



MINUTES
Committee on Public Safety
Thursday, October 7, 2021 @ 4:00 p.m.
City Hall 9th Floor City Clerk Conference Room

CALL TO ORDER

Council Member Garza called the meeting to order at 4:00pm

PRESENT

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

OTHERS PRESENT

Renee Richmond, Council Staff
Lisa Hagen, OCA
Mary Bowen, OCA
Scott Sanford, Code Compliance Manager
Andrew Abood
Katherine Diehl, Captain LPD

MINUTES

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON TO APPROVE THE MINUTES SEPTEMBER 9, 2021, AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED 2-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public present therefore no comments at this time.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

RESOLUTION – Joint Reappointment; Ayanna Neal and Jacqueline Straub to the Ingham County/City of Lansing Community Corrections Advisory Board for a term to expire on September 17, 2024

Council Member Garza asked the Committee if there were any questions and there were none.

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER JACKSON TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR THE JOINT REAPPOINTMENTS FOR AYANNA NEAL AND JACQUELINE STRAUB TO THE INGHAM COUNTY/CITY OF LANSING COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS ADVISORY BOARD FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE ON SEPTEMBER 17, 2024. MOTION CARRIED 2-0.

RESOLUTION – Appointment; Andrew Abood as an At Large member of the Board of Police Commissioners for a term to expire June 30, 2025

Council Member Garza stated to Mr. Abood on his application his only comments were that he would provide added insight to police and citizen relationship and if he could elaborate. Mr. Abood reiterated that he has 30 years' experience regarding police and citizens of Lansing. Council Member Garza read a question from Council Member Wood asking Mr. Abood, since he is an attorney for a firm, how does he intend, if a case came to the firm that dealt with police misconduct or a case to sue the city, would he handle the situation, because he might be required to make recommendations or discipline as part of being on the Police Commissioners Board. And how would he conduct the "chinese wall?" or would he recuse himself from the Board of Commissioners?" Mr. Abood responded that he deals with conflict all the time as part of his private practice, and this wouldn't apply in this instance as the Chinese Wall applies when an attorney leaves a firm and joins another. He continued that he would not put himself in that position of conflict and would recuse himself if necessary and he does not do a lot of police misconduct cases, maybe potential drunk driving. Council Member Jackson stated to Mr. Abood that being a defense attorney and knowing good vs bad conduct and being able to take proper measures and follow up, what goals does he have on the Board of Police Commissioners. Mr. Abood responded that he is pro police, and he has personally been in situations that required the need for help and calling 911. He continued the police are trained to be professional, dot the i's and t's and despite him being a defense attorney they are on the same side to administer justice. Council Member Garza mentioned to Mr. Abood that it was discussed that possibly the Board would have a representative attend a Committee on Public Safety meeting quarterly and have some meetings at different locations like a community center and/or ward meetings and asked how he felt about that. Mr. Abood indicated he is not opposed to that. Council Member Garza then asked Mr. Abood if he was supportive of having additional Community Police Officers, Mr. Abood concluded that he was not against it but open to listen for other ideas.

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER JACKSON TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF ANDREW ABOOD AS AN AT LARGE MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE JUNE 30, 2025. MOTION CARRIED 2-0.

RESOLUTION – Setting a Show Cause Hearing in consideration of Orders to Make Safe or Demolish to the owners of property located at 4108 Deerfield Avenue

Council Member Garza asked Mr. Sanford to confirm this is a fire damage property and they were given three extensions. Mr. Sanford confirmed and also stated the owner has claimed several times that a contractor has been hired but no activity, a permit was pulled back in July but no inspection or activity and they recommend 30 day MSD. The Committee concurred.

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER JACKSON TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION TO SET A SHOW CAUSE HEARING IN CONSIDERATION OF ORDERS TO MAKE SAFE OR DEMOLISH TO THE OWNERS OF PROPERTY LOCATED AT 4108 DEERFIELD AVENUE. MOTION CARRIED 2-0.

RESOLUTION – Orders to Make Safe or Demolish to the owners of property located at 4511 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

Council Member Garza stated this was not a fire damage home but had a lot of illegal dumping and it didn't look like permits were pulled, he then asked if the owners were notified of the meeting. Mr. Sanford stated his office had sent out notices and that the owners live in either North or South Carolina and they buy properties and then flip them. He continued that his office has had not contact from them and the basement was full of water at one point, they request 60 days MSD. Ms. Hagen noted the resolution has 30 days on it and asked Ms. Richmond to make sure it was corrected, she confirmed.

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER JACKSON TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR ORDERS TO MAKE SAFE OR DEMOLISH TO THE OWNERS OF PROPERTY LOCATED AT 4511 S. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. BLVD. MOTION CARRIED 2-0.

OTHER

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

Ms. Hagen informed the Committee that Mr. Smiertka has been in communication with Auto Zone and the fence with barbed wire and the clearing is all complete. Captain Diehl added that she will confirm but believes there have not been any calls in the last week for that property.

UPDATE – Moores Park Neighborhood; BWL

Council Member Garza informed the Committee that he spoke with Calvin Jones from BWL, and everything has been done on their end so now it is in the city's hands but was not sure if there were 1 or 2 cameras. Captain Diehl indicated for their end they are waiting for replacement radio to make sure their tower is positioned towards Moores to receive the feed and once that happens, she will report back to the Committee and will confirm how many cameras.

UPDATE – ORV citations; City Attorney

Ms. Hagen informed the Committee that the city is preemptive to state statute and doesn't recommend an ordinance and they are limited. She continued that there has been some public announcements and notices about ORV's and regulations. Council Member Garza stated he was confused on why ORV's can travel on certain roads up north and how does it differ from city streets. Captain Diehl concurred with Ms. Hagen and stated individuals must follow the DNR regulations. If someone is driving on a city street the ORV must be registered with the proper tags and be equipped with turn signals, rear view mirrors and a windshield and follow all the traffic codes. Captain Diehl added ORV's not properly registered or tagged are allowed to travel from one private property to another but not on a street. Council Member Garza asked the captain if the tags are visible and easy to identify, she indicated that patrol officers do need to be close to be able to see and day vs night can be difficult. She continued that they flee at times, but LPD has been able to identify some and they will target the areas with the most complaints when not doing call to services.

Walk-in topic

Council Member Garza said he had a resident contact him about a house on Cavanaugh Road where the homeowner has an aggressive dog tied with a chain but goes all the way to the fence line. This resident has seen the dog rush and bark when people are walking by and concerned that the chain may snap, or people will get startled and trip or fall into the road. Council Member Garza asked about an ordinance about tied up dogs. Ms. Hagen indicated this would be covered by animal control and the prosecutor's office, there is not much room for us, maybe a barking or nuisance issue. Captain Diehl agreed with Ms. Hagen and that the resident is best to reach out to animal control, not much they can do.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public present at this time.

ADJOURN

Adjourned at 4:38pm

Submitted by Renee Richmond

Council Administrative Assistant, Lansing City Council

Approved as presented: October 14, 2021