



MINUTES
Committee on Public Safety
Thursday, June 24 , 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

Councilmember Garza called the meeting 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

Scott Sanford, Code Compliance

Mary Bowen, OCA

Calvin Jones, BWL

Katie Diehl, LPD

Chief Ellery Sosebee, LPD

Brian Wilson, attendee

ArvizuK, attendee

Maria Koutsoukos, attendee

Minutes

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD TO APPROVE THE MINUTES JUNE 10, 2021 AND MAY 27, 2021 AS PRESENTED. ROLL CALL VOTE, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Public Comment

No public comment at this time.

Discussion/Action Items

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

Scott Sanford talked to the contractor and he is dealing with the plumbing and he had hired one but they couldn't start for a while so he hired another contractor and they won't start until Jones cancels their order and Jones says they will be there Monday and should have their inspection done on Tuesday and at that point it would be about three weeks and they'll have the drywall, paint and inspection. Councilmember Garza asked to confirm that the plumbing is all they are waiting on right now and Mr. Sanford confirmed. Councilmember Wood stated Mr. Sanford answered some of the three questions they always ask at the last meeting but if he could confirm that they have the funding to complete this and if the permits have been pulled and Mr. Sanford confirmed yes they have plenty of funds and all permits have been pulled and

inspections done just waiting on the plumbing. Councilmember Wood asked what the anticipated timeline for completion and Mr. Sanford state about 3 ½ weeks. Councilmember Wood asked Mr. Sanford if he was recommending that we keep this tabled until next month and at that point it will be over 50% estimated value and not MSD and Mr. Sanford confirmed and at that point they would stay in contact and he does recommend to come back in 30 days and if it needs to be moved it can be.

Councilmember Wood asked Mr. Sanford if the Committee could get an update on the two MSD that was at Council on Monday the 21st. Mr. Sanford state for 2109 Worden he has talked to the guy and he has the money the issue is he doesn't think it's worthwhile, the owner has gotten with a roofing contractor and it's going to cost about \$15,000 to do the roof, framing and soffits and waiting on a bid for the interior. He continued that it will take all of the \$75,000 to repair it with an SEV of about \$42,000. Mr. Sanford recommended to keep at 60 MSD as it's been in demo for 2 years and the owner has had ample opportunity to fix it. He recommended to the owner to get with a realtor and see what he could sell it for as that is what he wants to do, however, there had been so much exposure with holes in the roof that there could be a huge mold issue and no timeline right now as they are waiting on contractor bids. Councilmember Wood requested this be brought back in 30 days as well for an update and Mr. Sanford state that at this time no permits have been pulled so we will know more in 30 days.

Mr. Sanford stated that he was sent an email from Renee from the guy that holds the land contract for 1412 W. Ionia and he is trying to know what is going on. Code has notified everyone involved and not sure what the land contract buyer is telling the owner. In January they pulled a mechanical permit which is set to expire soon and nothing else has been done other than them calling Greg to say they are working on it. Councilmember Garza asked when the permit was expiring and Mr. Sanford said he believed it was July 21st or July 31st. Councilmember Garza requested to bring this back on July 22nd as well for an update. Councilmember Wood stated if she remembered correctly this was the person that said the only thing wrong was something with the front porch and that Code was picking on them. Councilmember Jackson had no questions and there were no public comments.

DISCUSSION – Update Moores Park Neighborhood

Councilmember Garza asked Mr. Calvin Jones to speak on an update for Moores Park Neighborhood as this is in Councilmember Jackson's ward in regards to the lighting, cameras and speed bumps/speeding. Mr. Jones indicated that his counterparts from the last update Mr. Simpson has retired and Mr. Plaunt was not able to be at this meeting today but stated Mr. Plaunt was working with the City to find a connection for the cameras to work and be operable. Councilmember Garza asked if the lighting has been change and updated to LED and Mr. Jones stated he could not speak to that and Mr. Plaunt didn't discuss that with him and he was not involved in that discussion with the City. Councilmember Jackson stated he thought the lights were done and that someone said the connection issue for the cameras had to do with a pole and Mr. Jones said he was not privy to that conversation. Councilmember Garza asked that Mr. Plaunt be invited to the next meeting. Councilmember Wood said she didn't like to put Mr. Jones on the spot but was disappointed as this has been on agenda for a couple months now and it took a while to get BWL to the table and was under the impression it was no problem to get the lights change and maybe it was done she hasn't been out there and continued that it is crucial for the Committee to get the information even before the next meeting if someone from BWL could email them with some answers to those questions. Councilmember Wood continued that the neighborhood has been waiting on these answers and we have LPD here and if we can look at strategies and address some of the crime issues as there is potential for additional problems and looking at ways to shine the light on making sure this is laminated in a way to reduce potential crime activity. If it is possible to get and

answer from BWL in the next couple days. Mr. Jones stated he would get with Mr. Plaunt and get that to the Committee.

