



MINUTES
Committee of the Whole
Monday, June 13, 2022 @ 5:30 p.m.
Tony Benavides Lansing City Council Chambers

CALL TO ORDER

Council President Hussain called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

PRESENT

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

OTHERS PRESENT

Sherrie Boak, Council Office Manager
Jane Bais DiSessa, Deputy Mayor
Mark Lawrence, Mayors Office
Jim Smiertka, City Attorney
Lisa Hagen, City Attorney
Mayor Schor
John McGraw, River Caddis
Kevin McGraw, River Caddis
Judge Buchanan
Judge Flores
Judge Simmons
Emily Linden, Finance
Brian Leffler
Chief Sosebee. LPD
Chief Sturdivant. LFD

Minutes

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM MAY 23, 2022 WITH THE CORRECTION OF ADDING "2022" TO THE TOP. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

Public Comment

No public comment at this time.

Discussion/Action

RESOLUTION – Ballot Proposal; City Charter Amendment to modify the requirements to serve a on a Board, Commission or Committee by making those with felony convictions eligible for appointment

Council President Hussain noted that the City Charter reflects the State legislature, which states you cannot be appointed to a board if you have a felony conviction in the last 20 years. The resolution is a proposal by the Mayor's office to put ballot language in November to remove that condition of no felony convictions. Mayor Schor provided an example of the reason for this change and with this he hopes this will allow for more people to serve on the boards.

Council Member Wood read the ballot language:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in accordance with the Home Rule City Act (MCL 117.1, et. seq.), the question shall be captioned and stated on the ballot as follows:

City of Lansing Charter Amendment

Removal of felony conviction prohibition from requirements to serve on a board, commission or committee by amending the Lansing City Charter article 5, chapter 2, section 5-103.1 as follows:

5-103 Appointment Of Board Members .1 Every member of a board, commission or committee established by Charter or ordinance shall be an officer of the City and shall possess the qualifications required by this Charter for holding office, except that a felony conviction shall not render an individual ineligible for appointment or membership.

If approved tonight, it will appear on the November ballot.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR THE BALLOT PROPOSAL TO MODIFY THE CITY CHARTER TO REFLECT CHANGES TO THE REQUIREMENTS TO SERVE ON A BOARD, COMMISSION, OR COMMITTEE BY MAKING THOSE WITH FELONY CONVICTIONS ELIGIBLE FOR APPOINTMENT. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

RESOLUTION – Reappointments

Council President Hussain read the reappointments:

Arts and Culture Commission:

Clara Martinez as the 1st Ward member for a term to expire on June 30, 2026

Board of Fire Commissioners:

Krishna Singh as an At-Large member for a term to expire June 30, 2026

Board of Zoning Appeals:

Marcie Alling as an At-Large member for a term to expire June 30, 2025

Christopher Iannuzzi as an At-Large member for a term to expire June 30, 2025

Mitchell Rice as an At-Large member for a term to expire June 30, 2025

Historic District Commission:

Carol Skillings as an At-Large member for a term to expire June 30, 2025

Human Relations and Community Services Advisory Board:

Ronald Embry as the 2nd Ward member for a term to expire June 30, 2026

Income Tax Board of Review:

Ken Salzman as an At-Large member for a term to expire June 30, 2026

Lansing Entertainment and Public Facilities Authority Board of Commissioners:

Cynthia Bowen as an At-Large member for a term to expire June 30, 2025

James Stajos as an At-Large member for a term to expire June 30, 2025

Michigan Avenue Corridor Improvement Authority Board of Directors:

Joseph Ruth as a member a term to expire June 30, 2026

Next Michigan Development Corporation Board:
Kris Nicholoff as an At-Large member for a term to expire April 15, 2023

Park Board:
Richard Kibbey as the 2nd Ward member for a term to expire June 30, 2026

Saginaw Street Corridor Improvement Authority Board of Directors:
James Houthoofd as a member for a term to expire June 30, 2025

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR THE REAPPOINTMENTS. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

DISCUSSION – FY2022/2023 Budget Question and Answers

Council President Hussain explained the budget process and the request for all answers into a single document at the Committee meeting on May 23, 2022 by Council Member Wood.

Ms. Bais DeSessa explained the process for budget questions and answers, and if there were some questions not answered, and those departments stated to the Administration that the answers were provided to Council at the meeting when the question was initially asked.

Other/Presentations

Mayor Schor provided introductions.

Mr. John McGraw noted that in 2008 the City sent out an RFP and since that time they have been working on the potential project. This included working with public service, police and fire.

Chief Sosebee spoke on the Police facilities and the needs for long term sustainability. Chief Sosebee referred to the presentation which reflected photos of the current building.

Chief Sturdivant spoke on the Fire department facilities and the needs for long term sustainability. This included details on six (6) functioning stations operated 24/7 365. Chief Sturdivant focused on the three worst where there are issues with mechanical and HVAC, then went through the photos in the presentation. The three stations began with Station 48 which is 35 years old, he then spoke on Station 49 which is almost 70 years old currently, and concluded with Station 2.

Judge Buchanan spoke in support of a new building, and not stating that the Courts needs to part of this combined plan, but did speak on the current condition of the courts. This included concerns with no public restrooms, the need to make court rooms safe and security for people who are visiting the court facilities, and to address the need for ADA compliant in one of the courts.

