



MINUTES
Committee of the Whole
Monday, October 10, 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- arrived at 5:34 p.m.
Councilmember Jeremy Garza
Councilmember Brian T. Jackson.
Councilmember Jeffrey Brown
Councilmember Brian Daniels

OTHERS PRESENT

Sherrie Boak, Council Office Manager
Jim Smiertka, OCA
Lisa Hagen-Lawrence, OCA
Mark Lawrence, Mayors Office
Jane Bias- DiSessa, Deputy Mayor
Doris Witherspoon, EDP
Norma Bauer
Jody Washington
Chris Swope, City Clerk

Minutes

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 26, 2022, AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

Public Comment

Ms. Bauer spoke to the Committee asking if someone on Council could provide a report on transparency. Council President Hussain noted comment at this time is for items on this agenda. Advising Ms. Bauer that if she wishes to speak to the addition of that topic on the Council agenda at the later of the meeting.

Ms. Washington spoke on the public housing in the City as it relates to the HOME-ARP Allocation plan, in opposition to median household income in the City.

Discussion

RESOLUTION – Introduction and Set a Public Hearing; Amending Chapter 1300, Marihuana Operations

Council President Hussain acknowledged that from time to time the Council reviews this ordinance to address changes at the State level.

Council Member Wood noted that since there is zoning involved in this, the resolution should state the hearing should be November 14th due to the 15 day public notice requirement.

Ms. Hagen- Lawrence spoke briefly on the amends to definitions including expanding on Marihuana Educational Research License, zoning approval of drive- thru, assigns the zoning of the new Educational Research Facilities, and in 1300.17 codifies the Mayor's Executive Order on temporary events and permits.

Council Member Hussain asked about the new licenses, it would fall under current. Ms. Hagen- Lawrence confirmed.

Council Member Spitzley asked if this will now allow drive-thru, and Ms. Hagen – Lawrence confirmed it does and will allow zoning approval.

Council Member Wood referenced the change in 1300.09 and asked if that is a State requirement or we are just adding. Mr. Swope stated he did not believe it was a change in the State, but there was a question raised with the City Ordinance on existing buildings with drive thru options. Council Member Wood recapped that when this ordinance was created the Council at the time did not support drive-thru. Mr. Swope noted at the time of passage the State did not allow, and now the State does. Council Member Wood then referenced the original adoption where Council did not want special events, and then asked if this would codify a special event. Ms. Hagen- Lawrence noted that is correct and this would then allow a license and permit. Council Member Wood used an example of a City Park wh. Ms. Hagen – Lawrence stated this would require police, fire, oca and parks to review, and would be considered at the time. She offered to ask those departments on co-mingling at events with all ages. Council Member Wood then asked if this would permit or prohibit the sale of marihuana at the event. Mr. Swope was not able to confirm or deny and Ms. Hagen stated she would follow up.

Council Member Spadafore asked why it is spelled with an “h” and not a “j” and Ms. Hagen stated they follow the state and it was in the voting initiative.

Council Member Spadafore spoke briefly on the State requirements and application on events. Defined space, roped off, etc.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD TO APPROVE THE AMENDED RESOLUTION FROM THE PACKET TO INTRODUCE AND SET A PUBLIC HEARING FOR NOVEMBER 14, 2022. MOTION CARRIED 8-0.

RESOLUTION – Set a Public Hearing for the Consideration of Substantial Amendments, FY2020-2021 Annual Action Plan to include HOME-ARP Allocation Plan

Council Member Wood refenced the memo in the packet from Ms. Kimmel, and wanted it clarified the second line – which states “Council will vote to approve the substantial amendment on November 28th”, should be clear to the public that Council has not made the determination yet, so it was presumptuous of the Staff to put that statement in.

Ms. Witherspoon noted that in 2021 President Biden signed ARP to address the continued impact of COVID 19. The HOME ARP is addressing the need for homelessness assistance and supportive services. The City will get \$2,784,822 to use to address these services. In order to do that, there needs to be an amendment for the FY 2020-2021 plan. The process is not any different then what is done when they review the plan annually at budget time. There will be a review of the specific agencies, stakeholders meeting, consultations, and with those there were up to 100 participants, and a 15 day comment period. The plan will be on the City

website, a notice sent to Continuum of Care, and a mailing list of 400 for the changes for eligible activities. Eligible activities included but are not limited to HOME-ARP rental housing, tenant based rental assistant, support service, nonprogram building assistance, and admin and planning. Ms. Witherspoon added that the City has been working with Wade Trim in preparation of the plan. Lastly she noted some of the qualifications such as homelessness, fleeing homelessness, or attempting to flee domestic violence to name a few.

