



MINUTES
Committee of the Whole
Monday, June 21, 2021 @ 5:00 p.m.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85940036219>; ID: 859 4003 6219; or Dial in: (646) 876 9923

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

CALL TO ORDER

Council President Spadafore called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

PRESENT- via audio/video

Councilmember Peter Spadafore remotely from Lansing, Michigan
Councilmember Adam Hussain remotely from Lansing, Michigan
Councilmember Carol Wood remotely from Lansing, Michigan
Councilmember Patricia Spitzley remotely from Lansing, Michigan – arrived at 5:03 p.m.
Councilmember Kathie Dunbar remotely from Lansing, Michigan
Councilmember Brandon Betz- excused
Councilmember Jeremy Garza-remotely from Lansing, Michigan
Councilmember Brian T. Jackson remotely from Lansing, Michigan

MEMBERS PRESENT- via audio/video

Sherrie Boak, Council Staff
Mark Lawrence, Mayor's Office
Lisa Hagen, City Attorney
Joseph Abood, City Attorney
Eric Brewer, Council Internal Auditor
Robert Widigen, Finance Director
Jake Brower, Budget Director
Amber Paxton, NCE
Maureen Saxton
Bob Trezise, LEDC
Karl Dorshimer, LEDC
Kelsey Gohn, BIT
Mr. Sheehan

Minutes

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HUSSAIN TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM JUNE 7, 2021 AS PRESENTED. ROLL CALL VOTE, MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

Public Comment

Mr. Sheehan spoke in support of the presentation by Ms. Gohn on collaboration from the Lansing Promise and Lansing Empowerment Center.

Presentations

Department of Neighborhoods & Citizen Engagement – Behavioral Insights Team

Ms. Paxton gave a brief overview and introduction. Ms. Gohn gave background on the PILOT, and was part of the What Works Cities Initiative and a program supported by community based organizations to support post-secondary success with workshops, research labs, and come up with a solution to rebrand to BOLD Lansing. The presentation highlighted the structure for the pilot, who participated, the baseline survey, and the key progress from the scholars with the FEC. (The total presentation was attached to this meetings packet.)

Council Member Wood asked Ms. Gohn if they are going to use the students who have already gone through the program as future trainers. Ms. Gohn stated they have thought about using them as Ambassadors, and at the FEC there was a counselor that was their age as well.

Discussion/Action

RESOLUTION – Appointment; Maureen Saxton; At Large Member- Lansing Entertainment & Public Facilities Authority (LEPFA); Term to Expire June 30, 2023

Ms. Saxton spoke briefly about her past experience and residency in Lansing. Ms. Saxton then outlined her current work located in Downtown Lansing, and is encouraged to give back to the City to watch it grow.

Council Member Wood asked Ms. Saxton, knowing the issues that are out there with entertainment venues with COVID, and what her thoughts are to address those issues. Ms. Saxton outlined the thought to “not see borders” and consider that the City of Lansing has a role in all area partners to raise the visibility of Lansing and the surrounding areas. Council Member Wood spoke briefly on the collaboration of the area.

Council Member Hussain spoke briefly on a previous recommendation to the LEDC Board and his opposition to that appointment because she was not a resident of the City. He then acknowledged her for showing an interest in this board, and supported her qualifications to serve on another board.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HUSSAIN TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR APPOINTMENT OF MAUREEN SAXTON TO THE LEPFA BOARD, WITH A TERM TO EXPIRE JUNE 30, 2023. ROLL CALL VOTE, MOTION CARRIED 8-0.

DISCUSSION – General Fund Status Report FY 2020/2021 3rd Quarter/Vacancy Factor Report FY 2020/2021

Mr. Brower went through the report in the packet, highlighting the \$10.1 million in GF reserves, and outlined the differences. Council Member Spitzley asked about the specifics for the difference in the \$13 million GF in the budget. Mr. Brower stated the City started at \$10.1 million and projected to decrease by 44.6 million and that is now adjusted due to the audit. With the projected adjustments the total revenue was \$131 million, with a reduction of property tax, and expenditures staying steady, and any stimulus reimbursement. Mr. Brower concluded that with the revenues, minus the expenditures, the stimulus, the IRS fines it brings the City to \$13.8 million from the \$10.1 million at the start of the year. Council Member Spitzley then asked if with FY2022 there would be a change and Mr. Brower stated as of this report it would be \$14 million. Council Member Jackson asked if the American Cares Act fund is earmarked for certain things, and if those funds can be put into the GF. Mr. Brower confirmed there are no left over funds in the Cares Act account. There is \$7.3 million to offset public safety expenditures, where they were redirected due to COVID. So any projected reduction in revenue, it is instead decreasing by \$4.6 million and will come out to \$13.8 million. He added that it is important to understand that the received Cares Act is separate and largely used in the FY2022 budget, and the specific funds cannot be used to restore funds, per legislation.

