



MINUTES

Committee on City Operations

Wednesday, May 5, 2021 @ 3:30 p.m.

Access the meeting via: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83295036449> ID: 832 9503 6449; Dial In: (312)626-6799

Email comments prior to the meeting to renee.richmond@lansingmi.gov

All Council Members will participate virtually. They may be contacted prior at city.council@lansingmi.gov or (517)483-417

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:33 p.m. via zoom.

PRESENT – via audio/video

Councilmember Dunbar, remotely from Lansing, Michigan

Councilmember Spadafore, remotely from Lansing, Michigan

Councilmember Hussain, remotely from Lansing, Michigan

OTHERS PRESENT via ZOOM

Renee Richmond, Council Administrative Asst.

Eric Brewer, Internal Auditor

Jim Smiertka, City Attorney

Lisa Hagen, City Attorney

Alec Malvetis, Dept. Public Service

Michael Falk, Melrose Pyro

Dominic Cochran, City TV

Scott Sanford, Code Enforcement

Muhammad Salman Rais

Minutes

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER SPADAFORE TO APPROVE MINUTES FROM APRIL 28, 2021 AS PRESENTED. ROLL CALL VOTE, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Public Comment on Agenda Items (3 minute limit)

No public comment

Discussion/Action:

ORDINANCE – Amendment to Chapter 280 Section 280.03, to provide that the Elected Officers Compensation Commission shall meet in even-numbered years

Councilmember Dunbar stated that this has been discussed and believes everything has been exhausted as far as talks and asked for any comment, there was none.

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER HUSSAIN TO APPROVE ORDINANCE – AMENDMENT TO CHAPTER 280 SECTION 280.03, TO PROVIDE THAT THE ELECTED OFFICERS COMPENSATION COMMISSION SHALL MEET IN EVEN-NUMBERED YEARS. ROLL CALL VOTE, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

ORDINANCE – Amend Chapter 608, Section 608.04, to allow for consumption of alcoholic beverages within certain locations at Frances Park.

Councilmember Dunbar asked how everyone was sitting on this and if there were any questions or comments.

Councilmember Spadafore said he was not in favor of moving forward on this and would like to table it. He stated we started with a good policy and through an idea out heard feedback and decided to go a different route, there wasn't enough support.

Councilmember Dunbar asked if we could just table it or what. Jim Smiertka said yes it can be tabled indefinitely and that a vote is needed.

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER SPADAFORE TO TABLE ORDINANCE – AMEND CHAPTER 608, SECTION 608.04, TO ALLOW FOR CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES WITHIN CERTAIN LOCATIONS AT FRANCES PARK. ROLL CALL VOTE, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

RESOLUTION – Approve Fireworks Display License for 505 E. Michigan Avenue

Councilmember Dunbar stated that we have done this many times and asked for any questions or comments.

Mike Falk from Melrose Pyro stated everything was standard as what they've done the last few years with the same company and same crew. All dates are listed with the last as a rain date and could answer any questions.

Councilmember Hussain asked if they were still launched from the outfield and that no road closures were necessary and Mr. Falk stated yes that is correct.

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER SPADAFORE TO APPROVE RESOLUTION – APPROVE FIREWORKS DISPLAY LICENSE FOR 505 E. MICHIGAN AVENUE. ROLL CALL VOTE, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

RESOLUTION – Wet Weather Control Program Siphon 12 and Trunk Sewer Replacement Project

Councilmember Dunbar asked if there was anyone from Public Service to speak.

Alec Malvetis from Dept. Public Service spoke that essentially they construct sewer separation for the CSO Program and in most cases they are in good shape except there are areas where there is extreme rain. They used to have overflows to relieve the excess water into the river and it is now all held in the pipes. In certain areas it has caused basement backups. He said the problem is that all the foundations drain around all the homes that were built in the 40's to 60's and it was ok to hook into the sanitary drain. When it keeps raining and raining we have problem areas. This program is built to build relief under the river from Moores Park all the way to the GM property where Scott park pump station provides added wet water capacity so we don't have the basement backups. This serves the Colonial Village area, 037 and also the 034 areas which we are currently working on. Also, a program that we start next year in Colonial Village under the river to GM will provide that relief. Mr. Malvetis shared his screen and explained that the green pipes are existing and the purple pipes will be the new sewer pipes and they are bigger in diameter. They are keeping the green and adding the additional and joining them to avoid bottlenecking and necessary for the long term.

