



MINUTES
Committee of the Whole
Monday, March 14, 2022 @ 5:30 p.m.
Tony Benavides Lansing City Council Chambers

CALL TO ORDER

Council President Hussain called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

PRESENT

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

OTHERS PRESENT

Sherrie Boak, Council Office Manager
Eric Brewer, Internal Auditor
Jim Smiertka, OCA – arrived at 5:34 p.m.
Lisa Hagen, OCA
Elizabeth O'Leary, Labor Negotiator
Mark Lawrence, Mayor's Office
Jake Brower, Finance
Desiree Kirkland, Finance
Kim Coleman, HRCS
Guadalupe Ayala, HRCS- Diversity Officer
Andy Skelton, HRCS
Sam Quon, IT

Minutes

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 28, 2022 AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED 8-0.

Public Comment

No public comment at this time.

Presentation

Fiscal Year 2021/2022 2nd Qtr. General Fund Status Report and Vacancy Positions Report

Mr. Brower summarized the status report from the 2nd quarter report, noting overall budget of GF reserves, revenue, and expenditure with an ending budget of \$14 million after ARPA funds to supplement revenue losses. Mr. Brower noted they are preparing a budget amendment for this FY to be delivered on 3/28/2022. There were not questions on the General Fund Summary. Regarding the Revenue Summary it was noted that revenue exceeds the

projections, but this does not include income tax collection. The original projection was a 30% cut, but appears only a \$2 million loss, which is favorable but they are still looking with caution in future years. The BWL return on equity is coming to 19%. Council President Hussain asked if the Administration was in negotiations because this was the last year of the current agreement. Mr. Brower confirmed they are on track to have something approved by the end of this FY. They are currently looking at doing away from a fixed dollar and going back to the variable rate. Council Member Spadafore asked for an analysis on if they would have stayed with the formula would the City have lost or gained in comparison to what was gained with the fixed amount. Council President Hussain asked if there was revenue during the agreement did it climb in excess and was a payment received, and Mr. Brower confirmed it was not. Council Member Wood asked the Budget Director to look if the debt changed from the previous and what was incurred due to the pandemic, and if their outstanding debt would be applicable.

Mr. Brower noted that they are also looking at mutual grant applications with the BWL to see what they would be eligible for. There was \$6.9 million in housing grants used for utility reimbursement and have reached out to HRCS to work on resolving outstanding utility bills. Council Member Wood asked them to reach out to Consumers Power as well for opportunities.

Council Member Jackson asked how the negotiations on this return on equity works since BWL is a public utility in the Charter. Mr. Smiertka confirmed the OCA, Finance, and BWL Executive Director all meet, and he himself has attend the last couple meetings of the BWL Board of Commissioners and they have not had any discussions yet. Once that is done it will then come to Council for approval or to send back.

Mr. Brower moved onto the revenue summary in the packet, noting there is \$600,000 negative adjustment in relation to the revenue sharing, and also the State received excess sales tax then they expected so this will leave it at a neutral standing. Council President Hussain asked if the City was challenging the decline, and Mr. Lawrence confirmed they are challenging the census numbers but the appeal process can take months.

Mr. Brower moved onto the Expenditures summary. Council Member Wood asked what the City was expecting on fuel prices. Mr. Brower was not able to provide that information, but would at what is the anticipated additional costs and will include a comment in the General Fund for the 3rd Quarter that Council will receive the end of March. Council Member Garza asked him to include the impact 10 years ago when gas prices were high.

Mr. Brewer had no comments.

Council Member Jackson asked if they have had discussion on what happens in next years' budget when there is no Cares Act funds. Mr. Brower noted that those types of questions will be answered with the budget amendment he mentioned earlier that Council will get March 28th and the proposed FY 2022/2023 budget. There was \$18 million for services and \$5 million for parking service losses in the upcoming budget from the ARPA funds and they also plan to spread that out over future years to cover through 2024.

