



**MINUTES**  
**Committee of the Whole**  
**Monday, September 13, 2021 @ 5:30 p.m.**  
**South Washington Office Complex**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Council President Spadafore called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

**PRESENT- via audio/video**

Councilmember Peter Spadafore  
Councilmember Adam Hussain  
Councilmember Carol Wood- excused  
Councilmember Patricia Spitzley – arrived at 5:35 p.m.  
Councilmember Kathie Dunbar  
Councilmember Brandon Betz  
Councilmember Jeremy Garza  
Councilmember Brian T. Jackson

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Sherrie Boak, Council Staff  
Nick Tate, Mayor's Office  
Jim Smiertka, City Attorney  
Mike Marriott, Arts and Culture Commission Vice Chair  
Chris Swope, City Clerk

**Minutes**

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HUSSAIN TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM AUGUST 9, 2021 AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

**Public Comment**

No public comment at this time.

**Presentation**

**Arts and Culture Commission Vice Chair- Mike Marriott**

Mr. Marriott spoke about the Arts and Culture Commission work and the support they have gotten. Council Member Jackson asked what challenges they face. Mr. Marriott stated looking at the arts as an industry, and helping the non-profit.

Council Member Dunbar referenced the resolution, and the portion of membership which noted 12 electors in the City, and later in the document speaks to one in each Ward. Mr. Marriott stated 8 at-large from the City with a full membership of 12, but they could look at 8. Council Member Dunbar noted a continued concern with 12 members. Council Member

Hussain concurred he has only seen boards 8 members boards; 4 at-large, and 4 wards, or all 8 at-large. Mr. Marriott stated with 12, they could get representatives from the Arts Council, and other organizations but they are not limit, he did offer to provide a printout from the governance committee. Council Member Dunbar asked what the mission statement is right now with the Mayor's Art and Culture Commission. Mr. Marriot responded it was to foster the arts and culture in the City of Lansing, adding it is not specific because things change and want to be able to adapt. Council Member Dunbar then asked Mr. Marriott what this new Commission would do that not is already done by the Greater Lansing Arts Council. Mr. Marriott explained some work they have already done, including listening sessions with artists, grant writing, resources, and subsidies for creative studio places. He offered to provide details on what they already worked on.

Council President Spadafore referenced the City website Boards and Commissions page ([Mayor's Arts & Culture Commission | Lansing, MI - Official Website \(lansingmi.gov\)](https://www.lansingmi.gov/boards-commissions)) which listed minutes, packets and annual reports. He added the ordinance in front of the Committee was to make this Commission permanent.

Council Member Betz spoke in support and offered any future assistance the Commission needed.

Council President Spadafore asked if they would consider 8 members; 4 Ward and 4 at-large.

Council Member Spitzley noted to the Committee that if the Commission has done their research and determined they need 12, why would Council determine they only need 8. Council President Spadafore offered a further discussion if the Commission and Council wanted it.

Council Member Jackson asked if the City cannot fill the 12 memberships, if it would be a violation of the new ordinance they created. Mr. Smiertka spoke on the need for a quorum, and explained to the Committee that this Commission is an advisory board and will not make decisions.

Mr. Marriott spoke in encouragement for the Commission and the would consider 8.

Council Member Garza asked if they had worked with the schools, and Mr. Marriott provided examples and their goals.

Council Member Dunbar could not locate the Boards Commissions link on her phone and asked Council President Spadafore for it, and he then read the vision statement on the website.

#### **Lansing School District Update – Superintendent Ben Shuldiner**

Council President Spadafore acknowledged he had given Mr. Shuldiner the incorrect time for the meeting and he will be present at Council at 7 p.m.

#### **DISCUSSION/ACTION**

#### **RESOLUTION – Support of Lansing School District and Board of Education**

Council President Spadafore passed the gavel to Council Member Hussain.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER SPADAFORE TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION TO SET THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR SEPTEMBER 20, 2021.

Council Member Spadafore explained the intent of the resolution was to recognize the Lansing School Board for their community support and recognizing the safety of the kids and vulnerable individuals in their schools.

Council Member Spitzley asked the Administration if the City was planning on doing the same actions as the School District on COVID mandates. Mr. Tate acknowledged the recent Federal mandate, and informed Council their office was reviewing it and anticipate federal and state rules soon, but currently do not have a mandate.

