



MINUTES
Committee on Public Safety
Thursday, August 12 , 2021 @ 4:00 p.m.
Lansing City Council Conference Room

CALL TO ORDER

Council Member Wood called the meeting to order at 4:00PM

ROLL CALL - PRESENT

Council Member Jeremy Garza, Chair - excused
Council Member Carol Wood, Vice Chair
Council Member Brian T. Jackson, Member

OTHERS PRESENT

Renee Richmond, Council Staff
Lisa Hagen, OCA
Jim Smiertka, OCA
Scott Sanford, Code Compliance Mgr.
Sgt. David Burke, LPD

Minutes

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON TO APPROVE THE MINUTES JULY 29, 2021 AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED 2-0.

Public Comment

No public comment at this time.

Discussion/Action Items

RESOLUTION – Setting a Show Cause Hearing; Make Safe or Demolish Orders to the owners of property located at 1113 W. Saginaw

Scott Sanford indicated he emailed Ms. Richmond on Wednesday and asked that it be pulled from the Agenda as it is beyond 50% threshold. Ms. Richmond stated it was beyond the 24 hours so had to stay on.

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER JACKSON TO PLACE ON FILE. MOTION CARRIED 2-0

UPDATE – City Attorney; Auto Zone, 610 N Cedar St.

Jim Smiertka stated he has been working with the managing attorney and district manager. They originally proposed to clear out trees and foliage and install an 8ft chain fence with barbed wire which started dialog. Razor wire is not permitted and Planning has to approve anything over 6 feet. Jim continued that the conversation has been back and forth and that Auto Zone is not very cooperative and at one point we proposed a wrought iron fence however the cost was approximately \$80,000 and Planning doesn't want the area to look like a prison. Jim indicated his proposal is a 6 foot fence and leave the barbed wire open and see how it goes. Council Member Wood said from her understanding the goal from LPD, the Mission and Social Worker is to get it cleaned up as quickly as possible to prevent any further tragedy and it would be better for the community. She continued asking if Auto Zone would be willing to do some lighting since they are not spending the expense on a wrought iron fence. Council Member Wood additionally asked who was going to be maintaining this and people are concerned with the needles, bottles and broken glass we need to know as the other concern is the 12 foot deep hole behind the building that LFD recovered two deceased people. Council Member Jackson asked if the tree block the view and Council Member Wood stated the smaller ones do. Council Member Wood asked Mr. Smiertka when he was going to reach out and if a timeline could be given on when the processed is going to start. Mr. Smiertka indicated he would reach out right after the meeting and in a previous conversation they said they could get things done in a few weeks but he would confirm everything and asked about the fence and lighting too. Council Member Wood asked Ms. Richmond to pass this information onto Jan Bidwell at LPD and Mark Criss at the Mission.

UPDATE – LPD from 7/29 Meeting

ORV UPDATE - Council Member Wood asked Sgt. Burke if he's been working with Andy Kilpatrick and Sgt. Burke confirmed that he is working with Mr. Kilpatrick. He advised the Committee that they should adopt the Michigan DNR rules and if an ORV has a valid DNR sticker and registration it also must have working blinkers, head and tail lights along with side mirrors. While on the road ways they must abide all traffic laws. Sgt. Burke continued that it can be difficult at times because the officer has to be directly behind them to be able to see the stickers. He continued that Sgt. Vanbeek was able to make an arrest on an ORV driver that had two warrants issued for fleeing and eluding.

SOCIAL CLUB – Sgt. Burke indicated he was working with Mr. Kilpatrick and that no parking signs were going to be place on Reo just west of MLK. He also noted that if this does not fix the problem then LPD will survey the residents and take recommendations for additional signage through the approval process.

OTHER

1224 DAKIN STREET - Council Member Wood stated she was contacted regarding concerns at 1224 Dakin and that it was red tagged and boarded up, if you look at the tax information provided you can see it has been cited for board ups many times because John the son of the owner Joan keeps removing the boards. She continued that the neighbors are looking for a solution and apparently he's been involved in drug activity. Sgt. Burke confirmed that LPD has responded to this address 12 time from January 11 – July 19 of this year and most were for Check Security calls. Council Member Wood stated when she spoke with LaSondra Jones the neighbors feel like nothing is being accomplished as John keeps coming back. Scott Sanford said the house was red tagged on 5/20/2020 the taxes were last paid in 2019 they owe over \$14,000. Lisa Hagen stated as it relates to OCA there are six open trespassing charges against Mr. Pierce who has requested a Jury Trial. Council Member Wood asked if this is the best bet as for right now he is at the home after hours and asked Sgt. Burke if there is a CPO assigned to the area. Sgt. Burke said he can get Vanbeek to slide over to that area and let them know that it is a zero tolerance when he is there after hours. Lisa stated Judge

Buchanan has this and will ask for a status and for the Judge to review it as jury trials are only one a day right now.

330 N. JENISON – Council Member Wood said Cole Bouke reached out to her regarding this rental. He stated the tenant's park on the grass during the evenings so she doesn't believe Code is able to check and Scott confirmed they are not going out at night. Council Member Wood stated they can't use the street parking excuse because they are able to do that now. Sgt. Burke stated he will ask Officer Books to check on this property and the parking issues.

MOORES RIVER PARK – Council Member Wood said her last item was to follow up on what's been done at Moores Park and verifying someone is still closing the gate at night and Council Member Jackson confirmed. Council Member Wood asked Ms. Richmond to reach out to Mr. Kilpatrick and request a map for the primary streets for traffic calming. She then asked Sgt. Burke if he could find out about the camera installation as the radio lab and BWL are working together, he confirmed.

Public Comment

None

ADJOURN

Adjourned at 4:32 p.m.

Submitted by Renee Richmond

Council Administrative Assistant, Lansing City Council

Approved as presented: September 9, 2021