The presentation moved into the Vacancy Report as of 12/31/2021. Mr. Brower noted there is \$1.4 million in vacancy savings in GF and in the next year proposal there be less, and the departments are actively looking at filling positions. Council Member Spitzley asked for an update in Finance since it is March and the date was 12/31/2021. Mr. Brower confirmed the Finance Director position is filled along with the buyer position. Council Member Spitzley referred to the deficiencies from the external auditor due to short staffing. Mr. Brower tried to explain that in 2008 there were positions cut and they went from 20 positions to 9, which had a long term impact. Adding new position will address the 6 year concerns from the external auditor. Council Member Wood asked for clarification on "over filled" in the category of the Fire Fighter Trainee, and Mr. Brower explained that in the overall training of police and fire

they have people in training with the anticipation of having the training complete when someone retires. At the time of the report the retirees had not left so it appeared the trainees were in excess, but since that time the retirees have left and those trainees have now moved into position. Council Member Wood acknowledged the spreadsheet and the work done so far, however asked for a column on the offset on the savings with a contract employee or if it is over budget with that position. Mr. Brower acknowledged her request explaining they determine this information from HR and Finance so the information is date entry into this final document. Council Member Daniels asked how many vacancies on the spreadsheet have been released by the department director to HR to be posted and filled. Mr. Brower could not answer the specifics noting it was a question to be better answered by the directors themselves. Council President Hussain asked him to provide that to Ms. Boak. Council Member Brown asked for more details on the process for completing the Vacancy Factor report.

City of Lansing Equity Matrix

Ms. Ayala introduced Mr. Skelton, Mr. Quon and HR Director Ms. Sanchez- Gazella. Ms. Ayala then outlined and did a presentation on the “Equity” tool on the City website; <https://www.lansingmi.gov/981/Diversity-Equity-Dashboard>

The presentation outlined what users can do to visualize local demographics and disparities to assist. The data source and matrix indicators were outlined along with an interactive map. Examples were provided by Mr. Skelton, which he stated he used the 2019 census data. Mr. Skelton acknowledged that once new data has been released this will be updated.

Council Member Garza voiced his concerns on the reporting or lack for Latinos and asked what can be done to address the racial justice for the Latino community. Ms. Ayala attempted to explain the breakdown and tools noting that some individuals might be under the category of Hispanic. Council Member Garza noted in the 1930’s there was a separate breakdown for Hispanic and Latino, and he was concerned the numbers are skewed, and therefore how can they look at the needs of the Latino population if they are not identified.

Mr. Skelton continued with his presentation.

Council Member Spitzley stepped away at 6:22 p.m.

Ms. Ayala asked for Council and community input on the program whenever they have any suggestions on what they would like to see.

Mr. Quon presented on the dashboard of information on City employees vs the City. This information was also from the census and in this case also included information from the City payroll to show the representation for the employees. He did add that the employee information did not include contract, temporary or seasonal.

Council Member Daniels suggested a layer for the people with disabilities.

Council Member Spitzley returned to the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

Council Member Garza again voiced his concern on the material, statistics and information on the Latino population

Council Member Wood recommended they reach out to the Disability Network for their statistics because they do it for the entire Tri-County.

Council Member Brown asked if the updates are automated or manual, and Mr. Skelton stated they were manual, and Mr. Quon added the monitor when data is updated and then they update this matrix, with the recent update coming March 17th. HR also runs a quarterly report for them to utilize for the employee matrix. Council Member Brown recommended they look

into automated updates. He then asked for more layers on the maps, and Mr. Quon noted that more layers makes it more cluttered and confusing to see all the aspects that someone is looking for.

Ms. Ayala ended the presentation by adding they have currently started working on a layer and matrix of the mobile food pantries and also with parks and recreation on their participation locations.

Discussion

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD AT 6:47 P.M. PURSUANT TO MCL 15.268(C) OF THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT, RECESS INTO CLOSED SESSION FOR STRATEGY AND NEGOTIATION SESSIONS CONNECTED WITH THE NEGOTIATION OF A COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF LANSING AND THE TEAMSTERS LOCAL 214 AS REQUESTED BY THE CITY. ROLL CALL, MOTION CARRIED 7-1.

RECONVENE

Council President Hussain reconvened the meeting at 6:54 p.m.

Other

RESOLUTION – Ratification of the Tentative Agreement; CBA for Union Teamsters 214 Supervisory and Non- Supervisory Units

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE CBA WITH TEAMSTERS 214 SUPERVISORY AND NON- SUPERVISORY. MOTION CARRIED 8-0.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at: 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Sherrie Boak, Recording Secretary,

Lansing City Council

Approved by the Committee March 28, 2022