



MINUTES
Committee on Ways and Means
Wednesday, May 4, 2022 @ 3:00 p.m.
City Council Conference Room

CALL TO ORDER

Council Member Spadafore called the meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m.

PRESENT

Council Member Peter Spadafore, Chair
Council Member Jeremy Garza, Vice Chair
Council Member Carol Wood, Member

OTHERS PRESENT

Sherrie Boak, Council Office Manager
Lisa Hagen, OCA
Jim Smiertka, OCA
Dennis Parker
Jake Brower, Finance
Amber Paxton, Financial Empowerment
Brett Kaschinske, Parks and Recreation
Lori Welch, Sustainability
Luciana Solis, Mayors Office
Jane Bias DiSessa, Mayor's Office
Emily Linden, Finance
Lorenzo Lopez
Council Member Brown – arrived at 3:20 p.m.

Minutes

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER GARZA TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM APRIL 11, 2022 AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Public Comment

No public comment at this time.

Discussion/Action:

RESOLUTION – Grant Acceptance; Allocation of sponsorship funds from the Board of Water and Light and Capital Area Transportation Authority to the Black History Mobile Museum

Ms. Solis outlined the project that is being done in conjunction with the Juneteenth Committee, and stated the \$7,500 will be for \$5500 for the museum, \$600 for promotional items and \$1400 for food.

Council Member Garza asked if there was a City match, and it was confirmed there was not.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR THE GRANT ACCEPTANCE FOR THE BLACK HISTORY MOBILE MUSEUM. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

RESOLUTION – Grant Acceptance; National League of Cities Grants “City Innovation Ecosystems”

Ms. Paxton confirmed this was for \$15,000 and they are currently attempting to work on contracts with the City. The funds will be for training on the process and attendance sponsorships. A portion in the amount of \$2,000 will be for the City staff at the November summit.

Council Member Spadafore asked if there was a City match, and it was confirmed there was not.

Council Member Wood asked for licensing qualifications and requirements to be part of the training, and Ms. Paxton stated she would add to the agenda.

Council Member Garza asked about their efforts to reaching out to all ethnic groups in the City and Ms. Paxton confirmed they are working with LEAP and other organizations.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER GARZA TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR THE GRANT ACCEPTANCE FOR NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES GRANT, CITY OF INNOVATION ECOSYSTEMS. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

RESOLUTION – Grant Application; Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund MNRTF, Amend Resolution 2022-060

Mr. Kaschinske acknowledged this had been before Council recently however since that approval and analysis was done on the point system and funding from Community Foundation and it was determined they would a better point score in the application if it was reduced to \$183,000. Therefore at this time they are requesting an amendment to Resolution 2022-060 to change this item which is work on Fish Ladder to be for \$183,000.

Council Member Wood asked if there was a City match and Mr. Kaschinske confirmed the match will be coming from the Capital Regional Community Foundation.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER GARZA TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR THE GRANT APPLICATION TO AMEND RESOLUTION 2022-060 ON THE MNRTF GRANT. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

RESOLUTION – Grant Acceptance; Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) Recycling Market Development

Ms. Welch informed the Committee that the funds will be used for a feasibility study examining composting of yard waste, food waste and other organic materials. They will work in conjunction with East Lansing with an in-kind match of \$77,713 which will be split between the two municipalities.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR GRANT ACCEPTANCE, EGLE RECYCLING MARKET DEVELOPMENT. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

DISCUSSION – Resolution on American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) 2nd Tranche Budget Appropriation

Mr. Parker made the Committee aware that throughout the City, the City fleet needs to be considered for critical infrastructure, and to meet the industry standards which would be \$24 million. Council Member Spadafore asked for the fleet life cycle report to be sent to Council offices to be sent onto Council, and Mr. Parker provided after the meeting.

Mr. Lopez referenced the spreadsheet in the packet provided by the Mayor for his proposed distribution of the ARPA, and then stated his concerns that there are no Latino organizations or LGBTQ organizations on the list. He asked for Council to consider Labor Council for Latino Advancement (LCLAA), along with LLEED Latin America, and Suits in the City.

Council Member Wood asked Mr. Brower about the 2023 plan, and if the current figures are in the proposed budget. Mr. Brower stated this is being handled separately, it is handling the ARPA as a whole. The budget resolution does incorporate some elements, and some that were proposed in the GF that are now being moved to ARPA funding and not part of the budget.

Council Member Wood referenced the first resolution in 2021 on ARPA funds, noting it was asked then if approving that they were allowing the Mayor to put anywhere he chose and Council was told at the time distribution would come back before Council. Council Member Spadafore stated that Council did approve the amount. Mr. Brower added that Council accepted the \$49 million and it was appropriated consistent with the budget at time, and then provided to Council with a budget amendment which took out the ARPA for revenue loss. The recent resolution that was referred is to spending of the 2nd tranche and recommendation by the Mayor. Council Member Wood confirmed that Council has not approved the proposed spending. Mr. Brower added that overall this is a plan for the intent to fund. Council Member Wood asked OCA what votes would be needed and Mr. Smiertka confirmed it would be a 6 vote item. Ms. Hagen asked that the draft document be amended to remove the resolution number from the top.

Mr. Brower went through the spreadsheet of item beginning with the Zoo Education Program. Council Member Wood and Garza asked why the County wasn't putting funds towards it since it is a County Park, and Mr. Brower confirmed they encouraged the County to apply. Council Member Spadafore asked the Committee to make recommendations or suggested changes, but some items Finance might not be able to speak to why the Mayor put it on the list.

Mr. Brower went to the United Way line item. Council Member Wood pointed out that United Way has provided tax filing assistance in the past, and TCOA also does tax returns. She asked for a line item on these to rationalize them. Mr. Brower stated if he cannot speak to it he can ask the Mayor to put together a list and bring it back.

Mr. Brower moved onto the Office of Financial Empowerment and the marketing funds which will be restricted to Lansing residents. Regarding the Income PILOT, it is \$500 a month for 100 households, and the PILOT does have research strings attached. Regarding the DWL the assistance does come with a requirement of financial hardship. Council Member Wood voiced her concerns since the City cannot provide living wage to its employees, but now will supplement people and choose who gets it and who doesn't, in turn her concern with the process. Mr. Smiertka clarified that he has had discussions with the OFE, and there are rules and regulations have changed as of 5/3/2022 to authorize that program and is being done in 18 cities across country and NLC program.

Council Member Garza asked if the funds can be accepted without the appropriation and Mr. Smiertka stated they can accept the funds. Council Member Spadafore confirmed the City has

already accepted it and appropriated the first amount to cover revenue losses. Mr. Brower outlined that Council accepted the first amount, appropriated \$25 million in eligible uses in the adopted budget 2022 and obligated them to support government services that supported revenue loss. Council Member Garza asked if nothing is done, can they come back with a breakdown and Council Member Spadafore clarified that if nothing is done, it is spent on City services.

The Committee asked that the Mayor provide a written explanation of each item. Council Member Wood asked for the list to include detailed descriptions and rationale on why that organization was chosen.

Council Member Wood then asked if they had cut any checks to premium pay, and Mr. Brower responded that they had not but are finalizing agreements. Mr. Smiertka confirmed his office has been reviewing and approving agreements as of 4/29/2022.

Other

No further discussion items.

ADJOURN

Adjourned at 3:42 p.m.

Submitted by,

Sherrie Boak, Council Office Manager

Lansing City Council

Approved by the Committee on May 23, 2022