MINUTES
Committee of the Whole
Monday, September 26, 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
Councilmember Jeremy Garza
Councilmember Brian T. Jackson.
Councilmember Jeffrey Brown
Councilmember Brian Daniels- excused

OTHERS PRESENT
Sherrie Boak, Council Office Manager
Jim Smiertka, OCA
Lisa Hagen-Lawrence, OCA
Mark Lawrence, Mayors Office
Jane Bias- DiSessa, Deputy Mayor
Loretta Stanaway

Minutes
MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 12, 2022, AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

Public Comment
Ms. Stanaway spoke on the Closed Session list, specifically the Lansing Township and her opposition to the ongoing case.

Discussion
RESOLUTION – Approval of the Addition of Salvatore Prescott Porter & Porter, PLLC to Outside Legal Counsel
Council President Hussain explained this was also being referred tonight, however the City Attorney asked for immediate action because when Council approved a resolution earlier in July, 2022 under Resolution 2022-197encouraging the administration to review the amicus brief and if appropriate, sign demonstrating the support an attorney was not listed in the resolution. There is now a retention agreement that needs to be signed, and counsel needed to be added to a resolution for that agreement to be signed.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR SALVATORE PRESCOTT PORTER & PORTER, PLLC FOR OUTSIDE LEGAL COUNSEL.

Mr. Smiertka stated that the Charter requires OCA to come to the Council for any litigation, and they are filing a legal brief in a case, and they want the City of Lansing to join, and therefore they will be the City Attorney. The City is now signing onto the brief and not filing a separate case. This client is lead counsel and the City is signing, and this action is only for the brief.

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

DISCUSSION – Fiscal Year 2023/2024 Budget Priorities
Council President Hussain outlined the process and asked that the Administration per the Rule report back if these priorities are not included in the upcoming budget.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR THE BUDGET PRIORITIES INCLUDING REMOVING THE BOLD MEETING INFORMATION FOR COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS, AD HOC ON HOUSING AND RESIDENT SAFETY ON PAGE 3 AND THE BOLD MEETING INFORMATION UNDER THE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED FOR AD HOC ON HOUSING OF MEETING INFORMATION ON PAGE 4.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN TO AMEND ITEM 10 ON PAGE 2 FROM $200,000 TO $300,000.

Council President Hussain went through the positions currently in the Economic Development and his reason for the creation of adding this item. This increase would add Marketing and Communications Director, Small Business Development Specialist and Director of Equitable Economic Development. This would add additional $300,000 to the current already budgeted $300,000 bringing EDC to $600,000.

Council Member Wood asked for additional information in the future on how they are dealing with those additional funds.

Council Member Spitzley voiced her concerns with how they will sustain those additional positions in further budgets.

Council Member Brown noted in conversations with the Administration that there was a Council Member on their board to make there was an open bridge of communication and would encourage that going forward.

Council Member Jackson spoke briefly on the history of LEAP which was taken in house, and expected funds to come in, then now adding more positions and more funds. It would be interesting to find out what tasks EDC will have compared to LEAP. There is a concern when talking about positions when it was out of house now in house.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER SPITZLEY TO REMOVE ITEM 10.
It was clarified there is a motion on the table to increase the amount in item 10, the motion by Council Member Spitzley was withdrawn.

Council President Hussain spoke about the LEAP and EDC, and discussions that since they are 100% in the City, Mr. Dorshimer outlined the task they will do. Council President Hussain spoke in support of Economic Development in the City.

Council Member Wood noted this is a wish list, not creating but what the Council priorities are for the Mayor to look at to see if it can be funded. Historically when EDC was in the City before it went to LEAP, there were a lot more staff, and in order to accomplish some of these things, they need more staff. Council Member Wood reiterated her request in the future what funds, fees, contracts and where the returns are with LEAP.

Council Member Spitzley noted there also used to be a Business Ombudsman in the past, so in the future would consider during the budget and why they need more money and more employees since at this point they are still too new so cannot support until they report back.

MOTION PASSED 5-2.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER SPITZLEY TO AMEND ITEM 10 TO COME AND DISCUSS HOW THEY ARE GOING TO ADDRESS THE INCREASE IN THEIR BUDGET FROM $300,000- $500,000. ITEM 10 WILL BE AMENDED TO ADD LANSING EDC WILL PROVIDE DOCUMENTATION ON HOW THEY WILL PAY FOR THE POSITIONS IN THE 2023/2024.

MOTION CARRIED 6-1.

Mr. Smiertka asked if the intent is to be done to the satisfaction of Council.

Council Member Jackson spoke on Item 9 on page 2 on transparency, and encouraged viewing in the courts currently being held as a hybrid, and was in support of streaming or allowing the public to make comments.

Council Member Jackson then spoke in support of Item 8 on page 2 and sustainability in the City.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN TO STRIKE ITEM 7 PAGE 2. MOTION CARRIED 6-1.

Council President Hussain spoke on Item 9 on page 2 and after a discussion with Council Member Daniels in his absence he relayed to him that he felt that bringing his earlier resolution tonight would be redundant and please call Council Member Daniels.

Council Member Jackson spoke briefly on an earlier resolution brough by Council Member Daniels in August and supported that. He noted he would reach out to Council Member Daniels to bring that Resolution back to Council.

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

Other
CLOSED SESSION
MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD TO RECESS INTO CLOSED SESSION AT 6:05 P.M.
Pursuant to MCL 15.268(e), I hereby move that we recess into closed session to consult with the City Attorney in connection with the following specific pending litigation. An open meeting will have a detrimental financial effect on the litigating or settlement position of the City of Lansing concerning these cases. In addition there was a request and granted for Mark Lawrence and Jane DeSessa to attend the closed session.

Ms. Boak read the following cases into the record:

Atkinson, et al. v. City of Lansing, et al.
Burwell v. City of Lansing, et al.
Career Quest Learning Centers, Inc. & Little Rainbows, LLC v. Lansing City Treasurer, et al.
Charter Township of Lansing v. Barb Byrum, Ingham County Clerk, and City of Lansing

Chen v. City of Lansing, et al.
City of Lansing v. Fady, Inc., et al.
City of Lansing v. OCOF Nonprofit Housing Corp
City of Lansing, et al. v. Purdue Pharma, et al. - Opioid Litigation
Fire Farm, LLC v. City of Lansing
Freeman v. City of Lansing
Funches v. City of Lansing, et al.
Hardy v. City of Lansing, et al.
Hulon v. City of Lansing, et al.
Lynn v. City of Lansing
OPV Partners, LLC and RESSCO, LLC v. City of Lansing
Phillips v. City of Lansing, et al.
Stafford v. Klein and City of Lansing
United States of America v. City of Lansing

ROLL VOTE. MOTION CARRIED 7-1.

RECONVENE
Council President reconvened the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

Adjourn
The meeting adjourned at: 6:35 p.m.
Respectfully Submitted by,
Sherrie Boak, Recording Secretary,
Lansing City Council
Approved by the Committee October 10, 2022