



MINUTES
Committee on City Operations
Monday, July 24, 2023 @ 3:30 p.m.
City Council Conference Room

CALL TO ORDER

Council Member Hussain called the meeting to order at 3:30p.m.

PRESENT

Council Member Spadafore, Chair - excused
Council Member Hussain, Vice-Chair
Council Member Kost, Member

OTHERS PRESENT

Sherrie Boak, Council Office Manager
Lisa Hagen-Lawrence, OCA
Matt Staples, OCA
Emily Linden, Internal Auditor
Ravynne Gilmore
Officer Andrew Watkeys, LPD
DeAndre Thomas
Michelle Smalley, Public Service
Jeremiah Kilgore, Deputy Director Public Service
Kris Klein, Lansing EDC
Alec Malvetis, Public Service
Eugenia Zacks-Carney
Hameed Katawazi
Rodolfo Perez
Chris Stralkowski, Red Cedar Development
Walter Allen, Code Compliance
Lior Run
Eugenia Zacks-Carney

MINUTES

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER KOST TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM JULY 10, 2023 AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED 2-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment at this time.

Discussion/Action

RESOLUTION – Appointment; Ravynne Gilmore as an At-Large member of the Park Board for a term to expire June 30, 2027

Ms. Gilmore spoke briefly on her career with the Michigan Supreme Court, her work with the public and her qualifications for the position.

Council Member Kost asked if she had time available to serve, and she confirmed she does.

Council Member Hussain asked what she thought the City does well, and she spoke in support of the Parks department social media. Council Member Hussain spoke on the difficulty in Parks when it comes to participation. Ms. Gilmore was encouraging in keeping intellectual capital and seeing what the needs are for the next five (5) years and moving on. This would help in engaging people over the years and vision for the future trends.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER KOST TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT; RAVYNNE GILMORE AS AN AT-LARGE MEMBER OF THE PARK BOARD FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE JUNE 30, 2027. MOTION CARRIED 2-0.

RESOLUTION – Business License Appeal; DeAndre Thomas for a Transient Merchant License at 2215 West Holmes Road

Council Member Hussain confirmed a show cause hearing on July 10th, and asked Officer Watkeys to present at the table to speak on his comments on the license and why he recommended denial. Officer Watkeys first spoke on his role in the LPD for the last 7 years, and his role in reviewing licenses including criminal history, interactions with police officers, etc. In this reviews and investigations he looks at discrepancies from what is on the application vs. what he finds in his research. During the investigation of this application, he was found items that were not listed on the application and outlined those discrepancies and multiple convictions.

Mr. Thomas stated he spoke last time on his past convictions, recapped them again and he timeframe that those occurred.

Council Member Hussain referenced the ordinance and disclosure of criminal history, and asked the Officer if there was any consideration based on the history given by the applicant. Officer Watkey stated he cannot look into body camera footage, but does have a Corunna police report in 2021, and there appeared to be some conflict on the report. Unfortunately there were other convictions that were not disclosed. Could not in good faith to approve because there are laws set forth by State and the City, and Health Department, and seeing the dishonesty could not approve.

Mr. Thomas stated that leaving items was not intention, he looked over the request because was more concerned with the felonies over the misdemeanors. Council Member Hussain asked if he would have chosen to not disclose would it still be a recommendation to deny, and Officer Watkey stated he would not.

Council Member Kost asked how long he was in business, and Mr. Thomas stated since 2001 with license in 2010. He spoke in the timeframe of offenses and spoke in support of the license.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER KOST TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION TO GRANT THE BUSINESS LICENSE APPEAL; DEANDRE THOMAS FOR A TRANSIENT MERCHANT LICENSE AT 2215 WEST HOLMES ROAD.

Mr. Mitch Rice stated he spoke in support of the license to be granted.

Council Member Hussain asked for definition of the “transient” where someone can be mobile with the business. Ms. Hagen-Lawrence stated it could be a peddlers license. Mr. Thomas asked for all food trucks to be looked at for location on the weekends during the weekend.

MOTION CARRIED 2-0.

RESOLUTION – SPECIAL ASSESSMENT; SNOW AND ICE REMOVAL WINTER 2022-2023

Council Member Hussain noted the hearing was July 10th, 2023 for a total of \$6,726.00

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER KOST TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT; SNOW AND ICE REMOVAL WINTER 2022-2023. MOTION CARRIED 2-0.

RESOLUTION – Establish Red Cedar/South Frandor Social District

Council Member Hussain recapped the history of Social Districts. This would establish a 4th district Red Cedar and Frandor, and commons areas.

Mr. Klein provided a brief overview noting that after this is set businesses can apply to participate. There are currently two and they anticipate more. Mr. Klein expanded that the Michigan Avenue Corridor Authority is aware of this, and the developer in addition to a collection of multiple businesses. Mr. Stralkowski spoke in support of this social district.

Council Member Hussain referenced the map and asked why including areas north of Michigan. Mr. Klein stated nothing in that area is included in this, but this is the potential future. Council Member Hussain asked what happens in the future north of Michigan does that happen in resolution. Ms. Hagen-Lawrence stated anyone adding would coming back to be added.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER KOST TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH RED CEDAR/SOUTH FRANDOR SOCIAL DISTRICT. MOTION CARRIED 2-0.

