



MINUTES
Committee on Ways and Means
Friday, November 5, 2021 @ 3:30 p.m.
City Council Conference Room

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m.

PRESENT

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

OTHERS PRESENT

Sherrie Boak, Council Office Manager
Jim Smiertka, OCA
Heather Sumner, OCA
Lisa Hagen, OCA
Joe Abood, OCA
Eric Brewer, Internal Auditor
Joe McClure, LPD
Jake Brower, Budget Director
Captain Backus, LPD

Minutes

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HUSSAIN TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 15, 2021 AS CORRECTED. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Public Comment

No public comment at this time; no public present.

Discussion/Action:

RESOLUTION – Grant Acceptance; Automobile Theft Prevention Authority Grant

Mr. McClure noted that 50% of the amount is matching, and the other 50% is funds from MSP. This grant will support the salary and wages for a dedicated detective, vehicle use, and office supplies for that detective. In last grant year there were 560 cases and 87 arrest warrants issued. Council Member Wood asked for the number of recoveries and Mr. McClure noted 109 in the 1st quarter, 131 2nd quarter, 87 3rd quarter and 117 in the 4th quarter.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HUSSAIN TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR THE GRANT ACCEPTANCE FOR AUTOMOBILE THEFT PREVENTION AUTHORITY GRANT.

Council Member Wood asked if this was money appropriated in the budget, and Mr. McClure stated it was not.

MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Council Member Wood asked if started utilizing the funds yet, and Mr. McClure stated they have not.

RESOLUTION – Grant Acceptance; Byrne Justice Assistance Capital Area Response Effort (CARE) Unit Grant

Mr. McClure stated the Committee that the purposed grant is to promote victim safety at \$127,992 with no match requirement. The intention is to utilize for victim assistance in form of short term hotels, security deposits for victims that were displaced, gas cards for victims, and home security items and process serving. This will require a new contract employee to oversee the grant and this is the first of these types of grants from MSP that LPD has gotten. It was noted this will be in addition to the three (3) staff from the MDHHS Grant. Council Member Wood asked if this was for a civilian hire, and was confirmed it would be and a full time contracted employee. Council Member Wood asked what they anticipated in the future for additional funding to continue this position. Captain Backus stated there is nothing guaranteed but they hope it will be continued.

Council Member Wood asked if this was money appropriated in the budget, and Mr. McClure stated it was not.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HUSSAIN TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR THE GRANT ACCEPTANCE; BYRNE JUSTICE ASSISTANCE CAPITAL AREA RESPONSE EFFORT CARE UNIT GRANT. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

RESOLUTION – Appropriation Acceptance; State of Michigan Funds for staffing Lansing Police Department Cold Case Unit and for the purchase and installation of security cameras and other public safety improvements.

Mr. Brower confirmed that recently the State passed their annual budget, and part of that were two appropriations one being \$75,000 to the Police Department based on the criteria listed in the budget. This is for the purpose of staffing a cold case unit. The 2nd appropriation is \$1 million to a City, and the City of Lansing matches all the criteria in the budget for public safety and public safety measures around the State Capitol. Overall the \$75,000 will cover staffing to work on the 75 unsolved homicide cases that remain unsolved after 1 year. The \$1 million will go towards the installation of install of security cameras, and covering the costs the City incurred recently and moving forward to help with security at the State Capitol. Council Member Spadafore asked if this is a reimbursement for cameras already installed in that area, and Captain Backus confirmed nothing has been installed yet. Council Member Hussain asked if this is to upgrade current City cameras or install new ones. Captain Backus confirmed this is for additional, and there is already a plan in place to update the existing one. Council Member Wood asked if these were specific to downtown. Captain Backus acknowledged downtown is a priority, but can be used for safety areas in the neighborhoods as well. Council Member Spadafore stated to the Committee members his understanding was that it was to reimburse the City for the enforcement they have done over the last year around the Capitol. Council Member Hussain voiced his concerns with the only focus being downtown and not the City overall, since during the last year officers were pulled from the neighborhoods to assist with enforcement downtown. Council Member Wood asked for a clear explanation to the neighborhoods.

Mr. Brower attempted to explain to the Committee that by utilizing these funds specifically for the downtown area, that will free up funds already intended for that area to go out into the

neighborhoods and increase those funds. He added there are very specific guidelines to the grant and they will have to look at the final guidelines to make sure they abide by those requirements.

The Committee discussed amendments to the resolution before passage to clarify it to the public. The consensus of the Committee was to add the following to the resolution:

Whereas, costs incurred at the Capitol diverts city of Lansing public safety resources away from other needs in the city, the grant in Sec. 1096(141) of 2021 Public Act 87 allows allocation of resources to other priority neighborhoods and locations.

Captain Backus stated this position is intended to be a contracted research analysis position.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER SPADAFORE TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR THE APPROPRIATION ACCEPTANCE FOR THE STATE OF MICHIGAN FUNDS FOR STAFFING LANSING POLICE DEPARTMENT COLD CASE UNIT AND FOR THE PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF SECURITY CAMERAS AND OTHER PUBLIC SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

DISCUSSION – City Attorney Report on Claim Settlements above \$25,000 per Resolution 420 of 2003.

Mr. Smiertka asked to go into closed session.

OTHER

CLOSED SESSION

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER SPADAFORE TO GO INTO CLOSED AT 3:57 p.m. Pursuant to MCL 15.268(h) of the Open Meetings Act, I hereby move that we recess into closed session to consult with the City Attorney to consider material exempt from discussion or disclosure by state statute. Specifically, to discuss a written legal opinion and written material from the City Attorney provided under attorney-client privilege and attorney work-product, and which is also exempt from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act pursuant to MCL 15.243 (g).

MOTION CARRIED ROLL CALL VOTE.

RECONVENE AT 4:16 P.M.

The Committee determined the next meeting of the Committee would be on Monday, November 29, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. due to a conflict on November 19th with Silver Bells.

ADJOURN

Adjourned at 4:19 p.m.

Submitted by,

Sherrie Boak, Council Office Manager

Lansing City Council

Approved by the Committee on November 29, 2021