Councilmember Wood asked Councilmember Garza if we were going to get an update from LPD as well. Councilmember Garza stated he had asked Chief Sosebee and Captain Diehl here for updates on the recent shootings and crime stats. Councilmember Wood stated she thought there were going to be additional patrols for that area, potential for a speed wagon and that the fire department and public service was going to get together on whether that is a main thoroughfare for ambulance and there was a petition but if it's not feasible then they need to inform the neighborhood so they don't anticipate something night happen or not. Councilmember Garza thanked Councilmember Wood for the reminder and also thought there was an issue to install the speed trailer because of a guard rail.

Chief Sosebee stated a couple things recently with operation slow down this area has been on their list for speed complaints and LPD is looking at speed trailers in that are just trying to figure out the best location. He continued that they've had some adverse reaction to the speed trailers and essentially people are trying to see how high they can get them so looking at having a motor officer near to monitor it. LPD is working with Parks & Rec in locking the park at night to avoid parties with a padlock, Chief Sosebee wasn't aware of the lighting issue and recommended maybe having a Septate expert review the area which is crime prevention through environmental design in assessing the lighting, shrubbery and tree placement in maybe moving things to open the area up for less of a target for crime activity.

Councilmember Garza asked if the Chief could confirm if that was a main thoroughfare for emergency vehicles and he was unsure and would have to get back to him. Councilmember Jackson asked how often the park is locked and Chief Sosebee stated at night an officer responds and locks with a padlock and the Park & Recs Director identified a neighborhood member that unlock it in the morning and they've had really good luck with that and this happens every day.

Other

Councilmember Garza and the Chief exchanged some emails regarding the homicides and non-fatal shootings recently as asked the Chief for an update or broad summary with the City and his ward. Chief Sosebee stated he had not received the data back yet on his ward and that in general violence is the top priority and they have reached out to several partners like VCI, County, State Police and ATF pulling in all the players and asked if Councilmember Garza received the data and not him. Councilmember Garza indicated no and Chief said he would check after this meeting and forward to the panel. Councilmember Garza then asked about Community Policing and if this is something that is going to return as some of his constituents are concerned about not having a police presence. He continued to ask that President Biden came out recently for municipalities with an uptick in violence will there be additional officers not including the recent 5 added from the COPS Grant. Chief Sosebee indicated it was his understanding that yes but he did not have the specific numbers because it is based on crime date and national trend but that with partnering with state, local and federal it will help because of shared resources. To answer the CPO question that between attrition and injury the CPO's have dwindled and the road has taken most of our officers and we have not been able to replace them. However, now that we are hiring and with the COPS grant it is mine and Captain Diehl's top priority to get CPO's filled. Councilmember Wood asked the Chief since they were just talking about Moores Neighborhood and they had a CPO but do not at this time and looking at the website how many CPO actively work a district. The Chief stated they currently have four CPO's assigned to the area and Councilmember Wood asked if this was because they had to be moved to patrol and Chief Sosebee confirmed. Councilmember Jackson asked the Chief if he could give some general intel on possible reasons why we've had so many shootings involving young people and with groups. Chief Sosebee stated that coming out of the Pandemic and using the term de-policing and everybody had to reel back a little bit just for exposure purposes that calls for services

changed and they may have been responded by phone or through the internet on the website. He stated he could talk for hours about the CPO's and how they would interact with the neighborhoods and youth with basketball, football and youth academy and that hasn't happened in 1 ½ years. With that the young adults have nothing to do to occupy themselves and look for something to do, typically they are not violent criminals and might be at a party and something violent happens but not necessarily there to be violent but when something happens they may retaliate. This is something the Chief stated he would like to tackle immediately and give the youth something to do that keeps them busy and out of these violent situations. Now that restrictions are lifted and there are some resources that the Mayor and Chief Green have put in place, there is a lot of things that we will get back to doing rather than writing tickets and taking people to jail. Councilmember Jackson thanked the Chief and said he might follow back up with him but was wondering if there was gang activity or is it because more people have access to a gun and are at a party. Chief Sosebee stated that was exactly it that back in the day things were solved with fist and now so many people have access to guns. He doesn't have the stats on the firearms purchased in 2020 and 2021 so far but the amount they take of the streets that are not legally owned. Councilmember Garza asked for any additional questions from the Committee or public and there were none.

Chief Sosebee stated he got update on Moores lighting and signal connectivity that a new pole needs to be put in and they are getting with BWL on that or they need equipment across the river on BWL property.

Public Comment

None

ADJOURN

Adjourned at 4:37 p.m.

Submitted by Renee Richmond

Council Administrative Assistant, Lansing City Council

Approved as presented: July 15, 2021