



MINUTES
Committee on Public Safety
Thursday, September 1, 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 4:03pm

PRESENT

Council Member Carol Wood, Chair
Council Member Brian Daniels, Vice Chair - EXCUSED
Council Member Jeffrey Brown, Member

OTHERS PRESENT

Renee Richmond, Council Staff
Lisa Hagen, OCA
Jim Smiertka, OCA
Scott Sanford, Code Compliance
Brian McGrain, Director EDP

MINUTES

CM Wood passed the gavel to CM Brown to make a motion for 8/18 minutes since he was not present.

CM Brown asked for a motion to approve the minutes from August 18, 2022.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AUGUST 18, 2022, AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED 2-0.

Councilmember Brown passed the gavel back to Councilmember Wood.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public present.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

RESOLUTION – Set Show Cause Hearing in consideration of Orders to Make Safe or Demolish to the owners of property located at 3422 Lowcroft Avenue

Mr. Sanford stated this is a single family home, demo hearing on 6/23/2022, there has been no contact or action with over \$7,000 in taxes, at more that 50% damage, estimated repairs \$60,560. He continued that since the fire there have been eight board ups, six grass violations and they request 30 days MSD. Councilmember Wood asked if Mr. Sanford has heard from Mr. St. Clair the listed taxpayer, he responded no, and somehow Mr. Muhamed Abdul-Jabar's name was on something but he cannot legally own any properties.

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER BROWN TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION TO SET SHOW CAUSE HEARING IN CONSIDERATION OF ORDERS TO MAKE SAFE OR DEMOLIS TO THE OWNERS OF PROPERTY LOCATED AT 3422 LOWCROFT AVENUE. MOTION CARRIED 2-0

UPDATE – Single family LHC owned housing report; Brian McGrain

Mr. McGrain stated he and Mr. Sanford went over the list and went by some properties, they have 300 properties with 219 single family, 60% are current with certificates, 80 are in the process with either inspections going or within 45 days. They feel they are in a better spot, did find out that BWL was backwards for the sign and returns but that was corrected, and they have 2-3 red tagged being repaired, sign & return for inspections. Councilmember Wood asked if they are getting payment with no problem for inspections, Mr. McGrain believes so, continuing that there was a time when they couldn't get in or having no shows, Mr. Sanford added he hasn't heard of anybody not showing. Councilmember Wood asked what happens with LHC in negotiations to sell properties and they don't have current certificates and new property owners take. Mr. McGrain responded if inspected and owner purchases our expectations are that the issues have been addressed. Councilmember Brown asked if the red tags are vacant, Mr. McGrain indicated yes, Fireside is in court proceedings and Magnolia is under construction, a third has open permits. Councilmember Brown repeated if they are vacant, Mr. McGrain is fairly certain. Councilmember Brown said so the 80 in process are they making sure everything is in order, Mr. McGrain again repeated they are either inspected in 30 days to correct or are set within 45 days and added that they find real heinous stuff that they want corrected immediately that day, otherwise minor things are given 30 days but try to be flexible if they need an extension.

Councilmember Wood asked Mr. McGrain if he had a change to look over the files Ms. Richmond sent, Mr. McGrain deferred to Mr. Sanford on this. Mr. Sanford said their policy is to review the last inspection and permits to make sure everything open and closed on property. Councilmember Wood asked Mr. McGrain with the RAD grants and makeovers this is building safety, correct? Mr. McGrain confirmed, and Councilmember Wood then asked if they are looking at things so not to have both Code and Safety out if not necessary, Mr. McGrain stated those being fully renovated won't be issued without building sign off.

Councilmember Wood stated to Mr. Smiertka that a request from the public is that Council have additional jurisdiction over the LHC, but can you confirm that this is a state statute and can only change from the state level. Both Mr. Smiertka and Ms. Hagen do not recall the request but confirmed it is state level, but Mr. Smiertka will look into it.

Councilmember Brown asked if properties are not up to code does it affect the tenant during inspection while in the application process. Mr. McGrain indicated this does not involve their department, this is with HUD, LHC and the buyer. Mr. Sanford stated Doug said Title 19 inspection is prior to transfer. Mr. McGrain added if they did the inspection and are within the 30 day window still expect to be in compliance even when sold. Mr. Sanford finished that anything they do is against the real property and not the owner, if the landbank auctions the letter still has to be in compliance before the sale.

DISCUSSION – Fiscal Year 2023/2024 Budget Priorities

Councilmember Wood spoke on the traffic speed wagons and asked Ms. Richmond to contact Andy Kilpatrick to see the progress, she also spoke on the portable speed bumps which are opposed to permanent asphalt and can be moved during spring/summer and do not get ruined by snowplows. These have a calming effect on traffic and does not need a speed assessment. Councilmember Wood continued to ask Ms. Richmond to reach out to Chief Sturdivant in regard to the reinstatement of fire apprenticeship/interns.

Councilmember Brown inquired about the business cards brought up in the Committee on Equity, Diversity & Inclusion for the police officers and something to look at next year.

Councilmember Wood inquire to Mr. Smiertka about establishing a task force of sort that indicates they begin the South Lansing but for the whole city and have resources focus on problem properties. Mr. Smiertka agreed, Councilmember Wood specified doing the budget first then maybe look at it and continued with suggestions on them meeting every two weeks with Code/OCS/Bldg Safety/LFD/LPD and reporting back each meeting. Councilmember Wood added having citizens involved as well, Mr. Smiertka concurred that having citizens on the task force is important because of follow through.

OTHER

ADJOURN

Adjourned at 4:38pm
submitted by Renee Richmond,
Recording Secretary, Lansing City Council
Approved by the Committee on September 15, 2022