



MINUTES
Committee on Public Safety
Thursday, May 5, 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 4:00pm

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
Scott Sanford, Code Compliance
Brett Kaschinske, Parks & Rec
Nancy Mahlow, resident
Rod Dezess, resident
Theresa Moran, resident
Mark Burger, Fire Marshal
Jeromy Churchill, Sergeant LPD
Jerry Dunham, Chief Bldg. Inspector
Kyle Kaminski, City Pulse

MINUTES

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN TO APPROVE THE MINUTES APRIL 7, 2022, AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment at this time.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

RESOLUTION – Orders to Make Safe or Demolish to the owners of property located at 3601 Deerfield Ave

Scott Sanford reiterated the MSD order was on 02/02/2022 and all parties were legally notified, the estimated value is \$46,000 and estimated repairs at the time were \$71,916. He continued that since then the roof has been torn off, the walls are down to studs, and it has been gutted. Jerry Dunham concurred with Mr. Sanford and stated the Building Safety Dept. has a stop work order on the property, there is more to repair than initially. Mr. Dunham continued that they put a tarp over the roof. Mr. Sanford added that there are outstanding fees, show cause fees and they are requesting MSD 60 days. Councilmember Wood asked Mr. Dunham to explain the requirement to have engineered drawings.

Mr. Dunham explained because it sat so long there are different requirements that can be requested so that it is safe. He added that the people that did come and talked at Council are going through the residential building code, and it would not meet that requirement. The picture you have do not show everything, it has rained, and once lumber dries it could collapse, his property is extremely unsafe. Councilmember Wood referenced an email Mr. Dunham sent and based on that recommends changing from 60 to 30 days, and that the resolution would need amending unless law states otherwise. Ms. Hagen indicated she was pulling up the statute but could give a final answer tomorrow.

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER DANIELS TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION WITH THE AMENDMENT FOR ORDERS TO MAKE SAFE OR DEMOLISH TO THE OWNERS OF PROPERTY LOCATED AT 3601 DEERFIELD AVENUE FOR 30 DAYS UNLESS LAW DETERMINES IT IS NOT ALLOWED. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Mr. Sanford asked when this would be heard, Councilmember Wood confirmed May 9, 2022.

DISCUSSION – LFD, recreational fire burning

Theresa Moran asked about the fire burning limited hours, she is a retiree and doesn't stay outdoors at night and burning during the day is much easier on her and asked what the reasoning is behind the time of 5pm during the week. She then asked if it is open to discussion and possible change. Councilmember Wood stated that when this was passed LFD was brought it for discussion and recommended times for evenings and weekends, and asked Mr. Burger if LFD is getting requests for earlier in the day and what the rationale is for keeping it in the evening. Mr. Burger stated there is no rationale just that is business hours and didn't want to drive customers away. Councilmember Wood asked if it was the number of runs and complaints from residents on burning and smelling smoke. Mr. Burger stated he is unsure of the number of requests but the amount of burn complaints, smoke investigations, burning without permits is about 500, and we are just now getting into the summer season, and it will go up and they will get more with the smokers for cooking outside are popular. Mr. Burger added that last year they approved over 1300 permits and are currently at 620 for this year already. Councilmember Wood asked if Mr. Burger would return for the next meeting for further discussion and asked Ms. Hagen to look at other communities and what they have.

DISCUSSION – Larch Park Update

Nancy Mahlow asked if a fence could be put up on the south end of the park because the rest is all fenced in, and Councilmember Daniels asked so to separate the property where the trash is. Mr. Kaschinske said they could look into it but if it is residential fencing and not the park then they cannot. Ms. Mahlow said it is just terrible with toilets, building materials, and lots of trash. Councilmember Wood asked for an update on the trash, and Mr. Kaschinske stated it was a home and not the park. Mr. Sanford confirmed they have been written up, and the owner will have to clean up through the park area and giving them until 05/06. Councilmember Wood asked if Code knocked on the door, Mr. Sanford confirmed that a note and card was left at the home.

DISCUSSION – U-Haul on S Cedar St; Paved Trail

Councilmember Wood reference an email she received from Pastor West from Robinson Memorial Church in regard to a homeless camp in that area, they have worked with LPD in the past and intend to ask parishioners to help clean up the area, and asked Mr. Sanford if it all belongs to the church. Mr. Sanford stated a small portion belongs to the landbank and when an employee went back to recheck there was more trash. Councilmember Brown asked what a small portion is, like percentage wise, and Mr. Sanford responded he was unsure. Councilmember Wood said it could be anywhere from 8x10 to larger. Councilmember Brown then asked if the majority is the churches responsibility and Mr. Sanford confirmed.

DISCUSSION – Mutual Aid Agreements

Councilmember Wood indicated that Mary Bowen had sent all the mutual aid agreements and that when IAFF was at the last meeting it was requested, and that when this was started it was intended to assist other cities but seems more frequent. Councilmember Wood said she would like the Committee to review and will discuss at the next meeting. Mark Burger asked if they were referring to automatic aid or mutual aid, and Councilmember Daniels specifically asked about Clinton county. Councilmember Wood stated it's understood when other municipality's call for assistance but to be the first call because they don't have the services to handle is another. Mr. Burger informed the Committee there is an automatic aid agreement with Delhi, and it is probably our city makes more runs into their area than vice versa, and agreed it is something to look into.

OTHER

Councilmember Wood informed the Committee that she requested Ms. Richmond to reach out to Amanda in law on the Ordinance and it's the understanding that Mr. McGrain is moving forward with the Administration. Ms. Hagen indicated she believes it is on the referral list for Council's meeting on Monday the 9th.

Councilmember Daniels asked Mr. Sanford about 1300 Otto that there are still abandoned vehicles with flat tires, and thought it was red tagged but people are still in it and hear animal control was out and too five animals. Lieutenant Churchill stated it was locked up so unsure how they got the animals out, and that is his sector so will have officers patrol the area and check on it.

Ms. Hagen confirmed for the Committee that they could request 30 days on the MSD.

ADJOURN

Adjourned at 4:37pm
submitted by Renee Richmond,
Administrative Assistant, Lansing City Council
Approved by the Committee on May 19, 2022