



MINUTES
Committee on Public Safety
Tuesday, June 20, 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
Amany Williams, OCA
Walter Allen, Code Compliance
Jordan Hankwitz, ED&P Director
Elaine Womboldt

MINUTES

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD TO APPROVE THE JUNE 6, 2023, MINUTES AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Elaine Womboldt spoke on the town hall meeting from last Saturday and thanked the committee and Mr. Hankwitz for assisting in the town hall. It was well attended and an excellent meeting with valuable information. She supports a city wide moratorium on rental properties, as well as an increase on the monitoring fees for each unit of apartments/buildings instead of having a tag on just the building. She finished with thanking the committee on getting things corrected on the bin ordinance 1237.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

RESOLUTION – Orders to Make Safe or Demolish to the owners of property located at 3421 N. Cedar Street

Councilmember Hussain asked Mr. Allen asked if there were any updates on any of the three MSD's before the Committee today, permits or any action from the owners. Mr. Allen answered everything is the same. Councilmember Hussain then asked for clarification on the overviews and resolutions, should they be 30 or 60 days. Mr. Allen answered that Cedar is a fire so 30 days. Councilmember Hussain stated if you look at C and D both resolutions in the seventh paragraph the Now Therefore which should it be. Mr. Allen verified that Jackson Street and Donora Street are not a fire damage. Councilmember Wood asked who reviews these, and Ms. Hagen-Lawrence answered she did not know specifically who reviewed theses but would find out but took responsibility.

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER KOST TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR ORDERS TO MAKE SAFE OR DEMOLISH TO THE OWNERS OF PROPERTY LOCATED AT 3421 N. CEDAR STREET. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

RESOLUTION – Orders to Make Safe or Demolish to the owners of property located at 131 Jackson Street

Councilmember Wood made a motion to correct the MSD from 30 days to 60 days in the resolution.

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER WOOD TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION AS AMENDED FOR ORDERS TO MAKE SAFE OR DEMOLISH TO THE OWNERS OF PROPERTY LOCATED AT 131 JACKSON STREET. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

RESOLUTION – Orders to Make Safe or Demolish to the owners of property located at 1722 Donora Street

Councilmember Wood made a motion to correct the MSD from 30 days to 60 days in the resolution.

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER WOOD TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION AS AMENDED FOR ORDERS TO MAKE SAFE OR DEMOLISH TO THE OWNERS OF PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1722 DONORA STREET. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

ORDINANCE – Setting a Public Hearing on an IPMC Amendment to clarify the parties responsible for prohibiting the occupancy and maintaining the vacancy of placarded equipment and structures

Councilmember Hussain mentioned if this passes this Committee the hearing will be on July 10th, and asked law for clarification. Ms. Hagen-Lawrence stated in general this further clarifies and assists with OCA enforcement of prosecuting specifically from owners who allow occupancy. It mirrors the IPMC language so just enhancing.

Councilmember Hussain referenced lines 17 & 18 and asked if they have been granting permission outside of the 8a-5p work hours. Mr. Allen stated it has to be in writing. Councilmember Wood reiterated that the changes are in bold so it now says in writing, she is unsure that all were done in writing. Stating she had asked in a previous meeting to look in the IPMC section where it talks about the city being able to do the work if needed, thinking that was going to be looked at. Ms. Hagen-Lawrence did not recall the conversation, and Councilmember Wood stated Mr. Smiertka was in that. Councilmember Kost stated it's his understanding that there might be MHSDA funds possibly for that as well.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD TO APPROVE SETTING A PUBLIC HEARING ON AN IPMC AMENDMENT TO CLARIFY THE PARTIES RESPONSIBLE FOR PROHIBITING THE OCCUPANCY AND MAINTAINING THE VACANCY OF PLACARDED EQUIPMENT AND STRUCTURES. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

ORDINANCE – Ordinance Amendment Chapter 1060, Section 08 and Section 99

Councilmember Hussain informed the Committee a public hearing is on June 26th and if there are no issues will ask for approval the same night.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD TO APPROVE THE ORDINANCE AMENDMENT FOR CHAPTER 1060, SECTION 08 AND SECTION 99 CONTINGENT ON THE PUBLIC HEARING SET FOR JUNE 26, 2023. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

OTHER

Councilmember Wood asked Mr. Hankwitz to the table, stating she is concerned with situations where apparently people in the department chose not to enforce the contract with Eric's Refuse. In the contract that was written and signed by the previous Director Mr. McGrain one provision was if claims were granted the money would be refunded. Her understanding is they haven't been doing that because the code compliance manager at time didn't feel it was fair regardless of being written in the contract. Councilmember Wood asked if Mr. Hankwitz has done anything to determine if any other Ordinances or Contracts that they have that are not being adhered to because someone in the department doesn't feel is fair. Mr. Hankwitz stated it was recently brought to his and Mr. Montry's attention and they are looking into it and agree if granted money should be reimbursed back to the City. He continued that they have not reviewed all the contracts. Councilmember Wood stated that her perspective is they are fiduciarily responsible to the public, and it sends a bad message when departments are not following the same rules. Councilmember Wood added that it is not just EDP but also with Public Service and Waste Management, they were without a contract, why hasn't OCA sent a cease and desist order until they are properly licensed.

Councilmember Kost asked how many contracts they had, and Mr. Hankwitz did not know. Councilmember Hussain commented that regardless of how long Mr. Hankwitz has been in the position he is essentially responsible and should know how many contracts they have.

Councilmember Kost asked if any resolution has been determined on the multi-unit properties and the red tags fees. Mr. Hankwitz answered no, they are still trying to figure it all out.

Councilmember Hussain finished asking Mr. Hankwitz where they are with the RFP. Mr. Hankwitz indicated they did not get what they were looking for and was premature in getting it out to early. They are re-evaluating it to get it right.

ADJOURN

Adjourned at 3:52pm

Submitted by

Renee Richmond, Recording Secretary

Lansing City Council

Approved by the Committee on July 18, 2023