



MINUTES
Committee on Ways and Means
Friday, October 1, 2021 @ 3:15 p.m.
City Hall 9th Floor City Clerk Conference Room

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:15 p.m.

PRESENT

Council Member Carol Wood, Chair
Council Member, Adam Hussain, Vice Chair
Council Member Peter Spadafore, Member – excused

OTHERS PRESENT

Sherrie Boak, Council Office Manager
Jim Smiertka, OCA
Lisa Hagen, OCA
Eric Brewer, Internal Auditor
Joe McClure, LPD
William Engelter, LFD
Jake Brower, Budget Director

Minutes

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HUSSAIN TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 17, 2021 AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED 2-0.

Public Comment

No public comment at this time; no public present.

Discussion/Action:

RESOLUTION – Grant Acceptance; Project Safe Neighborhood Grant for LPD to distribute backpacks to the Lansing Youth Football League

Mr. McClure apologized for missing the last Committee meeting. Council Member Wood accepted his apology and reiterated that if the department is not present at a meeting to report it will get moved to the next meeting.

Mr. McClure began outlining the request to increase trust in the community and usage of the funds for backpacks for the Lansing Youth Football League, which will have the team and LPD logos.

Council Member Wood noted the grant cycle appears to have started the end of August, and therefore asked Mr. McClure if the materials were distributed. Mr. McClure stated they are waiting

on the contract changes with the Battle Creek Community. The intention is to have local printing done on the bags, and Mr. McClure stated he would verify, with Council Member Wood encouraging him to research local companies who have assisted local youth in the past. Council Member Hussain acknowledged the effort being made by the LPD.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HUSSAIN TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR THE GRANT ACCEPTANCE. MOTION CARRIED 2-0.

RESOLUTION - Donation Acceptance; LPF Special Tactics and Rescue Team in honor of Retired Detective Ronald Seyka for Units Ballistic Shields

Mr. McClure provided a brief history on this item, noting Detective Seyka served from 1996-2010 and participated in over 100 high risk incidents. His family instituted a golf outing in his honor to give back to the STRT Team. This year's donation is \$10,614 from the golf outing, and in addition to \$2,500 from Modern Woodsmen. The funds will be used for ballistic shields to upgrade the level from 3A.

The consensus of the Committee was to amend the resolution to remove the "Be it Finally Resolved" in the resolution.

Mr. McClure informed the Committee that with the State Fiscal Year funding starting, there is the potential the Committee will see several grants coming forward. Council Member Wood stated Committee would look at each grant on a case by case basis.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HUSSAIN TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION AS AMENDED FOR THE DONATION FROM THE RONALD SEYKA FAMILY FOR THE STRT TEAM.

Council Member Wood stated in the resolution passed in May for the budget, there was a section that speak to accounts for grants.

MOTION CARRIED 2-0.

RESOLUTION – Grant Acceptance; US Geological Survey Grant for Sycamore Creek

Mr. Engelter explained to the Committee that this item was for a steam gage used by the USGS, they install and measure the water levels on rivers and creeks allowing for early warnings. The City utilizes this gage on the Grand River, the Red Cedar and Sycamore Creek. The US waived the set up and therefore the gage is already in and being used. Mr. Engelter added that they went to the neighboring communities to share in the cost since they share in the benefit. Therefore there is now an agreement with Delhi Township, Ingham County and the Board of Water and Light. The cost is \$16,000 a year and in year 3 and 4 that cost goes up because of pre-set inflation. This will mean each party will pay \$4,003.50 and \$4,083.50 for years 3 and 4. This resolution will accept all billed partners since they have already voted and approved at their locations.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HUSSAIN TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR THE GRANT ACCEPTANCE. MOTION CARRIED 2-0.