Councilmember Dunbar asked Mr. Malvetis if this type of solution is available in other areas of the City like Burchfield.

Mr. Malvetis stated they are looking at each area to see what will work as each area is affected differently. Burchfield is different than the Palmer/Schlee area but could be a similar solution.

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER HUSSAIN TO APPROVE RESOLUTION – WET WEATHER CONTROL PROGRAM SIPHON 12 AND TRUNK SEWER REPLACEMENT PROJECT. ROLL CALL VOTE, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

RESOLUTION – Claim Appeal #1828; M. Rais, 2009 S. Pennsylvania Ave., \$2,481.00

Councilmember Dunbar went through the timeline and asked if anybody had any questions or comments.

Eric Brewer stated the date should be March 31, 2021 for when it was seen by the Claims Review Committee and that the owner was present. The owners biggest contention in that meeting was the tenant owned rent and is a Section 8. Eric continued that the owner stated he provided information to the tenant and he did a good job trying to resolve the issues but ultimately it was not and Code Enforcement has to remove the trash and the Review Committee decided to deny the claim appeal.

Councilmember Dunbar asked if the owner was given information regarding Small Claims Court and Mr. Brewer responded that yes Amanda from the City Attorney's office was in that meeting and provided him with that information.

Councilmember Hussain indicated that the Claimant has arrived and he was brought into the meeting to speak.

Muhammad Rais spoke that this house is a rental and he did not received any notice before clean up, he had already started to clean up and the tenant is section 8 and he cannot evict. He continued that there were some other issues he is working on. He indicated that he provided a granger to put garbage in and they have not. He has a property manager who met with them. Mr. Rais was putting the garbage in trucks and sending it out. He said basically he has provided the tenant with the means to clean up and the fine comes to him. He said he is doing his part and duty to keep it clean and if he'd gotten a letter he could've hired someone more to help clean it up so city wouldn't have to. He finished by requesting the amount be reduced or waived.

Scott Sanford from Code Enforcement stated that the property was cited for trash violation on October 7, 2020 and a notice was sent to the property and to Fatima Abduliah Corp. located in DeWitt, Michigan, so we did send two notices to (tax payer and tenant) landlord is aware of this. He continued that as we can see in the pictures it was a huge cleanup and ultimately the assessment is attached to the property and is up to the owner to bill the tenant and we did recommend denial of the claim.

Councilmember Dunbar asked if anybody had any additional questions or comments.

Councilmember Hussain said the property has been owned since 2014 but dating back to 2016 when looking back at the claim form and some of the narrative, it is all about this particular tenant and not being able to move this tenant because of the Covid pandemic. Councilmember Hussain continued that dating back to 2016 there has been multiple issues like front yard parking, trash, over grown grass. He stated the City had sent two letters regarding of lack of renters certificates and that doesn't include the most recent issues, if you pull up the google the image of the home and see the images captured in 2019 there is a ton of outdoor/indoor furniture outside, a partially torn pink tag on the door, so with all due respect I don't think we have a tenant issue as much as a landlord issue and based on the notices that have been sent and the trash that has clearly been removed and the cost to the city he moved to deny claim.

Councilmember Spadafore stated he agreed with Councilmember Hussain and everything was said that could be said.

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER HUSSAIN TO APPROVE RESOLUTION TO DENY CLAIM APPEAL #1828; M. RAIS, 2009 S. PENNSYLVANIA AVE., \$2,481.00. ROLL CALL VOTE, MOTION CARRIED 3-0

Other - None

Pending - None

Adjourned

Adjourned at 3:58 p.m.

Submitted by Renee Richmond,

Administrative Assistant, Lansing City Council

Approved by the Committee on May 19, 2021