Council Member Spitzley asked if Council is being asked to set a hearing for a plan that is not ready yet. Ms. Witherspoon concurred stating that the hearing will be held November 14th and the report will be ready October 26, 2022. Council Member Spitzley voiced her concern and objection that City Council was not asked to participate up to this point.

Council Member Wood asked if the agencies that will receive the funds already have been identified and Ms. Witherspoon stated they had not. Council Member Wood then asked how they were going to proceed and Ms. Witherspoon stated they will do a RFP/RFQ process. Council Member Wood referenced a letter from a Ms. Wakefield that Council received that noted concerns with Holy Cross. She then concurred with Council Member Spitzley on the lack of communication with the City Council Ad Hoc on Housing and Resident Safety. Council Member Spitzley noted for Ms. Witherspoon, the public and Administration that the Ad Hoc on Housing and Resident Safety had discussions with many of the parties in the document, however it appeared City Council was not included in the September 15th or 16th virtual sessions EDP did. Ms. Witherspoon stated she personally would make sure Council got the public notice for the future sessions. Council Member Wood added the EDP Director was in the Ad Hoc Meetings as well, and this funding should have been brought up during that discussion as well.

Council Member Brown asked if the funds will be funds put in the hands of the people who need it or to fund the non-profits. Ms. Witherspoon reiterated that they will do a RFP/RFQ and the proposed budget still needs feed back from the community. With any of the federal funds, there is an environmental review before they can be spent. Council Member Brown referenced funds they have tagged for Advent House Ministries, and asked if agencies such as that one already gets funds from the City, they should already have sufficient funds. Ms. Witherspoon stated this process will outline eligibility to qualify and will be specific to certain activities and certain populations. They will follow the process and will evaluate. If rental assistance is identified as a need, that is what the funds will be applied to. The department will go through the RFP and RFQ. Council Member Brown again referenced the material in the meeting packet, at which point Ms. Boak took the materials to Ms. Witherspoon. Ms. Witherspoon stated the material on page 30 of the packet was information obtained from the virtual meetings, and then Council Member Brown asked what the philosophy of the department is when looking at distribution of the funds; was it similar to the HRCS process for their grants. He asked again if the intent is for the funds to go to constituents directly or funds will go to non-profits who provide services. Ms. Witherspoon explained that if the agencies qualify and the constituents qualify they will consider it.

Council President Hussain stated to Ms. Witherspoon that Council is interested in conveying these funds and services to the end user.

Council Member Wood asked about her study and environmental review she mentioned earlier. Ms. Witherspoon said she will review whenever the City receives federal funding in order to use those funds; an environmental review. This covers "5 levels"; exempt, excluded, not subject to, substance, environmental impact, etc.

Council Member Garza asked if there is a tracking method or accountability for the funds that go to non-profits to make sure those funds are going to the end user. Ms. Witherspoon stated

this is a substantial amendment to the action plan, and EDP monitors the grantees that they fund, and that is the accountability monitoring process.

Council Member Spadafore referenced the notes in the packet from the September meetings, noting it stated there were 55 people one night and 33 on the other night, which appeared to be organizations. Based on that he asked if there were any individuals present that would actually be benefiting from the funds. Ms. Witherspoon confirmed both meetings were virtual so she could not speak to that.

Council Member Spitzley asked the Administration to coordinate with the HRCS Department to make sure there is not an overlap of funds being distributed to agencies and organizations. Ms. Witherspoon acknowledged it could happen and she would take the concern back to the department.

Council Member Jackson spoke in support of funding agencies with more than one source because his understanding was the more funds they received the more they can assist. Council Member Spitzley clarified she did not have an issue with the agencies getting the funds, but if they get the funds they need to be going to the people that need them.

Council President Hussain asked how they were promoting the meetings so they can reach everyone who needs the assistance. Ms. Witherspoon listed their sources of ads in newspapers, the website and notices mailed to the list they have. Council Member Brown asked if they reached out to the neighborhood organizations and Ms. Witherspoon confirmed they are on her mailing list. Council Member Daniels referred to the September meetings which occurred in the mornings, and encouraged the meetings they are focusing on now be set up for evenings. He also noted that when they do their review they should take into consideration that some of the agencies have made it aware they are at full capacity therefore no more money should be provided for assistance.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION TO SET THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR NOVEMBER 14, 2022. MOTION CARRIED 8-0.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at: 6:23 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Sherrie Boak, Recording Secretary,

Lansing City Council

Approved by the Committee October 24, 2022