OTHER

DISCUSSION – Federal Funding Spending Update – Budget Director; Hazard Pay

Mr. Brower informed the Committee that under PA 116-136, the funding is grant created to the States, and then sub-granted to the local municipalities. This includes the public safety grants payroll and first responders hazard pay program. The City of Lansing applied for grant of \$1,000

per first responder; those being paramedics, EMT, firefighters, law enforcement and correction officers. The overall 380 individual numbers that received \$1,000 were:

LFD – 170 individuals

Paramedics – 109 individuals

EMT - 49 individuals

Firefighters – 12 individuals

LPD – 193 individuals

Corrections/Detention – 17 individuals

This was awarded was granted the funding in March and April, 2020. The application for the grant opened July, 2020, the City applied July 22, 2020 with a deadline of September 30, 2020. The City was awarded the grant September 18, 2020 and paid out the same day.

Mr. Brower then informed the Committee that this did not include the most recent American Rescue Plan. The City has not yet assigned any funds towards hazard pay because they are still exploring with the bargaining groups and there has not been any decisions. Mr. Brower added they are also waiting on the eligibility criteria from the US Treasury, however in the meantime they are looking at the interim guidance of \$13/hour up to \$25,000 per eligible individual. To be eligible the interim criteria has it as an individual who had person to person contact, remote work is not eligible, and the interim criteria does allow for payment on retro-active work. The interim guide has priority to lowest paid workers, if premium pay were to increase, it could come out to \$82,000 annually. The premium pay will have to be added to their wages and rate. Council Member Hussain asked for clarification on the earlier statement of \$13/hour up to \$25,000 and Mr. Brower confirmed that was the amount in the interim guidance.

Council Member Wood asked what the delay was with the bargaining groups, and Mr. Brower acknowledged it is more of a hold up with the final ruling from the US Treasury, because the City cannot make a final promise to the bargaining units until they know exactly what is eligible. Council Member Wood asked what the deadline is on using the funds, and Mr. Brower stated 12/31/2024. Council Member Wood asked what their plan was if someone left before the US Treasury makes their ruling. Mr. Brower stated they can make a retro payout per the interim guidelines. Council Member Wood then asked if it works towards their retirement calculations. Mr. Brower stated that would have to be negotiated with the bargaining units and they would also have to look at Federal regulations. Council Member Wood stated she had heard that Ingham County has already paid theirs out, and Mr. Brower acknowledged he was not aware of that but would check to see if they did and how they made their determination. He will also survey similar communities to see what they are doing.

Mr. Brower asked if this would be run through the payroll system. Mr. Brower confirmed in September, 2020 there was \$380,000 from the CARES program that was and the same system will be used. Council Member Wood asked if taxes are taken out, and Mr. Brower stated at this time he would have to look at the interim guidance, but was aware that it can be used towards benefits with FICA/Medicare.

Council Member Wood then asked for an update from Mr. Brower on the COVID dollars and stimulus. Mr. Brower confirmed that on October 11, 2021 the Council will get a resolution on referral to formally accept the first amount first amount and appropriated it according to the adopted FY2021/2022 budget proposal. With that the funds were designated but now with this resolution it will “unlock funds” and they can move forward.

Council Member Wood asked about the recent emails from Community Foundation asking for input on where the funds should go. She voiced a concern that with that “survey” it would give the perception that that if enough people fill out the survey requesting it go towards a certain area, that is where it would go. Mr. Brower stated the funds will only go to where they have already been designated in the adopted budget.

Committee then spoke on the American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) and the funds the City would receive from that. The Council will get a resolution on referral on this as well on October 11, 2021 on the first portion to be allocated by the FY2021/2022 budget.

DISCUSSION – Hiring Additional Social Workers (Timeline and Expected Outcome)

Council Member Wood referenced the memo from the HR Director which was added to the packet. There was a concern noted by the Committee that is position was approved in the budget in July, 2021, however it is just going to SEGAL and starting the hiring process. Mr. Brower stated he would keep Council updated.

Council Member Wood then noted that at the Council meeting it was stated there was a detective position vacated since 2017, however actually it was filled, someone was promoted and that position continues to fluctuate. She encouraged Mr. Brower look into making notations in the vacancy factor to note when positions are vacated and filled. Mr. Brower concurred and also noted they are exploring developing a general organization chart for budget use and a public document.

ADJOURN

Adjourned at 3:51p.m.

Submitted by,

Sherrie Boak, Council Office Manager

Lansing City Council

Approved by the Committee October 15, 2021