $16,000 -$17,000, and with outside assistance in funding they will have obtained $11,000 of the needed amount. Council Member Washington asked Ms. Paxton to attend the Council Meeting on September 25, 2017 to present this information to all of Council, and Ms. Paxon acknowledged she could attend.

Council Member Wood asked the average deposits, and Ms. Paxton informed the Committee it was an average of $7 annually. Council Member Wood then asked if parents were also saving, and Ms. Paxton admitted it is hard to get the parents to the branch, however they are looking at future Credit Union nights, and going into the schools.

Ms. Miles spoke in support of the efforts Ms. Paxton was doing.

Ms. Womboldt spoke in support of efforts made by Ms. Paxton.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR THE NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES/ MET LIFE FOUNDAITON GRANT FOR THE FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT CENTER. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

RESOLUTION – Grant Appropriation, 54-A District Court Sobriety Court

Ms. Brewer introduced Deputy Administrator Mary Kelly and Danielle Strouse with the courts.

Ms. Brewer briefly noted the Committee that the 54th District Court has one of few Felony Sobriety Courts, and their recent grant award of $46,000. Ms. Strouse continued outlining the program which has been in operation since 2005. The amount awarded is the same as the earlier year, with the only change to temporary help from which would be lowered from $26,000 to cover the cost of a defense attorney to be part of the team.

Ms. Strouse provided statistics on the program, concluding her presentation. The statistics include the fact there were 19 active participants, 173 participants admitted, 154 discharged, and 96 successful in their completion with 103 graduates in the program. They have had a 62% success rate with the sobriety court.

Council Member Wood asked how the courts would choose the defense attorney that was new to the team. Ms. Brewer assured they have already been speaking with the current defense attorney that is assigned to the Courts, and also the current attorney working with the Chief Judge. Other options the department is considering will include discussions with the County and the indigent defense counsel. Council Member Washington asked if the defense attorney will be assisting with the indigents, and Ms. Brewer confirmed they will only help those and will be determined on income based.

Council Member Dunbar noted the amount designated for the attorney appeared to be $3,000 annually and asked if that was going to be a retainer or a maximum case load. Ms. Brewer confirmed it would an annual amount no matter the case load.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTON FOR THE GRANT APPROPRIATION FOR 54TH DISTRICT COURT SOBRIETY COURT. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

<u>RESOLUTION – Introduction and Set the Public Hearing; Ordinance to Add Section 286.16; Retiree Summary of Benefit</u>

The Committee reviewed Draft #3 that was presented at the meeting from the City Attorney office. Mr. Smiertka outlined the ordinance which was to requested for an employee leaving employment, a summary of post benefits, not the retiree allowance but the benefits. If there is no exit interview, then it will be provided by registered or certified mail. Any changes to collective bargaining, the retirees would be notified.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION TO INTRODUCE AND SET THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE ORDINANCE 286.16; RETIREE SUMMARY OF BENEFITS.

Ms. Estee asked why “policy” was removed from Draft #2. She then asked why it was being introduced at all because when she left she did receive an exit summary and yet the City does not honor her summary. Ms. Estee did acknowledge the Committee for their efforts, but her opinion was that until the Administration honors the items, it will not follow through. Council Member Washington stated to Ms. Estee she understood her frustration.

Mr. Smiertka informed the Committee that “policy” was removed because it was too vague, and “written” was added.

Council Member Dunbar questioned why it would say “through a collective bargaining agreement” at all in line 17-18, asking them to consider having it say instead “any changes to any benefits”. It is anticipated that written would apply to non-bargaining. Mr. Smiertka stated that it can’t effect collective bargaining, because that would be unfair labor practices.

Council Member Wood reiterated that the Ordinance amendments were created to put something in place for future employees when they are ready to retire.

Ms. Estee again protested the removal of “policy”, and Council Member Washington answered her by stating that “policy” does not override an ordinance, and will depend on the future Administrations practices. Council Member Dunbar asked Ms. Estee if she received written notification when the retirement changes and she admitted she had.

Council Member Wood recapped for the Committee and the public that the goal of these amendments were to accomplish that when a retiree walked out the door they knew what they were getting, unless there was a collective bargaining change. Committee ended up including non-bargaining since they are not part of the system, so this way they would get the information also. Mr. Smiertka added that the ordinance was intended to be a notice ordinance, not a mandate. Council Member Washington voiced her concern that the ordinance as it is written will not get where the Committee wanted, which was to provide retirees with notification, and notice to assure no changes unless through collective bargaining or the administration.

Ms. Bennett informed the Committee that changes through collective bargaining can change, with benefits, if they follow actives. When retirees leave they are informed that over the life of the retirement there will be changes.

Council Member Washington passed the gavel to Council Member Dunbar and stepped away from the meeting at 4:10 p.m.

Mr. Smiertka added to Ms. Bennett’s statements, noting that there cannot be collective bargaining for retirees, but the only changes that would occur would be with retirees who follow actives on their benefits.

Council Member Washington returned to the meeting at 4:12 p.m.

After further discussions by the Committee suggestions were made to the City Attorney for a Draft #4. The amendments include: Line 13, after “summary” add in prepared by the Human Resources Department”, removing that same language from line 15-16. Adding “details their” into line 14 before “post-separation”. Line 18 changing it to state “non-bargaining employees written summary of benefits”.

Ms. Womboldt spoke in support of the recent changes.

COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD WITHDREW HER MOTION.

Council Member Washington stated the latest draft would be discussed at the October 3, 2017 Committee meeting.

<u>RESOLUTION – Introduction and Set the Public Hearing; Ordinance to Amend Section 206.05; Sole Source Procurement</u>

Mr. Smiertka summarized the most recent changes which provided a list of criteria for directors that are performing an analysis that leads to a sole source procurement; anything over $15,000. The newest changes include reference to subject to Section 206.17, unauthorized purchases.

Ms. Bennett stated she did not look at the recent draft prior to the meeting and asked for a delay until a future meeting so she had time to review the document.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION TO INTRODUCE AND SET THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR OCTOBER 9, 2017. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

DISCUSSION – Budget Priorities FY2018/2019

The Committee did not propose any changes.

PENDING

Teamsters 580 Retiree Healthcare Coverage

Council Member Washington stated the item would continue to stay on the agenda as pending.

Ms. Estee asked why Ms. Thelen with HR was not present. Council Member Washington stated Ms. Thelen was asked to attend but was not granted permission to attend from her Director. Council Member Wood asked Mr. Smiertak to speak to HR for Ms. Thelen's attendance at a future meeting to describe the benefit in question. That benefit was the 1% cap.

Ms. Estee asked if Mr. Brewer could speak to a question at an earlier meeting on the amount it would take to make the retirees whole. Mr. Brewer submitted a copy of an email he sent to Ms. Bennett to Ms. Estee and the Committee. The email informed him that the request was sent to the City Attorney. Ms. Bennett stated that since it requires a legal opinion on a claim it was referred to Law. Mr. Smiertka took a copy of the email and stated he would speak after the meeting with Ms. Bennett. An update will be provided at the October 17, 2017 meeting.

OTHER

Council Member Wood asked Mr. Smiertka to speak to Ms. Meade after the meeting since they were not able to connect before the meeting.

ADJOURN

Adjourn at 4:31 p.m.
Submitted by,
Sherrie Boak, Recording Secretary
Lansing City Council
Approved by the Committee on October 3, 2017