



MINUTES
Committee on Public Safety
Thursday, January 20, 2022 @ 4:00 p.m.
City Council Conference Room, 10th Floor City Hall

CALL TO ORDER

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

PRESENT

Council Member Carol Wood, Chair
Council Member Adam Hussain, Vice Chair
Council Member Jeffrey Brown, Member

OTHERS PRESENT

Renee Richmond, Council Staff
Lisa Hagen, OCA
Mary Bowen, OCA
Krishna Signh
Scott Sanford, Code Compliance
Brenda Titus, 4108 Deerfield
Ellery Sosebee, Chief of Police
Nancy Mahlow
Ryan Kost
Brett Kaschinske, Parks & Rec
Mark Lawrence, Citizens Advocate

MINUTES

Councilmember Wood passed the gavel to Councilmember Hussain stating she is the only member present from the previous Committee.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD TO APPROVE THE MINUTES DECEMBER 9, 2021, AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Councilmember Wood stated we will take public comments at the time the item comes up on the agenda unless you would like to speak now. No one from the public wanted to speak at this time.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

RESOLUTION – Appointment; Krishna Signh as an At-Large member of the Board of Fire Commissioners for a term to expire June 30, 2022

Councilmember Wood outlined what the process is. Mr. Signh briefly spoke on his residency and a being retired firefighter. Mr. Signh added that this is a way for him to continue to be involved and give back to the city and shed light on both sides of the table. Councilmember Wood stated as a representative how would he see himself interacting and reaching out to the community on issues and suggestions. Mr. Signh stated presence is the way to do that and concluded that there are numerous events involving LFD, LPD and the public and being

present for those are important. Councilmember Wood concluded with the encouragement to reach out to the neighborhood organizations and attend the Ward meetings with the constituents and Councilmembers. No additional comments from Committee.

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER HUSSAIN TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION TO APPOINT KRISHNA SIGNH AS AN AT-LARGE MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE JUNE 30, 2022.

Councilmember Wood asked Mr. Lawrence if the term date was correct since there were previous discrepancies and he confirmed it was correct.

MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

RESOLUTION – Orders to Make Safe or Demolish to the owners of property located at 4108 Deerfield Avenue
Councilmember Wood explained that Mr. Sanford from Code would speak and then Ms. Titus would have an opportunity to address the Committee. Mr. Sanford outlined that this was a fire damage property and it's been in process for quite sometime with multiple delays. Mr. Sanford continued that contractors pull permits and then cancel as it goes along, Code recommends Make Safe or Demolish. Ms. Titus explained she has been doing this all with cash and just found the right contractors for the right price. Ms. Titus added that the Electrical and Plumbing can take place quickly, as quick as Wednesday the 26th. Councilmember Wood explained to Ms. Titus that because this has been on/off since 2018 and if the Committee doesn't see anything different the process would be to make safe or demolish and send to City Council. Councilmember Wood finished that at that point she would have 30 days from then to show progress and she needs to stay in contact with Mr. Sanford and he will report back to the Committee. No additional comments from Committee.

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER HUSSAIN TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION TO MAKE SAFE OR DEMOLISH TO THE OWNERS OF PROPERTY LOCATED AT 4108 DEERFIELD AVENUE.

Ms. Hagen mentioned a correction in the resolution in the first NOW THEREFORE, to correct 2021 to 2022.

MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

RESOLUTION – Orders to Make Safe or Demolish to the owners of property located at 2206 West Jolly Road
Mr. Sanford explained this property has had multiple fires in a short amount of time with no permits or contact from the owners, Code recommends make safe or demolish 30 days. Councilmember Hussain added that Code has done everything needed. Councilmember Wood also asked that the resolution date of 2021 be corrected to 2022. No additional comments by Committee.

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER HUSSAIN TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION TO MAKE SAFE OR DEMOLISH TO THE OWNERS OF PROPERTY LOCATED AT 2206 WEST JOLLY ROAD. MOTION CARRIED 3-0

OTHER

DISCUSSION – Colonial Village, gun violence and violent crimes; LPD

Councilmember Wood addressed Chief Sosebee and asked if he could address the issues. Chief Sosebee explained that LPD had a meeting with the Colonial Village neighborhood and Captain Diehl attended. Chief Sosebee added that there is a high "calls to service" recently with approximately 75 traffic stops, 42 well checks, and issues with 3222 S MLK area. With concerns on a couple specific houses expressed to Captain Diehl that LPD is addressing with enforcement, social workers, and patrols. Councilmember Wood asked if both houses were rentals, and Chief said one is owner occupied. Councilmember Wood asked if any of the properties have been drug involvement calls and the Chief confirmed. Councilmember Wood then inquired about if a nuisance letter has been sent because then in 6 months if there are more calls it can be escalated. Chief Sosebee said he believed letters have been sent and Ms. Hagen indicated that Mary Bowen reviews all of them and it is a standard practice that they do now. Councilmember Wood asked when the first letter goes

out how is OCA tracking for the second letter. Ms. Bowen stated she would have to check with the office. Councilmember Hussain asked how the cooperation with the owners at 3222 S MLK is, and Chief Sosebee stated it is positive and going very well. Councilmember Wood asked if we have access to cameras at the property and Chief Sosebee didn't believe so. Councilmember Wood asked if he could follow up as it was recommended like the instance with QD at Pine/Saginaw where LPD dispatch and officers can watch in real time when necessary, and the Chief confirmed. No additional comments.

