



MINUTES
Committee of the Whole
Monday, January 24, 2022 @ 6:30 p.m.
Tony Benavides Lansing City Council Chambers

CALL TO ORDER

Council President Hussain called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

PRESENT

Councilmember Adam Hussain
Councilmember Carol Wood
Councilmember Peter Spadafore
Councilmember Patricia Spitzley - excused
Councilmember Jeremy Garza
Councilmember Brian T. Jackson
Councilmember Jeffrey Brown

OTHERS PRESENT

Sherrie Boak, Council Staff
Joseph Abood, OCA
Lisa Hagen, OCA
Mark Lawrence, Mayors Administration
Paul Collins
Desiree Kirkland, Treasury/Finance
Jake Brower, Finance
Kim Coleman, HRCS
Kim Dunbar, HRCS

Minutes

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM JANUARY 10, 2022 AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

Public Comment

No public comment at this time.

Discussion/Action

RESOLUTION – Appointment; Paul Collins; LEPFA Term to Expire June 30, 2024

Mr. Collins briefly spoke about his role as an attorney with Miller Canfield for over 12 years, and prior to that worked with the State of Michigan. Mr. Collins also noted he was raised in the City of Lansing and his interest in the role on LEPFA. Recently Charles Jansen, who currently served on the board, was also an attorney and the Board was interested in continuing having an attorney on the Board, and Board members reached out to him to serve.

Council Member Garza asked what his vision would be for LEPFA. Mr. Collins acknowledged he would be entering in with an open mind, and see the agencies LEPFA manages thrive.

Council Member Jackson referenced the resume in the packet and asked about his role in cases with clean energy. Mr. Collins explained he has been involved in bringing a lot of clean energy to the State.

Point of Order by Council Member Spadafore stating the resume on clean energy case is not germane to his role on LEPFA. Council President Hussain acknowledged the point of order and informed Mr. Collins he could continue only he wanted to and speak generally to his position. Mr. Collins stated it is a complex area and has the expertise.

Council Member Wood noted to Mr. Collins that Miller Canfield is on the City of Lansing outside counsel list, and asked if he could recuse himself on a vote with the authority. Mr. Collins state he would definitely.

Council President Hussain asked OCA and the Administration about the Board positions, and being that there are eight (8) At Large positions, asked if there is a residency requirement. Ms. Hagen stated that there is no requirement that members reside in the City of Lansing.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF PAUL COLLINS TO LEPFA AND ACCORDING TO RESOLUTION PROVIDED BY MAYORS OFFICE HE HAS BEEN VETTED AND MEETS AS PER THE CHARTER. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

ORDINANCE – Amend Chapter 890, Poverty Exemption Guidelines

Council President Hussain noted the Assessor presented in December, the public hearing was held on January 10, 2022. There was legislation passed in late 2020, and there used to be a formula and exemptions, but the new changes at the State level there is 100% exemption if disabled or senior on a fixed income. If they do not fall in the category there is a step up calculation. There was another change and there is now a review of all income of occupants.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD TO APPROVE THE ORDINANCE FOR AMENDING CHAPTER 890. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

RESOLUTION – Grant – MSHDA Emergency Rental Assistance Grant 2 – CFDA#21.023

Council President Hussain acknowledged a communication from Ms. Kirkland and the grant award from the State on January 4, 2022. With the importance of the assistance of the funds Council is acting on this in Committee and Council tonight.

Ms. Coleman asked for Council to consider and accept the funds in the amount of \$10,376,326.

Ms. Kim Dunbar introduced herself as the HRCS staff that will serve as the fiduciary of the funds for the City of Lansing and Ingham County. The funds are issued by MSHDA and they serve as the State administrative agency of the funds. Funds from the Federal government are awarded through MSHDA to the county and in turn the City. These funds will be used in the county and the City to keep people in their homes and for those who have fallen behind on their rent. The grant was effective 1/1/2022 and ends 12/31/2022, but they are mandated to spend by 3/31/2022. In the last month they have averaged spending \$6 million of grant funds and so HRCS is confident they will spend the funds if approved.

Council Member Jackson acknowledged the efforts and funds and supported the action.

Council Member Brown asked for details on the fiduciary role of the City. Ms. Dunbar stated they work with community partners; Advent House and Capital Area Housing Partnership. The funds are administered from MSDHA to the City, but there are agreements with those 2 agencies. They provide weekly documentation to HRCS and the City reimburses to those 2

agencies and then HRCS submits reports weekly to the State. Council Member Brown asked who gets the 10% allocated to Administrative and Case Management. Ms. Dunbar acknowledged most of that portion goes to the 2 partners, but a portion to HRCS for fiduciary salary position. Council Member Brown asked what controls are in place if those agencies are not delivering care, what role the HRCS department takes to address it. Ms. Dunbar confirmed they do monitor it weekly and they have done a home marketing program and campaign to reach the public so they are aware of these services. Council Member Brown asked if a recipient is awarded but does not get the services what role does HRCS have in an escalation process or protocol to address this. Ms. Coleman acknowledged a transition but informed Council Member Brown that HRCS does not have any control over the two outside agencies, they would need to go directly to those agencies for assistance if they had issues with how the agency handled the services.

Council Member Wood asked if Holy Cross had received any funds prior to this grant, and if so had the City been assured it was spent appropriately. Ms. Dunbar confirmed Holy Cross had and they followed the same process other agencies had. They submitted their paperwork and the City reviewed the documents and it was reconciled at the City and the State and there has not been any discrepancies so far.

Council Member Brown asked what the point of accountability is required if there are issues at these agency boards. Ms. Dunbar explained the details of the process involved requiring a Financial State Report showing the top dollars by category, in addition to submitting the general ledger, time sheets, and proof of expenditures. HRCS then reconciles before submitting any payments. On a monthly basis the City submits to the State who also approves before there is any reimbursement to the City.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR THE ACCEPTANCE MSHDA EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE GRANT CFDA#21.023 \$10,376,326. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

OTHER

No other topics.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at: 6:58 pm

Respectfully Submitted by,

Sherrie Boak, Recording Secretary,

Lansing City Council

Approved by the Committee February 14, 2022