



MINUTES
Committee on Public Safety
Thursday, May 19, 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
Amanda O'Boyle, OCA
Brian McGrain, Director of EDP
Scott Sanford, Code Compliance
Andy Kilpatrick, Director of Public Service Dept.
Vicki Miller, Colonial Townhouses
Timothy Lee, Colonial Townhouses
Paula Simon, resident

MINUTES

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN TO APPROVE THE MINUTES MAY 5, 2022, AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Vicki Miller from Colonial Townhouses spoke on the road conditions by the Community and introduced Tim Lee the new property manager. She stated the road have not been fixed in years, they do use Lansing Connect in reporting them, there has been damage to vehicles, and the members have complained and take pride in keeping their property and area taken care of and work hard to keep it nice. Ms. Miller continued that there are 248 townhouses so approximately 500 cars in the community, she understands they are on a list but is asking if anything can be done. Councilmember Wood informed the Committee that Director Kilpatrick will be joining the meeting so we will let him communicate what he knows.

Paula Simon spoke on the electric scooters all around the area and that they are not monitored. She spoke that a person came into the street between two vehicles, and she almost hit him. Ms. Simon inquired about the Michigan law and Lansing ordinance on age, helmet requirement and where they are allowed to ride them, she sees no enforcement. Councilmember Wood stated she would like to add

this to the next meeting agenda and have LPD and the Clerk's office attend for clarification. Ms. Simon wanted to thank Kristi at EPD as she was wonderful in assisting her.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

RESOLUTION – Setting a Public Hearing in consideration of an Ordinance to Amend Chapter 1460, Section 1 and the International Property Maintenance Code, adopted by reference, to provide for the issuance of trash, weed, and grass violation notices and compliance orders, declare uncorrected violations nuisances, provide for appeals process and permit the City to abate uncorrected violations and recover costs

Councilmember Wood informed the Committee that this ordinance was previously proposed by former Councilmember Betz and Amanda from OCA has been working on it, then asked Ms. O'Boyle to explain the ordinance. Ms. O'Boyle explained that mechanisms were currently in place through court, but it became unique when the owner was deceased or unclear. She added they have implemented a city process for grass/trash and on page 2 of the ordinance line 17-22 gives the definition of the Claims Review Committee that was created by resolution and consists of a representative from the offices of City Attorney, Mayor, and City Council, if the amount is over \$2,500 it goes directly to Council for referral to Committee and not the CRC who can make a determination on approval or denial, or adjust the bill and the claimant can still appeal through the process.

Ms. O'Boyle then referenced page 4 line 15, that goes over weeds and long grass along with trash/garbage and that over 8 inches of long grass is prohibited. She added that a letter is sent and if not corrected they can abate, and if it is the backyard they have to go to court and in the meantime, it continues to grow, if a tenant would have the ability to appeal and same if not corrected, we could abate. Councilmember Wood asked if a tenant could file an appeal the person charged is the property owner who might not know. Ms. O'Boyle stated the notice goes to the property owner, and Councilmember Wood said maybe in the lease it states the tenant is responsible for cutting grass, and Ms. O'Boyle said that is a contractual agreement with them, but the owner is still responsible for it.

Ms. O'Boyle referenced Page 6 beginning with line 2 that outlines the appeal process as it relates to trash/grass. Councilmember Wood asked about a memo from Mr. Sanford to Mr. McGrain and it states an Appeal Board within Code Enforcement, both indicated there is no board that was an error, it is just the appeals process, and they support this. Mr. O'Boyle added the urgency for the grass which is an ongoing issue, and Councilmember Wood then asked the claimant still has the right to go to circuit court if the Committee/Council denies, and Ms. O'Boyle confirmed.

Councilmember Brown mentioned the city charged someone a fine but had no pictures and asked if this was in the ordinance, Mr. Sanford said the department had a meeting and reminded that when writing a violation that code and the contractor have to take pictures. Mr. McGrain also reiterated that he informed them that notes in the comments section and enforced it has to be done.

Ms. O'Boyle again referenced page 6, line 9, stating an appeal must be received not more than 3 days after the compliance date ordered on the notice, and concluded that on page 10, line 9 begins definitions for clarification.