RESOLUTION – Set 2nd Public Hearing; Noise Special Permit; CSO 015 South Project, Leavitt and Starck Excavating, Inc.

Council Member Hussain noted there was a hearing on July 10th.

Mr. Malvetis noted that at the hearing it was noted that some people did not get notice, and when looking into it, it was determined the software had a limit of 1,000 so some were missed. The process had been changed to deal with the future. In the first mailing there was about 473, so the second hearing was deemed necessary. An email was received from administration that the notice will be sent to everyone.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER KOST TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION TO SET A 2ND PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE NOISE SPECIAL PERMIT FOR AUGUST 14TH; CSO 015 SOUTH PROJECT, LEAVITT AND STARCK EXCAVATING, INC. MOTION CARRIED 2-0.

RESOLUTION – Claim Appeal; Claim #1954, Trei Mititei LLC for \$835 in trash fees at 500 W. Willow Street

Mr. Allen informed the Committee that it was cited 12/14/2022, with compliance 12/21/2022. Recheck on 12/22/2022 and violations still present and contractor instructed to remove. Contractor arrived and violations were still present. Code compliance recommends denial.

Council Member Kost asked when the fence was put up and if a permit was pulled.

Ms. Linden summarize the Claims Review Committee determination, stating the review of the photos reflected that the trash was there.

Ms. Zack-Carney with Lansing Dream Homes management company and referenced the mapping which outlined the property lines. The map was distributed to the Committee members and she appealed that the materials were from the neighbor. The neighbor apologized and this was all explained to the Claims Review Committee.

Council Member Kost asked if it was the neighbor who put in the fence, and Ms. Carney confirmed it was. The Committee reviewed the property line maps distributed. Council Member Hussain noted he visited the site and questioned if it was deposited on 500 or on 510. He then asked OCA to determine the actual measurements of 510 vs 500 W Willow. Council Member Hussain then referenced the photos, the notices and needed clarification on where the property lines were. Mr. Allen had no comments but noted that aerial photos do not show property lines a survey would be needed. Council Member Hussain asked if the Claims Review looked at the property line, and Mr. Staples stated their assumption was the fence was going around 500 W Willow based on the photos. Ms. Linden stated they based it on property lines, but new information comes out with a survey that would be different.

Council Member Kost asked if this claim is granted can the City go back after the fence.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER KOST TO APPROVE THE CLAIM APPEAL; CLAIM #1954 TREI MITITEI LLC FOR \$835 IN TRASH REMOVAL FEES AT 500 W. WILLOW STREET.

Owner confirmed the property is unique and until the fence went up from the neighbor, he did not know it wasn't his property.

Council Member Hussain encouraged the owner and management of keeping track of their property daily. The owner confirmed they are working on it daily renovating.

MOTION CARRIED 2-0.

RESOLUTION – Claim Appeal; Claim #1955, Silly Goose LLC for \$625 in trash fees at 1506 Robertson Avenue

Mr. Allen stated the property was cited 12/13/2022 with a compliance date of 12/202/2022, and the contractor arrived 1/2/2023 when violations present and removed. Construction site needs to be maintained, dumpster should be present for debris and code recommends denial.

Ms. Linden stated at Claims Review Committee the Committee determined at both days when inspected the trash was still there, even if have permit for the construction.

Mr. Run stated the material that was taken was all new construction material and this was a small renovation project that did not need a 10 yard dumpster, and the material was removed end of the week, every week. Photos reflect different debris every time during inspections.

Council Member Hussain noted the violation notice is specific to what needs to be removed and when, and then reviewed the photos which reflected the construction site and debris in the right of way.

The Committee understands the details on new construction material, however if the owner is noticed and after 7 days if it still there a contractor is called, per ordinance.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER KOST TO DENY THE CLAIM APPEAL; CLAIM #1955, SILLY GOOSE LLC FOR \$625 IN TRASH FEES AT 1506 ROBERTSON AVENUE. MOTION CARRIED 2-0.

RESOLUTION – Claim Appeal; Claim #1963, Hameed Katawazi for \$493.40 in board up fees at 1017 West Hillsdale Street

Mr. Allen stated the property was cited during a red tag inspection, and upon inspection it was found the front window was missing, and the board up crew was contacted. Code compliance recommends denial.

Ms. Linden stated the Claim Review Committee heard that the owner admitted to buying a window but did not by the time the code reinspection was done it was not complete.

Mr. Katawazi referenced the photos and confirmed he had purchased the window and planned to replace. Delivered the window inside then went to get materials to complete the work.

Council Member Kost asked how long the window was broken. Mr. Katawazi stated it was about 5 hours, it was old. The window was removed to replace and the handyman assisting him went to get the proper tools and materials to replace it the Code officer arrived.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER KOST TO TABLE FOR THE OWNER TO PROVIDE FURTHER INFORMATION ON IT BEING OPEN FOR A FEW HOURS. MOTION CARRIED 2-0.

RESOLUTION – Claim Appeal; Claim #1972 Rodolfo Perez for \$640 in trash fees at 810 McKinley Street

Council Member Hussain noted that the claimant was not present, so it was moved to the next meeting of August 14, 2023.

Other

No other topics of discussion.

Adjourn

Adjourned at 4:30 pm

Submitted by Sherrie Boak

Recording Secretary, Lansing City Council

Approved by the Committee on August 14, 2023