Councilmember Wood then mentioned at the Public Safety meeting at the end of 2021 it was mentioned the Committee wanted a better understanding of what is happening in Lansing regarding the gun violence and violent crimes. Councilmember Wood understands there is a nationwide issue and there are a number of factors involved with COVID, schools doing virtual teaching, etc. Continuing with an example if someone is stopped and a weapon is confiscated, and they are released on a PR bond and then a crime is committed when they are back out on the streets. Councilmember Wood added it's difficult when a person is pulled over and they are quoting the paper that the police can't do this/that to them and would like to get a discussion with the Chief Judge and Prosecutor. Chief Sosebee indicated he would appreciate some time to do a deep dive and gather accurate numbers for the Committee. Councilmember Hussain added he would like State Reps involved too. Councilmember Wood asked to include a comparison between Eaton/Ingham counties.

DISCUSSION/ORDINANCE – Eaton County ORV Ordinance

Councilmember Wood stated there have been numerous conversations in Committee on ORV's and racing and residents asking why they aren't being stopped. Chief Sosebee mentioned that they find the drivers are trying to bait the officers to chase them, then they record and post it on social media. He continued they try to find other ways with help from neighbors that see the ORV's and let LPD know where they are parked and added there are very few that wear helmets. Councilmember Wood continuing that her goal is for Committee to have a resolution in opposition to the Eaton County ordinance and present it at their meeting for their record. Councilmember Wood asked Mark Lawrence from the Mayors office if they were aware of the ordinance and Mr. Lawrence confirmed and that they share the same concerns as the Committee. Councilmember Wood asked if law had any comments and Ms. Hagen informed the Committee that they had nothing specific but could answer questions on legal issues. Councilmember Wood mentioned that Brett Kaschinske wasn't at the meeting specifically for this topic but that there have been issues of ORV's riding through parks and doing damage and asked if he had any comments. Mr. Kaschinske indicated he's talked with the Chief and share the same concerns. Councilmember Wood asked Chief Sosebee and Mr. Kaschinske if they had anything pertinent to please email her and she would get it to law. Ms. Hagen confirmed she would have a draft early next week.

DISCUSSION – Bancroft/Regent Parks, light removal; Nancy Mahlow

Nancy Mahlow and Ryan Kost both expressed concern again on the removal of some lights at Bancroft Park. Ms. Mahlow and Mr. Kost both stated the park is still used by residents/pedestrians after dark, people walk their dogs after work, go for walks or cut through because walking along the roads are more dangerous. Both Ms. Mahlow and Mr. Kost would like to see the lights returned as both are concerned with safety issues including first responders that have to come to the park after dark. Mr. Kost suggested possible solar or motion lights. Councilmember Wood ask if Mr. Kaschinske had anything to add from his presentation at City Council and he did not. Councilmember Hussain asked within the talks of the removal do they have boxes to check in doing so. Mr. Kaschinske indicated there are certain boxes for code when talking lighting for sports. Mr. Kaschinske added that there were talks in Administration and Cabinet about the removal. Councilmember Wood continued that Mr. Kaschinske has been a big proponent of "Friends of Parks" groups where they help with fundraising, cleaning and maintaining a park, shouldn't they be included in the communication and discussion. Councilmember Hussain concurred and that better communication from all departments is needed as the Council office is the one to receive the calls. Councilmember Hussain asked Mr. Kaschinske if this was brought up to the Park Board and Brett confirmed yes in January and that it wasn't a voting item and there was discussion on both sides. Ms. Mahlow finished that she attended the Park Board meeting and several members seemed shocked, they didn't know about it and had no clue until it was brought to their attention. No additional comments by the Committee.

Councilmember Wood brought up 239 E Harris Street and that Amanda O'Boyle was working on an ordinance with former Councilmember Betz for Code to get into enclosed areas for trash removal and aske Lisa Hagen if she was aware. Ms. Hagen stated the ordinance is in draft form with one review and that it was from OCA, Brian McGrain and only had support from former Councilmember Betz. Ms. Hagen continued that this would with notice to the property owner, will give authorization to clean up junk and trash, that right now we need a judge to clear it. Councilmember Wood asked for a timeline and Ms. Hagen indicated she did not have a date available.

ADJOURN

Adjourned at 5:10pm
submitted by Renee Richmond,
Administrative Assistant, Lansing City Council
Approved by the Committee on February 10, 2022