



MINUTES
Committee on Public Safety
Tuesday, March 7, 2023 @ 3:30 p.m.
City Council Conference Room, 10th Floor City Hall

CALL TO ORDER

Council Member Hussain called the meeting to order at 3:30pm

PRESENT

Council Member Adam Hussain, Chair
Council Member Carol Wood, Vice Chair
Council Member Ryan Kost, Member

OTHERS PRESENT

Renee Richmond, Council Staff
Lisa Hagen-Lawrence, OCA
Matt Staples, OCA
Amany Williams, OCA
Lt. Sean Mills, LPD
Barb Kimmel, EDP
Shelbi Frayer
Carl Fangboner
Belinda Fitzpatrick

MINUTES

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FEBRUARY 07, 2023, AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Fitzpatrick and Ms. Washington stated they were observing at this time.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

RESOLUTION – Setting a Show Cause Hearing on Orders to Make Safe or Demolish to the owners of property located at 651 E Jolly Rd

Councilmember Hussain stated the SEV is \$47,800 and the estimated cost of repairs is over \$75,000, no permits have been pulled and has been vacant for more than 180 days, any questions. Councilmember Wood said she had no questions but wanted Ms. Frayer and Ms. Kimmel know and the record to reflect that she was very disappointed on the 'report' that was submitted from the Code Manager, it was one line. Adding that she understands how the process is being delivered has changed, it is still expected to be professional and if training is needed then she encourages them to reach out to HR for it. Councilmember Hussain concurred the way it was written was unprofessional.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION ON SETTING A SHOW CAUSE HEARING ON ORDERS TO MAKE SAFE OR DEMOLISH TO THE OWNERS OF PROPERTY LOCATED AT 651 E JOLLY RD. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Councilmember Wood stated for the record so the Code Compliance knows the date of the hearing for March 27, 2023 for the Show Cause.

RESOLUTION – Support of House Bill 4012, regarding updating speed limits in trunklines and municipalities

Councilmember Hussain recapped the speeding issues on MLK and S Cedar and back in 2013 a speed study was done and a policy established with a 85 percentile and rounding up of 5mph. He continued that some stretches went from 35 to 45 which have increased accidents. Ms. Hagen-Lawrence indicated initially there was some concern by law with some language that you wouldn't be able to round down unless a study is completed, and Councilmember Hussain reached out to all parties involved and with no concerns all agree this does what it is intended to do. Both Councilmembers Kost and Wood agree this has been a hot topic with school areas and concur with Councilmember Hussain.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 4012, REGARDING UPDATING SPEED LIMITS IN TRUNKLINES AND MUNICIPALITIES. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

UPDATE – Red Tag Updates from OCA and Code

Councilmember Hussain asked for an update from OCA and Code from the last meeting. Mr. Staples stated OCA reviewed the ordinance and it is a misdemeanor to both an occupant and to own and allow another to occupy. Ms. Hagen-Lawrence added that OCA, Ms. Kimmel, and Chief Sosebee all went through the ordinance and types of things needed in a police report and all are on the same page. Councilmember Wood stated she had two things, first focusing on landlords that are removing red tag and renting, she is reluctant that the tenant be issued a citation for not knowing it was red tagged. It is different if the tag is still on there and they are squatting. Ms. Hagen-Lawrence again said the group talked about the various things like a tenant unknowingly signing a lease, they would need to see the report and review to see who received the charges and the situation. Councilmember Wood, adding another thing is a database that dispatch could have access to on current red tags, asking Ms. Kimmel if that is available, she replied not yet. Councilmember Wood continued that it is important and needed so they can look up and know the status when going for a noise complaint or domestic for instance. Also, a list was received last meeting for the 1st ward, those that are occupied, each one needs to be check with BWL on who is paying utilities, landlord or tenant. Councilmember Kost asked about a ticket someone received that didn't know it was a red tagged home and got a trespass citation, willing to pay the \$125 fine but told he cannot that the 'landlord' has too, indicated the person shouldn't get the ticket if he was unaware, it was red tagged. Ms. Hagen-Lawrence spoke that probably is an appearance ticket and OCA doesn't see it until it's in courts and asked for Councilmember Kost to get with her and she can review. Ms. Kimmel also asked for the address and she will follow up.

Councilmember Hussain referenced the letter in the packet from OCA and asked if there was a conversation on shortening the time on the NEAT program, Ms. Hagen-Lawrence responded no. Councilmember Wood asked to make a recommendation out of Public Safety from 90 days to 60 days and that the three requirements of pulling/paying for permits, showing funds, and beginning the work are done that 60 days is reasonable. She added, she would like to pass this on and recommend to the department, then come back and if no movement we can do a resolution. Councilmember Hussain agreed on a recommendation to reduce to 60 days.

Councilmember Hussain then referenced the term "fee" on the letter which refers to the charge of the cost of inspections, adding the \$150 came into action and making sure that the fee covers the cost, asking Ms. Kimmel if a fee study has been done, responding she said they can. Councilmember

Hussain asked if the committee is comfortable with that recommendation, Councilmember Wood agreed.

