MINUTES
Committee on Ways and Means
Monday October 28, 2019 @ 5:00 p.m.
10th Floor Conference Room, City Hall

CALL TO ORDER
The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL
Council Member Patricia Spitzley, Chair
Council Member Peter Spadafore, Vice Chairperson
Council Member Kathie Dunbar, Member

OTHERS PRESENT
Sherrie Boak, City Council Office Manager
Eric Brewer, Council Internal Auditor
Lisa Hagen, Assistant City Attorney/Council Research Assistant
Anethia Brewer, Court Administrator
Judge Cynthia Ward
Danielle Strouse, Probation Court
William Englter, Lansing Emergency Management
Council Member Washington – left at 5:12 p.m.
Jim Smiertka, City Attorney - arrived at 5:07 p.m.
Joe McClure, LPD
No Finance or Budget Staff present

Minutes
MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER SPADAFORE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 7, 2019 AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Public Comment
No public comment

Discussion/Action
Sole Source; Economic Development & Planning Department; Info Traffic Parking Solution; Parking Digital Signage Solutions
Council Member Spitzley acknowledged that Mr. Gamble was not able to attend this meeting.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER SPADAFORE TO TABLE ANY DISCUSSION ON THE SOLE SOURCE UNTIL THE NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING WHEN MR. GAMBLE CAN BE PRESENT. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

RESOLUTION-Grant Acceptance– Emergency Management Performance Grant

Mr. Englter outlined for the Committee that the grant is an annual grant with an automatic renewal. The funds come from FEMA and goes towards 39.6% of his position in Emergency Management. This is a performance grant, so the work is performed, and then they submit for reimbursement at the end of the year for the completed items.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER SPADAFORE TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR THE GRANT ACCEPTANCE FOR THE EMPG GRANT. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

RESOLUTION - Grant Acceptance– Domestic Violence Court Grant

Ms. Brewer and Judge Ward outlined the grant. It was noted that Judge Ward authored the grant, which was submitted to the Michigan Health and Human Services to fund a domestic violence court. The grant will allow a focus on the second offense, punishable to 1 year in jail and $1,000 fines. Different to the prior domestic violence court grant, this one will allow the court to have a dedicated Probation Officer specific to these cases and a Court Coordinator. Both those positions will be FT contract positions that the two grant will fund. There will be judicial oversight over these second offenders, and the judge will have a domestic violence mentor court to confer with on best practices, judge training and court staff. Lastly, they noted the grant will allow them to be able to provide support for the victims and continued contact to make sure they feel safe.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER SPADAFORE TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR THE GRANT ACCEPTANCE FOR THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COURT GRANT.

Council Member Dunbar asked about the $2,700 City match. Judge Ward noted that the match is equivalent to her salary so there is no “official match”. Council Member Dunbar then asked the term of the grant and the group stated it was a three (3) year grant with two (2) one-year renewals.

Council Member Washington spoke in support of the grant.

MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

RESOLUTION -Grant Acceptance– Sobriety Court Grant

Ms. Brewer acknowledged that the annual grant is lower than in years past, but they have been able to modify it to carry on as expected. Ms. Strouse provided statistics such as since its creation in 2005 they have admitted 196, 176 discharged with 109 of those successful. Currently there are 20 in the program, and in a study from 2012-2016 there were 44 successful completions.

Council Member Dunbar asked what criteria had to be met to be titled “successful completion”. Ms. Strouse noted all the requirements must be met, 90 days sobriety, and all components included in the components included in 2 AA meetings/week, fines and cost, community service requirements, victim impact panel, maintain employment or additional community service, then graduation from the program. All members must be adults.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER SPADAFORE TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR THE GRANT ACCEPTANCE FOR THE SOBRIETY COURT GRANT. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

RESOLUTION - Grant Acceptance– Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Victim Assistance Grant

Mr. McClure informed the Committee that this grant is with Michigan Health and Human Services to provide local service to victims of intimate partner violence. It provides education, assess victims of further risk or injury, personal safety planning, arranges for safe shelter, advocacy with the courts, victim's rights training, and transportation.

Council Member Dunbar asked Mr. McClure if this was connected to the grant they just approved for the Courts- Domestic Violence Court grant, and he acknowledged that he was not even aware of that one until this meeting. He continued with outlining the grant noting this grant has in-kind civilian volunteers.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER SPADAFORE TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR THE GRANT ACCEPTANCE OF THE VOCA VICTIM ASSISTANCE GRANT. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

OTHER

Council Staff was asked to invite Mr. Gamble to the next meeting for the Sole Source agenda item.

Mr. Brewer offered no comments on any of the agenda items.

ADJOURN

Adjourn at 5:20 p.m.
Submitted by,
Sherrie Boak, Council Office Manager
Lansing City Council
Approved by the Committee on January 27, 2020