



MINUTES
Committee on Public Safety
Thursday, May 13 , 2021 @ 4:00 p.m.

Access the meeting via: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82136155042> ; ID: 821 3615 5042; Dial In: 312-626-6799

Held virtually in an effort to protect the health and safety of the public & to mitigate the spread of COVID 19

CALL TO ORDER via ZOOM

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL-via ZOOM

Council Member Jeremy Garza, Chair remotely from Lansing, Michigan

Council Member Carol Wood, Vice Chair remotely from Lansing, Michigan

Council Member Brian T. Jackson, Member remotely from Lansing, Michigan

OTHERS PRESENT- via ZOOM

Renee Richmond, Council Staff

Lisa Hagen, OCA

Mary Bowen, OCA

Amanda O'Boyle, OCA

Scott Sanford, Code Enforcement

Mallory Charles Willis

Gabriella Willis

Greg Martin, Fire Chief

Mauricio Barrera, Fire Marshall

Christian Nwobu

Minutes

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD TO APPROVE THE MINUTES APRIL 22, 2021 AS PRESENTED. ROLL CALL VOTE, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Public Comment

No public comment at this time.

Discussion/Action Items

RESOLUTION – Appointment: Mallory Willis as an At-Large Member of the Board of Fire Commissioners for a term to expire June 30, 2023 (PEND-2536)

Councilmember Garza stated that Mr. Willis is a retiree from LFD and also with the Michigan Fire Marshal Division and is a state certified inspector and life safety national surveyor and that he is more than qualified and Mauricio Barrera spoke highly of him. Mr. Willis state he also does inspections for nursing homes, hospitals and prisons. Councilmember Wood stated that part of this position as an At-Large representative that she asks anyone that applies how does he intend to communicate with the public to be able to get their feedback and if he could

give some ideas. Mr. Willis said that is one of the reasons why he put in for this position. Before when he worked for the Fire Department he was out 24/7 in the neighborhoods and doing day-to-day travels and always getting questions. He sees this role as no different and if the Chief wants me out in the public and talking about the Fire Department I will and it's been a good organization for me. Councilmember Wood stated that pre-COVID Councilmembers would have monthly Ward meetings with constituents and she would encourage him to reach out to them and make the rounds and introduce himself and speak to them. Councilmember Jackson stated he had no objections and Mr. Willis seems qualified. Councilmember Garza agreed with Councilmember Wood and once we get back on track he plans to get back to Fire Station 44 and that he meets the second Saturday of every month and I would love to have you there.

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER WOOD TO APPROVE RESOLUTION APPOINTMENT; MALLORY WILLIS AS AN AT-LARGE MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE JUNE 30, 2023. ROLL CALL VOTE, MOTION CARRIED 3-0

RESOLUTION – Orders to Make Safe or Demolish; 314 Bingham (PEND-2399)

Councilmember Garza asked if the Committee had any questions or if the owner was present and he was not at this time. Scott Sanford stated that he has talked to him and he had a rough electrical inspection on 4/24 and a mechanical inspection on 5/13 and an open plumbing permit with no inspection set. Mr. Sanford would like to recommend to the Committee to put a hold on this for 30 days and see what progress is made as there seems to be a sense of urgency now. Councilmember Garza asked Mr. Sanford what is the situation where we've had letters from the neighborhood that this has been a three year process and COVID may have thrown a wrench in it, have you given extensions in similar cases. Mr. Sanford said they have when the owner is showing progress. Ultimately the goal is to make the building habitable, we don't want to tear any home down and it becomes a vacant lot and sits there. It seems there is a sense of urgency now with the owner because it's coming to the end of the process. Councilmember Wood can confirm that I've asked for extensions in the past and I don't know the legal term but believes since the owner is making progress that we give him the extra time and avoid court. Councilmember Garza asked Mr. Sanford if it was over the 50% threshold of fire damage. Mr. Sanford said he thought it was 75% but one it falls below that 50% then we have to go to court to continue the process if we want to take it down. Since the owner is making progress I recommend giving 30 days. He said he could have Lynne Puente call him to let him know that he needs to move quickly because it's been a couple years and he's been sitting on it and the owner actually lives in England. Councilmember Wood indicated that the normal process is that they meet with code compliance put together a timeline, pull all the permits that are needed and then demonstrate they have funding to be able to do this. Her recommendation would be that the hold this over to the next Public Safety meeting and that Scott work with the owner to get the rest of the criteria met. She stated that Scott didn't mention anything about the funding and she would like to see a written timeline as to the progress. She has sat through enough of these to understand you get someone that suddenly decided that they are going to work and the see nothing is going to happen and start slacking off. If we can get something in writing that verifies they are meeting the requirements which are ones we've repeatedly asked for I believe that would be helpful. Mr. Sanford indicated that the gentleman has adequate funding as they brought their financial information to the first meeting when we put it to Demo. It's just the sense of urgency wasn't there. Scott said he would get with the owner and get a written timeline and make sure it's acceptable and present it at the next Committee meeting. Councilmember Garza said that we would table it and not add a 30 day extension and bring

this back to the next meeting and asked Ms. Richmond to make sure this item is on the Agenda for May 27th.

