



MINUTES
Committee on Public Safety
Thursday, February 17, 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 Brian Daniels, Vice Chair
Council Member Jeffrey Brown, Member

OTHERS PRESENT

Renee Richmond, Council Staff
Lisa Hagen, OCA
Mary Bowen, OCA
Robert Backus, Captain LPD
Luke Snyder, WLNS TV-6
Matthew Schmucker, WILX TV-10
Kyle Kaminski, Lansing City Pulse
Mayor Schor

MINUTES

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER DANIELS TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FEBRUARY 10, 2022, AS PRESENTED.

Mary Bowen informed the Committee that Councilmember Daniels was not on the committee for that meeting, therefore could not make a motion to approve.

COUNCIL MEMBER DANIELS RESCINDED HIS MOTION.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FEBRUARY 10, 2022, AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public present.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

RESOLUTION – Setting a Public Hearing in consideration of amending Chapter 696, Section 696.07, to provide requirements for owners of firearms to report the theft thereof and provide penalties for failure to make a report

Councilmember Wood asked if law or LPD would like to address as it came from the Mayors office. Ms. Hagen confirmed it was from the Administration and OCA did assist in the drafting but is unaware of the background.

Councilmember Wood asked Captain Backus if he would like to comment. Captain Backus stated he is in support of this and will speak to relevant information on a later item on the agenda. He continued that it's important for this ordinance in that by recovering a firearm and then being able to determine where it came from, why that person may have been victimized and geographical patterns of the crime. Councilmember Wood indicated two emails were received in support of the ordinance. Mayor Schor thanked the Committee for taking this on so quickly. He continued that everybody knows we have a gun violence issue in the City and are limited in what we can do. Mayor Schor stated Michigan law pre-empts local government to regulate it, state law requires that stolen firearms are reported, and we would like that for the City as well and ask the Committee to consider it. Councilmember Wood asked if we have a state statute why do we need one for the City. Mayor Schor indicated right now LPD has to reach out to the state for the information, with this we can get the information in a timely manner. Councilmember Daniels asked if the penalty for failure to report is a fine up to \$500 for a civil infraction and no jail time, Ms. Bowen confirmed. Councilmember Wood asked just for reference, if they fail to pay the civil infraction does that revert to a bench warrant and arrest. Ms. Hagen stated that if they don't, court will do a show cause as to why they are unable to pay and then it is up to the judge for a bench warrant. Councilmember Daniels asked if we had a number on how many people reported stolen firearms, Captain Backus responded that 189 were reported to LPD.

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER DANIELS TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR SETTING A PUBLIC HEARING IN CONSIDERATION OF AMENDING CHAPTER 696, SECTION 696.07, TO PROVIDE REQUIREMENTS FOR OWNERS OF FIREARMS TO REPORT THE THEFT THEREOF AND PROVIDE PENALTIES FOR FAILURE TO MAKE A REPORT. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

UPDATE – OCA; Snow Emergency Plowing for City

Councilmember Wood asked if law had an update, Ms. Hagen replied that as requested she reached out to the resident from the email, and she believes it was a misunderstanding that in the email it stated the vehicle appeared to be abandoned. She continued that in an email from Mark Lawrence the parking office issued 133 parking tickets between 2/02-2/04 and our O&M office worked closely with parking enforcement to respond to resident complaints. Ms. Hagen indicated that the procedure for the plow drivers is to report to dispatch when clearing a road and there is a vehicle in the road, and stated she was not provided information on if any were towed. Councilmember Daniels commented more coordination on a broader scale may be needed so it happens less. Councilmember Wood asked if OCA could find out exactly what the policy is, if it's written you are forbidden to park in the street during a snow emergency and that's what the resident sees, that is what they expect. Ms. Hagen finished that she would reach out and report back.

