



MINUTES
Committee of the Whole
Monday, January 10, 2022 @ 5:30 p.m.
Tony Benavides Lansing City Council Chambers

CALL TO ORDER

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

Council Member Spadafore stepped away from the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

PRESENT

Councilmember Peter Spadafore – arrived at 5:35 p.m.
Councilmember Adam Hussain
Councilmember Carol Wood
Councilmember Patricia Spitzley
Councilmember Jeffrey Brown
Councilmember Jeremy Garza
Councilmember Brian T. Jackson

OTHERS PRESENT

Sherrie Boak, Council Staff
Lisa Hagen, OCA
Heather Sumner, OCA
Mark Lawrence, Mayors Administration
Loretta Stanaway
Nathan Tripplett, CATA Authority
Bradley Funkhouser, CATA CEO
Holli Seabury
Lori Fuller

Minutes

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM JANUARY 3, 2022 AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

Public Comment

Loretta Stanaway spoke about on resolution for acceptance of resignation for Council 1st Ward and the process to fill the vacancy.

Presentations

Capital Area Transportation Authority (CATA) – Bradley Funkhouser

Mr. Funkhouser first provided a history of his time thus far with CATA and their 5 goals since he started.

Council Member Spadafore returned to the meeting at 5:35 p.m.

Mr. Funkhouser outlined their practices during the pandemic, the effects in changes in ridership; which he noted was currently half of what it was in 2019 which is consistent with other transit authorities across the United States. He added that CATA has not cut service,

but maintained and increased since 2019 resulting with more service on the street than ever before. In addition he noted to the Committee CATA did not lay off staff but noted as other businesses they need more drivers. They are not cutting service, but changing to smaller transportation vehicles. They are acting daily in a reaction basis with MSU to assist the need on campus and any changes they will continue to provide updates as things occur. On a temporary basis they might look at a change in the frequency but not in the areas or routes. He added that there is a new Route 18, which was launched on Jolly Road with 3 busses during the day to handle high frequency. He then summarized with their partnerships for providing free rides for covid testing or the vaccine. Mr. Funkhouser then briefly spoke on union negotiations since the fall of 2019, and eager to resolve, met monthly and scheduled to meet this week and anticipating progress shortly on this. It was noted that they have also installed cameras in all businesses, have contactless fares, getting a new auditing system, exploring electric busses, converting the fleet, and worked with BWL in 2021 to do the green renewable plants. Lastly they have worked with LPD on anti- human trafficking program.

Council Member Garza asked about pandemic protections for drivers and riders. Mr. Funkhouser stated they use a sanitizing on the street, and nightly sanitation. There are barriers in all buses between drivers and riders. There are guidelines on masks, hand sanitizer, etc. Council Member Garza asked for an updated on concerns in his Ward for employee parking on the streets at their facility. Mr. Funkhouser stated CATA has offered to set up limits for parking on streets so people can have access.

Council Member Wood asked if the part time drivers were union, and Mr. Funkhouser confirmed they were. Council Member Wood acknowledged the ZOOM listening sessions they are proposing for public for input, however senior citizens do not have access to computers so they should also consider the use community rooms in senior centers for listening session in person. She then asked for their control mechanisms on the importance of Spectran. Mr. Funkhouser said they are open to any suggestions to customize the service.

Council Member Spitzley asked if they are using an outside company for their contract with Spectran, noting she has heard concerns from their union members and the ongoing negotiations. Mr. Funkhouser confirmed that concerns Council heard in the past were during their contract negotiations in 2019 and then leading up to 2020 and COVID it was delayed but there were negotiations settled in 2020. Council Member Spitzley asked if the bus stations are staying open as warming centers and if so what that procedure was. Mr. Funkhouser noted there are not steps for a specific warming center but they have had open communications with shelters, LPD and social workers allowing people to be in the building. The expectation of staff is to allow people to come in to the stations and they have budgeted for a community policing officer which was shifted to a social worker. There are no loitering issues and if they are in need the social worker will help them get assistance. Council Member Spitzley then asked about regional discussions with Eaton and Clinton County and asked if discussions would include expanding service to the west outside of Lansing in Eaton County. Mr. Funkhouser acknowledged they want to and confirmed they would not use Lansing or other municipality funds to do so. For first time ever will advertise on buses and there will be other revenue sources that can be generated to extend services to the west, and want to extend services to the Amazon facility. Council Member Spitzley asked if they are reducing hours of operation or still consistent times. Mr. Funkhouser stated contrary to the media, there were not reduction in services, they are just using smaller busses. With struggling with the work force they could look at the frequency changes in the future, but it would only be temporary.

Council Member Wood asked Council Member Spadafore if he heard anything at the 2020 Tri County Planning meetings on a joint meeting with CATA and Clinton Transit. Council Member Spadafore stated it was not a topic of discussion while he sat on that board. Mr. Triplett confirmed there had been conversations with 3 leaderships of the agencies, and those directors meet regularly and work on collaborative efforts.

Discussion/Action

ORDINANCE – Readoption of the Codified Ordinances

Council President Hussain noted this was an annual practice to readopt. It would occur again in the future during the budget season.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD TO APPROVE THE ORDINANCE FOR READOPTION OF CODIFIED ORDINANCES. MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

RESOLUTION – Appointment; Holli Seabury; At Large Member of the Elected Officers Compensation Commission (EOCC); Term to Expire October 1, 2023.

