



Minutes
Ad Hoc on Housing and Resident Safety
Friday, June 3, 2022 @ 8:30 a.m.
City Council Conference Room

CALL TO ORDER

Council Member Wood called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

PRESENT

Council Member Spitzley, Chair - excused
Council Member Wood, Vice-Chair
Council Member Brown, Member

OTHERS PRESENT

Renee Richmond, Council Admin. Assistant
Lisa Hagen, OCA
Jim Smiertka, OCA
Mitch Rice, Nation Outside
William Lawrence, 517 can't wait
Anthony Hunt, Intern OCA
Ally Hammond, Intern OCA
Benjamin Waldman, Intern OCA
Tony Gant, Nation Outside
Robert S.
Belinda Fitzpatrick, resident

MINUTES

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM MAY 13, 2022 AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED 2-0.

Councilmember Wood explained the responsibility of Councilmembers is to pass policies and ordinances and regarding the budget they deal with appropriations. She continued that some individuals believe Council initiates the spending policies and under the Charter they make budget priorities on how to spend. Once the Mayor gives them a budget, Council makes recommendations and suggested on changes, even after that the Mayor does have the ability to do a line-item veto. Councilmember Wood finished say emails have been received from different groups and organizations, but Council does not have the purview to mandate anything and she wanted to give the parameters.

Mr. Smiertka stated they had three interns from OCA in attendance and they introduced themselves.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mitch Rice introduced himself, he is a resident and from Nation Outside and read from a letter asking the Committee to consider a Fair Chance Housing Ordinance for equality for the formerly

incarcerated. Mr. Rice stated that formerly incarcerated individuals must have stable and appropriate housing and employment, and this ordinance would allow those to complete an initial screening process before disclosing a conviction history. He finished asking the City of Lansing to show leadership and progress to join other communities that have adopted similar ordinances and thanked the Committee.

William Lawrence spoke on his "Good Housing for All" initiative and summarized the platform handout he brought, which is to build 15,000 new homes over the next decade that are affordable, safe and strengthens the neighborhoods. He continued that young people are ready and want to buy but cannot afford to with rents on the rise, they are putting investments on hold, and they feel stuck. He finished that they are aware of the limits of the county, city, and local government, but are setting their sights high and need action immediately.

PRESENTATIONS

"Community Court" – Judge Simmons

Councilmember Wood indicated this presentation was being moved to the next Committee meeting, date to be verified.

Discussion/Action

Ordinance – Tenant Relocation Assistance

Councilmember Wood stated at the last meeting OCA was asked to do a resolution requesting state legislature to make changes to state statute to make City Council applicable to make that, Ms. Hagen confirmed. Councilmember Wood then asked OCA to correct her if she is wrong, but if they passed, they would determine it was ultra-virus based on research it would be mute. Mr. Smiertka indicated California has a state statute and it is attached to the resolution and continued the first step is to get it out to state legislature on what California has and the red-tag, fines, and misdemeanors. Councilmember Wood asked the Committee if there were any questions, Councilmember Brown said he had none. Councilmember Wood said this is to move to Council for June 13th and explain based on the information from OCA this is a process for relocation.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION TO ENCOURAGE STATE LEGISLATURE TO ENACT TENANT RELOCATION ASSISTANCE.
MOTION CARRIED 2-0.

Councilmember Wood said the next thing she would like is for OCA to look at determining the legality/enforcement part, Ms. Hagen asked in terms of enforcement who and how, Councilmember Wood confirmed. Councilmember Wood continued if they do not have a mechanism in place to receive complaints, follow ups, and penalties how can they enforce, then suggested Ms. Hagen look at the Human Rights Ordinance.

Councilmember Brown stated the Committee has had a few city departments on the discussion and he still does not have a clear vision. Councilmember Wood stated they have had Code, Joe McDonald, and the Ingham County Landbank in and she will speak with Councilmember Spitzley about asking Barb Kimmel and Doug Fleming as they are immediate resources. She continued that maybe they could request Administration to put together a brochure for places to go to, and Tri-County Office on Aging. Belinda Fitzpatrick asked for the number and Ms. Richmond said she would get that to her on her way out.

Adjourn

Adjourned at 8:55 a.m.

Submitted by, Renee Richmond, Recording Secretary
Lansing City Council

Approved by the Committee June 24, 2022