Councilmember Hussain asked about the trash fee ordinance and Ms. Hagen-Lawrence commented if it was the Trash Hauler ordinance, she is unaware of where the department is with that. Ms. Kimmel referenced the spreadsheet provided for the 1st ward, Councilmember Wood asked of the 50+ how many are occupied, Ms. Kimmel replied 14. Councilmember Wood inquired about 1019 Johnson that says 'occupied' but no other notes like the others, Ms. Kimmel replied that she would have to check on that. Councilmember Kost inquired about 506 Jason Court stating the notes say "vacant/knocked no answer/red-tagged", he believes it is occupied, has curtains, toys and a car outside. He is concerned that those that are listed "vacant" and see a city vehicle or LPD pull up they aren't going to answer the door and asked Ms. Kimmel if they have been rechecked recently. Ms. Kimmel said she didn't believe so. Councilmember Kost then asked if Code is checking, Ms. Kimmel responded they are checking rentals and have inspections during the days, they were pulled off but we are low on staff. Councilmember Hussain said historically code has been short staffed and commented that if inspectors are calling when they see something obvious is Ms. Kimmel saying that is not happening, Ms. Kimmel said no that is not what she is saying, just that the inspectors are doing their daily jobs and agrees they pull up in a city vehicle or LPD they probably won't answer. Councilmember Kost again voiced his concern that there are 710 red tag homes and it was 750 when he ran last October, how can that be. Ms. Kimmel reminded the committee that the report changes daily, it is not always the same addresses some are removed and some are added. Councilmember Kost asked who is being charged the monitoring fee, Ms. Kimmel asked him to clarify what he means by 'who'. He responded he has seen fee's jump all over the place and if it is landlords, tenants, who. Ms. Kimmel indicated if a property owner is showing progress they won't be charged, so it's not black and white. Councilmember Hussain suggested maybe a check list type so it's not looking like favoritism, and Ms. Kimmel agreed maybe strengthening the process.

Councilmember Kost asked from the last meeting it was discussed about property's getting certificates but owe back taxes, Ms. Kimmel replied they are now checking and if not paid in full they are not receiving a full cert until it is taken care of. Councilmember Wood asked what notice is given, pink tag or what, Ms. Kimmel said no cert is given and if it is beyond the time then pink tag and timeline depends, they have 45 days for a rental cert and if they are showing intent or not. Councilmember Kost said he sent over two emails of homes with no cert's and where on Market Place for rent, is anyone else checking these. Ms. Kimmel said in spare time staff is. Councilmember Kost asked if something is in place for those that are displaced after getting a red tag, Ms. Kimmel said the city supports the CoC and they provide properties discovered occupied with tenant rights and a packet of FAQ's. Councilmember Hussain then asked about the Housing Ombudsman, Councilmember Wood requested that the 15 on the list that are occupied and red tagged go to the Housing Ombudsman and follow up with each one and report back to us on how he is helping these people. Ms. Kimmel believes he is concerned at this point they are trying to connect residents with resources available. Councilmember Hussain agreed with Councilmember Wood as he is not clear on that position is and what they do.

Lt. Mills indicated Captain Diehl asked him to join the meeting and everything that's been said makes sense, it was mentioned about a tenant getting a ticket, it gets difficult when the responding officer only gets what dispatch gives, and during night shift. Councilmember Kost spoke on his concern that it's a write ticket first and ask questions later. Lt. Mills stated day shift has more resources like social worker, and Councilmember Kost agreed and that some people have mental health issues and then panic with a ticket that they will get thrown out and charged with a crime. Councilmember Kost asked Ms. Kimmel if a plan was in place with 710 red tag properties for those that need housing, any goal working with landlords to get that down. Ms. Kimmel replied through compliance they work to get the properties taken care of and working through the process of the pink/red/MSD/NEAT, and not sure what he is looking for. He replied with concern that there is a problem and before they get to a MSD how do we get the list reduced. Councilmember Wood believes with enforcing stronger inspections and hit the pocketbook of the landlord and they will get scared, suggesting taking a date and see how long some

have been red tagged and those on longer are the ones that should be tackled, then allow to begin the work on the others.

OTHER

Councilmember Hussain spoke on the letter received by Mr. Fangboner and asked him to address the committee if he chose to. Mr. Fangboner said he lives on Conners Avenue that has a few rentals, red tagged and continues to get the run around from the city departments, never gets calls returned or follow up when told he would, and is concerned on where is the city on following through with these. Councilmember Hussain requested a commitment from Ms. Frayer and Ms. Kimmel to look at the addresses in the email and follow up, Ms. Frayer confirmed. Councilmember Hussain thanked Mr. Fangboner for coming and asked that they exchange information.

Ms. Fitzpatrick spoke on her concern of her red tagged properties as well.

ADJOURN

Adjourned at 4:42pm

Submitted by

Renee Richmond, Recording Secretary

Lansing City Council

Approved by the Committee on March 21, 2023