



MINUTES

Committee on City Operations

Wednesday, June 2, 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)483-4177

CALL TO ORDER

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

PRESENT – via audio/video

Councilmember Dunbar, excused

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, OCA

Lisa Welch, Dept. Public Service

Scott Sanford, Code Enforcement

Erika Li Zhang, Claim Appeal

David Bueche, Claim Appeal

Minutes

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HUSSAIN TO APPROVE MINUTES FROM MAY 19, 2021 AS PRESENTED. ROLL CALL VOTE, MOTION CARRIED 2-0.

Public Comment on Agenda Items (3 minute limit)

No public comment

Discussion/Action:

RESOLUTION – Support of Updating Part 115 of Michigan’s Solid Waste Law (PEND-2549)

Councilmember Spadafore indicated he sees Lori from Pubic Service and asked her to join the meeting. Lori Welch explained she was invited to give a little background and this is something she served up and other communities are passing resolutions for policy updates that it has been passed in the House and is currently being considered in the Senate. This provides a policy framework to the funding renewal Michigan funds received a couple years ago to provide recycling funding. It provides policy updates, policy terms, definition and support to continue for solid waste plans and prioritizing recycling and recover over landfills.

Councilmember Spadafore stated he read through it and looks like the City has already been able to accomplish on its own. It is his understanding that this is something we don’t have to ask the state or county to do something that we haven’t already made steps to do and Lori stated that is correct.

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER HUSSAIN TO APPROVE RESOLUTION – SUPPORT OF UPDATING PART 115 OF MICHIGAN'S SOLID WASTE LAW (PEND-2549). ROLL CALL VOTE, MOTION CARRIED 2-0.

RESOLUTION – Claim Appeal; Claim #1838, Erika Li for \$14,476 in Trash Removal Fees at 3222 S Martin Luther King Blvd #M (PEND-2537)

Councilmember Spadafore asked for Mr. Sanford to be brought into the meeting. Mr. Sanford explained that this is a Commercial property on MLK and was cited five times for trash violations in 2020. The City cleaned up the property twice during that time and that added assessments occurred on the 3rd and 4th violations. Proper notification was sent to the tax payer on record – Logan Capitol LLC c/o Signature Associates in Campbell, CA. Time and yardage was approved by Code Officer Tom Barry and this office would like to note that cleanup took longer due to the occupant of Unit 7 trying to engage Eric's Refuse in a physical altercation. Proper policy and procedures were followed and this office recommends denial of the claim and suggest the claimant seek restitution from renter of Unit #7. This office would also like to note that the City Fire Marshall Jim Harrington also visited the tenant of this unit and was also informed that all debris and pallets had to be removed.

Erika Li Zhang thanked the Committee and Scot for his brief statements and for the opportunity to share a few points. She stated there is a lot of illegal dumping and they didn't know when and where it will come as it happens day and night with truck loads and take off. In order to address these kinds of issues they installed a closure at the back entrances and tried to clean up trash and issue notices to tenants as soon as they could. Furthermore, they installed security cameras to monitor the center and increase frequency of patrols and added another dumpster. She stated they didn't receive the notice from the City in time since and have since updated to their California address to receive things in a timely manner. They welcome and appreciate any assistance and suggestions for this and we have a common goal and don't want the property to be a dumping ground. They feel the charges are high and ask if it can be reduced.

Councilmember Spadafore stated to Mr. Sanford that as he looked over the packet it looks as we followed the protocol and there is no dispute the trash was cleaned up is that correct and Mr. Sanford agreed.

Councilmember Hussain commented that he also looked over the packed and pictures. He stated that although they were thanked for cleaning up the trash they are not in the business to do so. They don't charge people exorbitant fees and essentially what we do is contract out and have to pay those bills that were generated for services and there is a \$265 administration fee and is based on the amount of work in terms of notices, visiting the property, authorization and working with the contractors we are not generating revenue from this. This is what the City was charged minus the \$265 fee to clean up the trash. Councilmember Hussain indicated he talked to Michael and Kevin quite a bit about the concerns with the property and lack of onsite management. There is no presence of security. Councilmember Hussain continued that he met with the Fire Marshal not long ago and there are a lot of issues with people parking in the fire lanes and a number of suites that are rented to Social Clubs and parties on site. That will transcend into trash issues and not surprised it was so much, we did the proper notice to you and services were rendered. We can partner with you in the future.

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER HUSSAIN TO APPROVE RESOLUTION – CLAIM APPEAL; CLAIM #1838, ERIKA LI FOR \$14,476 IN TRASH REMOVAL FEES AT 3222 S MARTIN LUTHER KING BLVD #M (PEND-2537). ROLL CALL VOTE, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Other:

UPDATE – Frances Park; Trail along river

Councilmember Spadafore indicated he didn't see anyone from the Department and didn't believe there was any additional update to give. He was able to attend a meeting with the Director of Parks & Rec and they are moving along getting bids and due to the pandemic it could be next year before things get finished.

Pending - None

Adjourned

Adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Submitted by Renee Richmond,

Administrative Assistant, Lansing City Council

Approved by the Committee on June 16, 2021