Councilmember Brown asked if it is appropriate to request to add in that there needs to be proper evidence, like he stated previously on an instance there were no pictures for verification. Councilmember Wood asked law to respond, and Ms. O'Boyle responded that is something written in a policy and not an ordinance but amending a policy would be sufficient. Councilmember Wood ask Mr. McGrain if between now and passage if he could provide the Committee with a copy of the policy and he agreed.

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER BROWN TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR SETTING A PUBLIC HEARING IN CONSIDERATION OF AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 1460, SECTION 1, AND THE INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE, ADOPTED BY

REFERENCE, TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF TRASH, WEED, AND GRASS VIOLATION NOTICES AND COMPLIANCE ORDERS, DECLARE UNCORRECTED VIOLATIONS NUISANCES, PROVIDE FOR APPEALS PROCESS AND PERMIT THE CITY TO ABATE UNCORRECTED VIOLATIONS AND RECOVER COSTS. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

RESOLUTION – Setting a Public Hearing in consideration of Orders to Make Safe or Demolish to the owners of property located at 3337 Viking Road

Scott Sanford stated the building permit expired, electrical was issued but no activity since 8/30/2021, mechanical final inspection was 10/15/2021 but the basement has since flooded and needs replacement, plumbing permit expired and requests 60 days MSD.

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER DANIELS TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR SETTING A PUBLIC HEARING IN CONSIDERATION OF ORDERS TO MAKE SAFE OR DEMOLISH TO THE OWNERS OF PROPERTY LOCATED AT 3337 VIKING ROAD. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Mr. Sanford asked when this will go to Council, Ms. Richmond stated 05/23/2022 to set the hearing and the hearing will be on 6/13/2022.

DISCUSSION – Communication from Vicki Miller regarding street conditions in Colonial Townhouses Community

Councilmember Wood reiterated public comment for Mr. Kilpatrick regarding Colonial Townhouses and the road conditions. Mr. Kilpatrick stated the roads are rated on a scale from 1-10, and are prioritized based on asset management, planning with the state and that majority of the money spent on roads that have not deteriorated as bad. He continued that as far as prioritizing they look at areas they can collaborate with BW&L like with sewer projects or other areas. Mr. Kilpatrick added he does not believe the Colonial Townhouses area is on the current construction project for this year, but a discussion with Council can be done if they want to look at the street condition map with the ratings. Councilmember Wood asked what the cost is to reconstruct one mile and Mr. Kilpatrick said their average cost is ½ million dollars a mile for local and one million for major roads, adding curbs and etc. right now is about double.

Councilmember Daniels asked what determinations goes into fixing potholes, Mr. Kilpatrick acknowledged the city has a significant number of potholes and they are out frequently doing skim patch vs. perm fixes and those only last 3-5 years pending the volume of traffic on streets. Mr. Kilpatrick again stated that our rating scale is 1-10 with 10 being a new road, their average rating is below a 3. Councilmember Brown asked how they are communicating to the residents like at Colonial Townhouses, and Mr. Kilpatrick informed the Committee that there is a condition rating map on the city website, and Ms. Hagen added that she googled it and it is the first thing that comes up. Councilmember Daniels asked if they update the potholes that are fixed, Mr. Kilpatrick stated regarding potholes they look at the whole block which could have 2-50 and look at cost. He also added that with ACT 51 is how the money gets distributed for county, city/village, etc. for non-maintenance with a minimum 50% coming from local funds, even if they get some from the state they always need more.

Councilmember Wood concluded that this is a lengthy discussion on how expensive it is, and unless city council wants to pick the winners/losers the way public service is handling sounds like the best method. Councilmember Wood asked Mr. Kilpatrick if someone could drive out to Colonial Townhouses and look at the issues and try to solve since it is an on-going issue. Mr. Kilpatrick acknowledged and added this year is the highest level in 2-3 years, they also have a 5-year plan with BWL and will see if it is on that map and look at sewer projects.

Ms. Miller acknowledged they us Lansing Connect and they are responsive. Councilmember Brown asked who is responsible for Lansing Connect and closing them out, Mr. Kilpatrick said there are many factors with the variety in Lansing Connect, they can't move to another status unless they close it out and then recreate another. He continued he will research a few of the complaints and search by type

and view the comments. Councilmember Wood indicated she would also speak to Councilmember Hussain and see if it is something to bring up in COW or Council.

OTHER

ADJOURN

Adjourned at 5:08pm

submitted by Renee Richmond,

Administrative Assistant, Lansing City Council

Approved by the Committee on June 16, 2022