UPDATE – Chief Sosebee; Statistic Information on violent crimes, gun violence

Captain Backus handed out a report stating it comes from LPD data so anything online might be a little different, it gives a four-year span from 2018 to 2021. Councilmember Wood commented that 2018 was a reality year as we weren't in COVID, and Captain Backus responded that 18/19 years are good, the percent changes in 2021 as we had decrease in property crimes but look at the increase in weapons crimes. Councilmember Wood asked if Captain Backus could explain some assault with intent. The Captain explained it's a broad category as there is assault with intent to murder, maim, inflict harm which can include a knife or gun, if you look at the total from 2018 to 2021 there is a shift to violent crimes. Councilmember Wood asked looking at the weapons offenses from 2018 to 2021 is larceny part of that, and Captain Backus indicated no that it could include someone that is illegally carrying a weapon and does not have a permit. Councilmember Wood asked of the weapons offense arrests did he know how many charges resulted from those. Captain Backus explained if you look half-way down the page the 8.2% isn't overly concerning as it's saying we are getting less felony cases. Councilmember Wood asked if LPD could keep statistics when there is an arrest and the officer is called to testify, Captain Backus replied it is difficult as sometime an officer may not testify because it comes to a plea agreement or something like that. Councilmember Wood then asked if it then would come down to getting information from the prosecutor, Captain Backus confirmed. Councilmember Daniels asked if there is an understanding on where the weapons are coming from. Captain Backus responded that this report is showing legal guns being stolen and then used for crimes, the hope is to keep the guns out of the hands that aren't supposed to have them. Councilmember Brown asked if the stolen/seized guns on the second page is in addition to the first, Captain Backus indicated the second page is pulling from

the first page. Councilmember Brown then asked with the increase in stolen firearms what is the percentage that a crime was committed with that, Captain Backus did not have that information available and would have to go line by line. Statistically stolen guns are recovered from all over not just coming from Lansing area, if you look at the number of seized many were not stolen. Councilmember Daniels commented that people have lost or stolen firearms before this ordinance so is LPD going to push for this. Captain Backus replied yes, we need people to secure their firearms and report when they are stolen. Unfortunately, we do have people that don't notice for a while, and they say it was there the last time they looked. He then referenced the last page which is a heat map showing the most crimes in red which is MLK area, and they would focus and use analyst to look at areas and what type of crimes are being committed and try to turn it around. Councilmember Wood asked if he had the number of violent crimes in Eaton County but part of Lansing, he did not, and the only crimes taken to Eaton is homicides. Councilmember Wood asked to verify that weapons charges are not taken to Eaton County, Captain Backus confirmed. Councilmember Wood asked Ms. Richmond to reach out to the Court Administrator and set up a meeting for the Chief Judge to attend a Committee meeting to discuss their role in the cases that come to them. Councilmember Daniels asked the Captain why is there a decrease in homicide clearance? Captain Backus responded that homicide is a marathon, and they work multiple cases sometimes. Each case is different, in 2018 we only had 9 detectives, we currently have 24 Lansing and 4 MSP. He continued that each Detective might work more than one case and the duration is unknown. Councilmember Wood asked how many Detectives are retiring, he responded with roughly 9 in the next two years. Councilmember Wood finished that once Ms. Richmond follows up, she would like an LPD representative present as well, Captain Backus concurred.

OTHER

Councilmember Wood referenced 1143 Shepard, this is a red tagged property and we've been told there are people there after hours occupying it, and asked Captain Backus if patrol can do a ride by and check on it. Captain Backus said he would pass it on to patrol.

Councilmember Wood then referenced a hoarding issue on Harris from Councilmember Daniels. Ms. Hagen said it was originally brought by former Councilmember Betz and it is moving forward with Amanda O'Boyle. Councilmember Wood asked Ms. Hagen to report back with an update at the next meeting, and Ms. Hagen confirmed. Councilmember Brown asked if it would be appropriate to have the Social Worker involved, and Councilmember Wood agreed and asked to have her come to meet the Committee. Captain Backus said he would get that set up.

ADJOURN

Adjourned at 4:46pm
submitted by Renee Richmond,
Administrative Assistant, Lansing City Council
Approved by the Committee on March 3, 2022