Therefore they cannot redirect funds to the reserves. Council Member Wood asked if restoring funds for public safety, would offset the costs from the GF, to pay for those activities. Mr. Brower confirmed it covers the COVID relief and public safety payroll reimbursement for the months of April and May. In addition the City has received funds from FEMA and other sources such as first responders hazard pay, and the hazard pay program gave \$800-\$1000 hazard pay bonuses. Council Member Wood asked if that paid for the equipment needed for COVID, cleaning, and any hazmat equipment. Mr. Brower stated they were largely payroll expenditures and the City did not get funds for PPE...

DISCUSSION – Bond Rating Update for the City of Lansing Sewer Enterprise

Mr. Widigan confirmed for the Committee the credit level has been the same since 2002 and referenced the report in the packet. Mr. Brewer was asked for any reporting, and stated he reviewed the packet and concurred with the report. Council Member Wood asked if it took into consideration the next fiscal year. Mr. Widigan confirmed that when Moody used the review, they were able to look at the 2020 CAFR and the 2022 budget, and that was noted in the report. Council Member Wood asked if there was any consideration when the report was put together that the City was in a pandemic, and the effect of that. Mr. Widigan stated he could not speak to that, but based on S & P operations, they are taken into consideration during the pandemic.

RESOLUTION – Budget Amendment FY 2020/2021 Year End Budget

Mr. Brower shared his screen with the document outlining the adjustments from COVID relief and allocating the vacancy factor, and the federal reimbursement. Overall he noted that instead of subtracting \$5.3 million they would be adding \$4 million in the fund balance. Other adjustments were made for contract amendments with TMO/BallPark, changes in the cemeteries, the parking fund where there was reduced parking revenue during COVID and it does account for the parking bond.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HUSSAIN TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR THE BUDGET AMENDMENT FOR FY 2020/2021 YEAR END. ROLL CALL VOTE, MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

RESOLUTION – Public Act 425 Agreement; DeWitt Township

Mr. Dorshimer confirmed it has been on file for 30 days, and then briefly spoke on the site which is a transfer of approximately 33 acres from DeWitt Township to the City of Lansing. This would enable the property to be in the City of Lansing and eligible for a Brownfield and any other incentives the City would like to grant. This is to stage it for Emergent Bio Solutions, which is adjacent to this property, for their Board to consider if they are interested in a large expansion. Mr. Dorshimer reiterated this is an agreement between the Township and the City. If Emergent Bio Solutions decides on the expansion they would have to apply to the City for a combination with their current 12 acres, and apply for a Brownfield and 198 tax abatement on building improvements and that too would come before Council, possibly in July or August. Council Member Spadafore asked if in anticipation of a tax credit, the cost of the infrastructure would be borne by the company. Mr. Dorshimer confirmed and any costs borne by the Board of Water and Light and the City are reimbursed by the new taxes created by the expansion of Emergent Bio Solutions. Council Member Wood asked if the Township had adopted. Mr. Dorshimer stated they have had their hearing, and their action would be at their next meeting on June 24th.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HUSSAIN TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR ACT 425 WITH DEWITT TOWNSHIP. ROLL CALL VOTE, MOTION CARRIED 8-0.

RESOLUTION – Public Act 425 Agreement Amendment; DeWitt Township

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HUSSAIN TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR ACT 425 AMENDMENT WITH DEWITT TOWNSHIP. ROLL CALL VOTE, MOTION CARRIED 8-0.

Council President Spadafore noted the Administration will speak to the back to work plan and recent changes on the mask orders at the Council meeting.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 pm

Respectfully Submitted by,

Sherrie Boak, Recording Secretary

Lansing City Council

Approved by the Committee July 12, 2021