Council Member Dunbar asked for clarification on if the City was asking the School District to do the mandates, why would the City not do it. Council Member Spadafore clarified further that the City was not asking the School District to do it, but the School District had initiated it as a positive step to protect children. Council Member Dunbar questioned the intent of the resolution, if the City was supporting it for the District but why would the City not then do one. Council President Spadafore noted to Council Member Dunbar she could draft and propose a resolution encouraging the Mayor to do what she is looking for. The intent of the resolution in front of the Committee, he noted was a gesture to commend them for their efforts.

Council Member Hussain ended the discussion by stating the resolution recognizes the Lansing School District for what they are doing, and recognizing them in securing the safety of the kids and vulnerable individuals in the staff.

MOTION. CARRIED 6-1.

Council Member Hussain passed the gavel to Council President Spadafore.

**RESOLUTION- Introduction and Setting Public Hearing; Chapter 266 Section 266.01-266.03; Establish Arts and Culture Commission**

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HUSSAIN TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION TO SET THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR SEPTEMBER 20, 2021 FOR CHAPTER 266, SECTION 266.01-266.03. MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

**DISCUSSION – Budget Priorities for FY2022-2023**

Ms. Boak referenced a marked up document from Mr. Brower based on her request for an update on the Resolution 2020-182 from 2020 where Council approved their budget priorities for the FY 2021/2022 year, which began July 1, 2021.

Mr. Brower began with the changes on page 1, under Committee of the Whole.

Item 2 – Sidewalk repair funded at \$100,000; Gap Closure at \$125,000 for a total of \$225,000.

Item 3 – Major Streets \$1.95 million; Federal STP \$1.3 million; STP Match \$1.3 million; Local Streets \$1.845 Million and Bridges \$800,000.

Item 5- FOIA Analyst added at \$75,553

Council Member Hussain asked the Administration to provide information on the funding for the gap closure. Council Member Betz asked the Administration to look for funds to assist with those with disabilities.

Council Member Dunbar asked for a breakdown in the budget for Item 3 and voiced a concern with the local streets only at \$1.835 million when Council asked for \$5 million. Council President Spadafore reminded the Committee that Council approved the budget with these new amounts in it.

Mr. Brower did note that the majority of the street funding comes from GASB and the City does contribute mills towards street.

Mr. Brower moved to page two, Item a - the LPD did estimate a cost for the printing on the business cards at \$10,829.

Under Development & Planning, Item 2 – It was reactivated at \$175,000.

Item 5 – Mr. Brower noted that the LEAP subsidy was not ended, but continued with General Fund Subsidy for LEAP at \$300,000, and the LBRA Admin Fee to \$226,000.

There were no questions on Development and Planning changes.

Mr. Brower noted the item under Committee on Equity Diversity and Inclusion for FTE Social Workers, was addressed with one (1) additional social worker at \$92,615.

Mr. Brower moved to page 3, under Committee on Ways and Means, Item 1 – and Item 2 – Finance is paying \$22,500 for FY 2020 cost allocation Plan (Indirect costs on 5-year schedule. And regarding the IT training modules, Mr. Brower stated he is speaking to IT on that and they are working on their strategies.

The last item on page 3, on the energy audit, it was noted that Johnson Controls is working on it.

Council President Spadafore asked all Council Members to provide their recommendations in writing no later than close of business on Thursday, 9/16 to Ms. Boak so the document can be revised and in front of the Committee on 9/20/2021.

Council Member Garza asked if the items under Public Safety were purchased, and if not the Committee would be asking for them again. Mr. Brower confirmed to his knowledge those items were not purchased.

The Committee spoke briefly on the expungement clinic and the total of 327 with 58 eligible for expungement and numerous motions for completions. Council Member Hussain asked if the clinic is being provided quarterly, semi-annually or annually; and what was the funding. Mr. Smiertka stated this first one was the only one planned until they can review all the stats, they will look at future events. Council President Spadafore asked for a report from the OCA on if there is a need in the future and the results of the current event.

#### OTHER

Council President Spadafore passed the gavel to Council Member Hussain.

Council President Spadafore discharged the resolution to set a public hearing and the ordinance to create Chapter 256, Section 256.01-256.04; the Mayor recommended ordinance for a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Advisory Board.

Council Member Hussain passed the gavel to Council President Spadafore.

#### Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 6:15 pm

Respectfully Submitted by,

Sherrie Boak, Recording Secretary

Lansing City Council

Approved by the Committee September 20, 2021