RESOLUTION – Setting a Show Cause Hearing; Make Safe or Demolish Orders to the owners of property located at 2109 Worden

Councilmember Garza asked Scott Sanford to give an update. Scott said that this went through the Demo process and was ordered by Committee to Make Safe or Demolish by 2/27/2020 and COVID hit and now we are bringing it back. Even after this length of time we have had no action, no permits and no contact with anybody so we recommend Make Safe/Demolish 60 days.

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER WOOD TO APPROVE RESOLUTION – SETTING A SHOW CAUSE HEARING; MAKE SAFE OR DEMOLISH ORDERS TO THE OWNERS OF PROPERTY LOCATED AT 2109 WORDEN. ROLL CALL VOTE, MOTION CARRIED 3-0

RESOLUTION – Setting a Show Cause Hearing; Make Safe or Demolish Orders to the owners of property located at 1412 W Ionia Street

Councilmember Garza read the timeline of events and asked Scott Sanford if he had anything to add. Scott indicated this went before the Demo Board on 1/28/2020 and again COVID issues were present and it was given a make safe/demolish order on 3/29/2021. He continued that to date 2/1/2021 pulled mechanical permit for the furnace, air conditioner and water heater but no action or inspections on anything else and no repairs. Scott added they had to go out on 5/10/2021 and board the property because they had squatters, so we asked to MSD 60 days.

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER WOOD TO APPROVE RESOLUTION – SETTING A SHOW CAUSE HEARING; MAKE SAFE OR DEMOLISH ORDERS TO THE OWNERS OF PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1412 W. IONIA STREET. ROLL CALL VOTE, MOTION CARRIED 3-0

ORDINANCE – Setting a Public Hearing; Ordinance to Amend Chapter 1610 – Uniform Fire Code and Uniform Fire Code Standards

Councilmember Garza began with reading the letter in the packet from Fire Marshall Mauricio Barrera. Councilmember Jackson asked what some of the main differences of the codes. Fire Marshall Barrera indicated that IFC update the codes every four years and we haven't had an adoption since 2011. In 2018 there's different amendments within the code and areas of fire suppression and fire alarm. Since we've been under 2009 the Fire Department currently under the 2015 Michigan code, this will help us enforce some of the things the Department is unable to do for fire code. It will help us and the building department so we don't interfere with each other. Councilmember Wood pointed out that she was happy to see the section for BWL for the replacement of fire hydrants still in there and thanked him.

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER WOOD TO APPROVE ORDINANCE – SETTING A PUBLIC HEARING; ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 1610 – UNIFORM FIRE CODE AND UNIFORM FIRE CODE STANDARDS. ROLL CALL VOTE, MOTION CARRIED 3-0

Public Comment

Councilmember Garza asked for public comment and indicated that Christian Nwobu was now in attendance and asked if he would like to speak. Mr. Nwobu appreciated the time and to give him the opportunity to bring the building to code. He stated they had the mechanical inspection which was approved today (5/13), then we have the plumbing and water for two weeks. It was red-tagged which left them struggling with the water and lights and couldn't work on it. They are now working with the plumbing inspectors and getting that. Once they get that and get the ball rolling they can start drywall and they have garage doors. Councilmember Garza said the Committee appreciates the progress on this and the Committee is going to table this and bring it back on May 27th. He told Mr. Nwobu that he wants him to work with Scott and hopefully more improvements and progress can be done and we don't have to demolish it and to keep up the good work. Councilmember Wood addressed Mr. Nwobu and said she wanted to make sure he understood the things they are asking him to do when he meets with Scott. For him to come up with a timeline on how long this is going to take and they want to see something in writing that gives an idea so that if they do grant an extension they are able to monitor the progress. Councilmember Wood asked Mr. Nwobu to please make sure to have that prepared for the next meeting.

No additional comments or discussion items.

ADJOURN

Adjourned at 4:27 p.m.

Submitted by Renee Richmond

Council Administrative Assistant, Lansing City Council

Approved as presented on May 27, 2021