Ms. Seabury briefly spoke about her residency in Lansing, and her career as Executive Director of Delta Dental Foundation. In her career she noted she has spent time in the non-profit and working on setting compensations.

Council Member Spitzley asked how she was made aware of the position. Ms. Seabury stated she heard from Liisa Speaker, the current member of the EOCC.

Council Member Jackson stated to the Administration that it appears the majority of the EOCC members are from the same neighborhood, and that does not disqualify them, however Council would like to see applications from other areas of the City. Council President Hussain asked Council to reach out to people in the City for an interest in any appointments. Council Member Spadafore reminded Committee that there is a statute and ordinance that mandates the EOCC, so Council can amend it to address members across the City.

Council Member Spitzley supported the statement by Council Member Jackson on searching for other members for the boards from throughout the City.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF HOLLI SEABURY TO THE EOCC.

Council Member Spadafore asked Ms. Seabury if she had any family members who worked for the local or state government and Ms. Seabury stated she did not.

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

RESOLUTION – Appointment; Lori Fuller; Board of Review Member; Term to Expire January 31, 2023

Council President Hussain outlined what the Board of Review does.

Ms. Fuller briefly spoke on her residency in Lansing and being a 3rd generation realtor, and active for 35 years as a realtor. With that Ms. Fuller felt she had the qualifications to help with the Board.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION OF LORI FULLER TO THE BOARD OF REVIEW AND VETTED BY THE MAYOR. MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

RESOLUTION – Acceptance of Council Resignation

Council Member Hussain noted the recent email/letter from Council Member Betz; wishing him well on his next chapter. He then noted this was done in 2015 when a Council Member left before their term was up as well. Council President Hussain referenced and read from the Charter, Article 2 Chapter 3; 2-303 Filling of Vacancies and the position would need to be filled within 30 days to serve 2022; applicants would need to apply to be on the November 2022 ballot for 2023 and then again apply to be on the November 2023 ballot for the four-year term.

The OCA was asked if the language in the Charter pertains and if this would be to fill for one year or two. Ms. Hagen confirmed the OCA looked into the Charter, the ordinances, State election law and concluded this is a one year appointment, with Council choosing. The General election in November 2022 will elect an individual to serve the remainder of the term.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT THE SIGNED RESIGNATION EMAIL OF THE 1ST WARD COUNCIL MEMBER BRANDON BETZ DATED 1/7/2022. MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

The item will appear on the Council agenda later this evening.

RESOLUTION – Process to fill vacant 1st Ward Position of the Lansing City Council

Council President Hussain presenting a draft guide line to the Council members allowing 2 weeks to accept applications, the Clerk vetting all applicants, interviews being done during Committee of the Whole, paper ballots, second interviews and action at Committee of the Whole and Council the same night. Council Member Spitzley noted she has been excused for the week of January 24, 2022 so any dates that week would not work. Council Member Wood asked if the Clerk was vetting per Charter requirements only and Council President Hussain confirmed. The Committee concurred all applicants would get the first interview and the interview process would eliminate to 3 applicants for the second interview. Council Member Jackson proposed the top 4 applicants with the consensus of the Committee being to stay at 3. Council President Hussain went through the resolution on the process and it was determined by the Committee that in item 3 it would be set to Monday, January 31, 2022 as the first interviews at 6 pm. The portion on setting a second date for first interviews was eliminated out of the paragraph. In item 4 it was finalized for 3 candidates would be selected, and in item 5 the date was inserted for January 31, 2022; item 6 leaves it at 3 selected candidates; item 10 finalized the second interview date on February 1, 2022; item 12 put in the date of February 1, 2022; item 13 includes the February 1, 2022 date and item 14 spoke to setting the Council meeting on February 1, 2022 for the only item being filling the 1st Ward member.

Council Member Wood confirmed it would be paper ballots but they would be read into the record. She then asked the OCA if when setting the Special City Council meeting if it has to have a specific time and Ms. Hagen stated it would. Council leadership can set the time in the letter calling for the special meeting, but the time was not needed at this time.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD TO APPROVE THE AMENDED RESOLUTION FOR THE APPOINTMENT WITH THE INTERVIEW DATE OF JANUARY 31, 2022; SECOND INTERVIEWS ON FEBRUARY 1, 2022 AND FINAL ACTION AT COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING ON FEBRUARY 1, 2022. MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

The item will appear on the Council agenda later this evening

REFERRALS

RESOLUTION – Claim Appeal #1870, Todd Dowrick; 1032 Clear Street; \$490

Council President Hussain referred this item to the Committee on City Operations.

RESOLUTION – Development District Liquor License; RBM Properties, 224 S Washington Square

Council President Hussain referred this item to the Committee of City Operations.

RESOLUTION – Liquor License; Q5 Distillery Inc., Small Distiller, Brandy and Mixed Spirits Manufacture, Consumer Sampling Event, on-Premise Tasting Room, Outdoor Service and Sunday Sales (PM) License 112 N Larch

Council President Hussain referred this item to the Committee of City Operations.

OTHER

No other topics.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at: 6:55 pm

Respectfully Submitted by,

Sherrie Boak, Recording Secretary,

Lansing City Council

Approved by the Committee January 24, 2022