



MINUTES
Committee on Public Safety
Tuesday, August 15, 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
Emily Linden, Internal Auditor
Lisa Hagen-Lawrence, OCA
Amany Williams, OCA
Walter Allen, Code Compliance
Susan Stachowiak, EDP
Zach Driver, Commercial Corridor Specialist
William Harrison

MINUTES

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD TO APPROVE THE JULY 18, 2023, MINUTES AS AMENDED TO ADD ELAINE WOMBOLDT UNDER OTHERS PRESENT. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment at this time.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

RESOLUTION – Setting a Show Cause Hearing on Orders to Make Safe or Demolish to the owners of 1616 Glenrose Avenue

Councilmember Hussain gave an overview of the property. The owner listed is Clarence Hassel, SEV is \$26,300 with estimated repair costs at \$41,635. Adding this is a fire damage property so 30 days for MSD and no permits have been pulled. Walter Allen had nothing additional to add.

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER KOST TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION IN SETTING A SHOW CAUSE HEARING ON ORDERS TO MAKE SAFE OR DEMOLISH TO THE OWNERS OF 1616 GLENROSE AVENUE. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

RESOLUTION – Setting a Show Cause Hearing on Orders to Make Safe or Demolish to the owners of 1232 Pompton Circle

Councilmember Hussain gave an overview of the property. The owner listed is Sial Hussan, SEV is \$30,000 with estimated repair costs at \$55,750. Adding this is not a fire damage property so 60 days for MSD and no permits have been pulled. Walter Allen had nothing additional to add. Councilmember Wood mentioned there was a gentleman interested in purchasing the property, Dale, he is not present for this meeting.

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER WOOD TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION IN SETTING A SHOW CAUSE HEARING ON ORDERS TO MAKE SAFE OR DEMOLISH TO THE OWNERS OF 1232 POMPTON CIRCLE. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

RESOLUTION – Setting a Show Cause Hearing on Orders to Make Safe or Demolish to the owners of 1402 Marquette Street

Councilmember Hussain gave an overview of the property. The owner listed is Domingo Gomez, SEV is \$36,000 with estimated repair costs at \$64,897. Adding this is a fire damage property so 30 days for MSD and no permits have been pulled. Councilmember Wood asked Mr. Allen if any insurance money was held on this or on Glenrose. Mr. Allen did not believe on this property but would check for Glenrose.

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER WOOD TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION IN SETTING A SHOW CAUSE HEARING ON ORDERS TO MAKE SAFE OR DEMOLISH TO THE OWNERS OF 1402 MARQUETTE STREET. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

DISCUSSION – 2813 E. Westchester Road Update; Walter Allen and Susan Stachowiak

Councilmember Hussain stated he and CM Kost drove by the property after the last meeting and it is concerning. Asking Ms. Stachowiak for an update from the letter sent and the 14 days are up and have they complied. Ms. Stachowiak indicated that they are addressing everything except the on street parking. There is a hearing set for August 22nd in Judge Simmons court at 10:30am. She added that the owner is in the process of evicting so unsure how that will play out. Councilmember Hussain noted there was a pink tag on the door so is it not certified. Mr. Allen said that it can still be certified, pink indicates it was inspected but it could turn into a red tag.

Mr. Harrison spoke on the property and thanked the Committee for staying on top of this and having it on the agenda. He noted many city employees that he thanked for their assistance and responsiveness and he and the neighborhood are hopeful. Councilmember Wood suggested that as many as possible show up to the hearing and be seen.

Councilmember Wood asked Ms. Hagen-Lawrence if OCA was handling this and is there potential for impact statements, she confirmed OCA would be present but that under crime victims doesn't qualify since it is a civil case not a misdemeanor, however they can let the prosecutor know the neighborhood is interested. Councilmember Wood suggested maybe supply letters, Ms. Williams concluded she would be covering the hearing and will let the Committee know the outcome.

DISCUSSION – Commercial Corridor Specialist Update; Susan Stachowiak and Zach Driver

Councilmember Hussain briefly spoke on previous meeting with Code Officers and what they needed, one suggested a Commercial Corridor Specialist. CM Hussain had the opportunity to do a ride along with Mr. Driver and Mr. Montry and wanted Mr. Driver to speak to the Committee.

