



MINUTES
Committee on Public Safety
Tuesday, September 5, 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
Joe Abood, OCA
Bill Harrison
Liz Boyd

MINUTES

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD TO APPROVE THE AUGUST 15, 2023, AS PRESENT.
MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment at this time.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

DISCUSSION – OCA, Update on 2813 E. Westchester Road

Councilmember Hussain asked OCA for an update on the hearing that took place on August 22nd with Judge Simmons.

Mr. Abood noted the hearing was successful and an order to abate was done for October 4th. The attorney present followed standard procedure however the Judge was willing to abate immediately. After discussions with the City Attorney, they are hopeful for an order by the Judge to abate this week but do not have anything yet. Councilmember Kost asked for clarification on the date is it Oct. 4th or immediately. Mr. Abood repeated his previous comment and stated once received the Committee will be notified.

Ms. Boyd asked how quickly it will be completed if abatement comes sooner. Mr. Abood stated that is up to the other department. Councilmember Wood mentioned normally it would go to Code to notify the contractor and typically 7-10 days.

Mr. Harrison thanked the Committee for keeping this on the agenda and pushing for a determination and is pleased on the expedited order.

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

Councilmember Wood referenced an email that OCA didn't think training for Mr. Driver was possible. Ms. Hagen-Lawrence indicated she wasn't asked about that, she was asked about sending contractors out like Code for trash/grass, which is form based codes. Ms. Linden noted Mr. Driver is not currently ACT 54 qualified, so would have to be a separate program and that is more complicated.

The Committee suggested the following budget priorities:

1. Zoning Personnel Staff for Administrative tasks relating to the Commercial Corridor Specialist
2. Portable Speed Bumps (Public Service Department)
3. Reinstate the LFD apprenticeship/intern program (Lansing Fire Department)

Councilmember Wood asked Ms. Linden if she received an update from the Chief on #3. Ms. Linden indicated the Chief stated they are currently costing out different options and if feasible will keep her posted, and added they are looking heavily at grant options too. Councilmember Wood asked to keep it in the priorities.

Councilmember Kost asked if there was an update from Nick regarding if they have enough premise/code officers. Councilmember Hussain replied the talks were to hold off until the department did a top-bottom analysis and they wanted a Code Compliance Manager in place for a bit. Councilmember Wood added they were doing a fee study as well.

OTHER

Councilmember Hussain referenced the last meeting and speaking on the topic of the BSO and the questions and answers received. Continuing that EDP stated they cannot get qualified people to apply, adding potentially getting a representative to talk to the headhunter and find out what issues they are finding.

1. How many funded positions do you have for inspectors **12 funded inspector positions**
2. What the positions are titled **One Chief Electrical, one Chief Mechanical, one Chief Plumbing, one Chief Building and one Chief Plans Analysis. One Electrical Inspector, two Mechanical Inspectors, one Plumbing Inspector and three Building Inspectors**
3. Number of vacancies **Three vacancies**
4. What positions are vacant **One Building Inspector, one Mechanical Inspector and one Chief Plans Analyst**
5. Susan, what "headhunter" have you been using to fill the vacancies and can we get the contact information **Darren Mathis with Michael Latas & Associates**

Councilmember Hussain asked law about an update on the signage ordinance. Ms. Hagen-Lawrence noted they are in the process right now but there are significant issues with the draft in terms of constitutionality and may take some time, the case law is also evolving quickly and changes the way a city can regulate. Councilmember Hussain asked if law was in communication with the department since Ms. Stachowiak seemed frustrated. Mr. Abood confirmed, adding the issue with the ordinance is they can't do anything based on content and that's what the department wants. Councilmember Wood asked about an amendment for the abandoned signs and separate the two. Mr. Abood confirmed they wanted a new sign ordinance and that's what is being worked on, law can do a portion and work on that but a uniformed sign ordinance needs to be done. Councilmember Wood understands but the biggest issue is removal of abandoned signed if the ordinance can just be amended to have that tool available

in 5-6 weeks opposed to 6 months and then integrate with a new ordinance. Mr. Abood finished that they would try to make it a priority.

ADJOURN

Adjourned at 3:52pm

Submitted by

Renee Richmond, Recording Secretary

Lansing City Council

Approved by the Committee on September 19, 2023