Mr. McGraw went back through the presentation and the project scope. The plan is to create one structure to consolidate with a short and long term plan. He then explained the time they have spent meeting with the Chiefs on what they need, and created a program that creates a price per square foot. The plan in the presentation is not exact because there is no exact plan and brings the estimate at 174,458,022.

Ms. Kirkland stated there will be a tax levy, 3.9 mill which would be \$150 per residence, with the issuance of the bond. Council President Hussain asked about the time frame, and Mr. Leffler stated each would be 30 years, and there would be a series of bonds over time.

Mr. McGraw acknowledged this is a lot of funds, they are working through the legal process to understand the ramifications. Their goal is to get this onto the November ballot.

Mr. Lawrence confirmed the Administration is working with the OCA on ballot language for Council to have for referral on June 27th.

Council President Hussain asked what time they have spent with the front line workers. Mr. McGraw explained the way they have conducted their business in the past was working directly with people, but once this gets approved they will meet with people on holistic interviews, then engage with each department. Chief Sosebee acknowledged this the fourth space study since he has been on the force, and since this one has started he has reached out to his department and done due diligence reaching out.

Council Member Spadafore asked if the numbers in the presentation include fixtures or just brick and mortar, and Mr. McGraw confirmed they are estimates and included. He then asked the Mayor where the proposed location is. Mayor Schor stated he does not have but would like it to be centralized. Council Member Spadafore asked for confirmation on 30 years, and asked them to elaborate on the cost. Ms. Kirkland confirmed \$150 annually per residence, and Mr. Leffler stated it is based on a \$38,300 taxable value making it \$76,000 cash value residence.

Council Member Wood asked who they spoke to at the LPD and LFD personnel. Mr. McGraw stated they have spoken to the Chiefs. Council Member Wood asked if they have held discussions with the unions, and Mayor Schor confirmed he spoke to the LFD union, and Chief Sosebee confirmed he spoke to both unions and they are in support. Council Member Wood, noting it is a multi phase project and a series of bonds, and asked when they are looking at renovations to the Fire Stations do they plan to repair or build new buildings first. Mr. McGraw confirmed it is multi-phased and happen over time. Once they know they can move forward, they will start working on the phasing to determine economically and the efficient plan, but until that time he cannot speak to the phases. Council Member Wood asked for clarification if the Fire Department will remain working in those conditions for years during the process. Mr. McGraw stated they would assume the immediate needs would be taken care of right away. It is a 8-12 month timeline to design, 2 years out on budling, so a total of 3 years. There will be health safety concerns to be met. Mayor Schor acknowledged the City has a 3 year lease with the School district and they will work with the schools to be concurrent. Council Member Wood asked if Fire Station 1 would stay open. Chief Sturdivant confirmed yes, and that during the time they will work do deploy during the process.

Council Member Wood referenced the dollar amount and asked what the geographic size they are looking for to building on. Mr. McGraw stated they are looking for 7-10 acres. Council Member Wood referred back to his earlier introductions and asked if he had any personal relationships with the administration. Mr. McGraw stated he did not, and Mayor Schor added that Mr. Kevin McGraw does runs some of the City homeless programs.

Council Member Spadafore asked how much the City has spent on maintenance of the current facilities. Ms. Kirkland could not provide at the time, but stated she would provide later.

Council Member Wood acknowledged the recommendation for the November ballot, and asked the Mayor if they have enough time to educate the public in time. Mayor Schor stated there will be no election in May, 2023, and acknowledging this is a short period of time, he believes with the help of all the employees effected they can make the case. Council Member Wood asked about the public safety millage and if there are any ramifications and along with asking when that was approved. Mayor Schor confirmed it is a 5 year millage that started this year.

Council Member Brown asked Judge Buchanan about public safety. Judge Flores and Judge Simmons joined Judge Buchanan and they provided examples of security issues. Judge

Buchanan noted she sent a letter of support along with photos on Thursday June 6th. Judge Simmons spoke on her concerns with lack of ADA compliance in a court room. Judge Flores spoke briefly on examples of altercations. Council Member Brown then asked Mr. McGraw what phase courts would be. Mayor Schor confirmed earlier conversations he had on security, and regarding the phase of police, fire and courts, the Administration will do their best. Council Member Brown asked that they forward any previous space studies that were done.

Council President Hussain asked Judge Buchanan where she sent the letter, study and photos she keeps referencing. She stated she sent to the Mayor's office but could forward to whomever Council would like, and she was asked to forward to Council staff. (the email was sent and received by Council staff by 7pm from Judge Buchanan and forwarded to all Council).

Council Member Jackson spoke in support of a ballot proposal and asked for updates as things progress so Council can update their residents. Mayor Schor acknowledged. Council Member Jackson if there could be funding changes. Mr. McGraw stated in the current number they have included inflationary contingency, and also confirmed when they look at a location they will look for a positive impact.

Council Member Spadafore asked if the project was design/build and was told by Mr. McGraw it was not.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at: 6:54 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Sherrie Boak, Recording Secretary,

Lansing City Council

Approved by the Committee June 27, 2022