Ms. Stachowiak added that they have outdated signage orders which make enforcement difficult. They've drafted new ones and is in law now. Councilmember Hussain asked the changes were submitted and Ms. Stachowiak is unsure but Mr. Venker is reviewing them. She added they are hoping to have it to Council and acted on prior to year-end. Councilmember Wood stated there are only six Council meetings remaining. Ms. Hagen-Lawrence mention she will look to see where it is at in the

process. Ms. Stachowiak added that most of code is complaint based and what Zach does is catches it before it gets to that point.

Mr. Driver explained he is in the Planning Office and upholds the city property maintenance and city signage along the corridors, enforcement includes illegal junk storage (including vehicles), illegal signage, and marijuana dispensary running illegal. He works with property owners if it's out of his scope and is a liaison with the businesses. Councilmember Hussain asked what somethings he can't do. Mr. Driver responded mostly addressing structural components of the buildings, there are somethings that need enforcement by the ACT 54 certification, he refers those to building safety Councilmember Wood asked how long and what the cost for the ACT 54 certification would be, Mr. Driver provided a couple explanations, some can provide enough work hours for general constructions (typically 4,000-6,000), or they can become a licensed architect.

Ms. Stachowiak indicated they cannot get inspectors and are short-handed. Councilmember Hussain asked Mr. Driver how he splits his day, he responded he does his best depending on re-inspections and other factors, he can be from end to end of the city. Councilmember Hussain asked Ms. Stachowiak if based on her expertise, is one person enough for this job, she answered more would get done if they had another person, but Zach does a great job. Councilmember Hussain asked what feedback she is getting from the headhunters, she stated they just can't find the qualified people.

Councilmember Wood requested what things Zach needs to improve the job and do more, is it ACT 54 certification, additional software. Mr. Driver stated certification definitely would help, another aspect would be to have similar Code Enforcement abatement. He added that writing citations takes 1-2 hours, then there is attending court, they have limited clerical staff to assist with letters. He concluded that when he has to deal with repair facilities that operate outside what is permitted, he may send to building safety. Ms. Stachowiak included that signage remains a constant, when buildings are vacated and a sign is either left, or partially removed but the actual structure is still intact as well. Councilmember Wood indicated she believed an amendment gave permission to abate, Ms. Stachowiak said it is poorly written and not clear.

Councilmember Wood asked Ms. Linden to research the cost of the training for Mr. Driver and is there are anything classes that HR offers to maintain certification.

RESOLUTION – Setting a Show Cause Hearing on Orders to Make Safe or Demolish to the owners of 5016 Connors Avenue

Councilmember Hussain gave an overview of the property. The owner listed is Ronnie and Sonya Ford, SEV is \$58,900 with estimated repair costs at \$100,303. Adding this is a fire damage property so 30 days for MSD and no permits have been pulled. Mr. Allen didn't have anything additional to add. Councilmember Wood asked to check on insurance settlement for this property.

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER WOOD TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION IN SETTING A SHOW CAUSE HEARING ON ORDERS TO MAKE SAFE OR DEMOLISH TO THE OWNERS OF 5016 CONNERS AVENUE. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

RESOLUTION – Setting a Show Cause Hearing on Orders to Make Safe or Demolish to the owners of 3301 Turner Street

Councilmember Hussain gave an overview of the property. The owner listed is David & Kimberly Hallett SEV is \$44,400 with estimated repair costs at \$104,088. Adding this is a fire damage property so 30 days for MSD and no permits have been pulled. Mr. Allen did not have anything to add.

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER KOST TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION IN SETTING A SHOW CAUSE HEARING ON ORDERS TO MAKE SAFE OR DEMOLISH TO THE OWNERS OF 3301 TURNER STREET. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

OTHER

DISCUSSION/ACTION – Budget Priorities for Fiscal Year 2024/2025 – Committee Priorities

Councilmember Hussain asked the Committee to come to the next meeting with ideas for Budget Priorities.

ADJOURN

Adjourned at 4:15pm

Submitted by

Renee Richmond, Recording Secretary

Lansing City Council

Approved by the Committee on September 5, 2023