



MINUTES
Committee on Public Safety
Tuesday, March 12, 2024 @ 4:00 p.m.
City Council Conference Room, 10th Floor City Hall

CALL TO ORDER

Council Member Kost called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm

PRESENT

Council Member Ryan Kost, Chair
Council Member Trini Pehlivanoglu, Vice Chair
Council Member Peter Spadafore, Member- excused

OTHERS PRESENT

Sherrie Boak, Council Office Manager
Lisa Hagen-Lawrence, OCA
Joe Neller, SIMTOB
Emily Linden, Internal Auditor
Chief Sturdivant, LFD
Jason Wilkes
Norma Bauer
James Acker
Michael McKissic

MINUTES

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER PEHLIVANOGLU TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 13, 2024, AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED 2-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Bauer spoke on the emergency sirens, and asked if there is a policy where LPD had to go to an emergency call before LFD.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

RESOLUTION- Orders to Make Safe or Demolish 3301 Turner Street

Mr. Allen updated the Committee, and Council Member Kost noted this has been ongoing on the agenda. Mr. Allen confirmed there are permits and work is occurring but moving slowly and working on violations. Council Member Kost asked about a mechanical permit that was suspended due to licensing and outstanding fees. Mr. Allen stated fees were paid today, regarding the suspended mechanical permit it appeared he owes \$130 and that is still outstanding.

Council Member Pehlivanoglu noted this has been in the process since 2017, and Council Member Kost noted the Show Cause was in October 2023. He confirmed he has seen the owner at this Committee twice and at the show cause hearing, and since he was making improvement, this has been ongoing instead of make safe. Council Member Pehlivanoglu asked what items are still outstanding. Mr. Allen stated he paid for plumbing permit today, building has remodel and siding, but once plumbing

done and electrical he can move forward on the building issues. Council Member Pehlivanoglu noted it appears to be slow, permits are being pulled.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER PEHLIVANOGLU TO TABLE THE RESOLUTION FOR MAKE SAFE OR DEMOLISH AT 3301 TURNER STREET. MOTION CARRIED 2-0.

RESOLUTION –Make Safe or Demolish; 1326 N Jenison Avenue

Council Member Kost read the details noting it is not fire damaged and 60 days makes safe.

Mr. Allen noted there are not permits for demolition or any other open work.

Mr. Acker explained he hired a contractor who informed him gotten permits since October. He appealed that he has personal items in his attic, has been taken advantage of by a contractor and asked for some advice. Council Member Kost suggested an attorney, but Council cannot provide legal advice. In addition, he contacted BWL for the paperwork to take down the service line, but that will take time. Council Member Kost noted that Committee can take action, and after Council takes action, he will have 60 days.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER PEHLIVANOGLU TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR MAKE SAFE OR DEMOLISH AT 1326 N JENISON AVENUE IN 60 DAYS. MOTION CARRIED 2-0.

RESOLUTION –Make Safe or Demolish; 1519 Linval Street

Mr. Allen informed the Committee that the property has been tagged for a while, and has a new owner now. There was a building permit pulled today and already have electrical and plumbing permits that are open. The demo board did hear this and decided to move to Council, even though they have been do work but slow.

Mr. McKissic explained the process he does when he is teaching kids trades, which he stated is not fast. He provided photos of 2005 Sunnyside which was an earlier fire damaged project he worked on with students. He then provided photos on 1519 Linval and the progress they are making. He appealed to the Committee so they can continue working on the home.

Council Member Kost noted the Code presentation stated their last inspection was 2015 and asked what Code Compliance recommendation was. Mr. Allen stated they are recommending to table.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER PEHLIVANOGLU TO TABLE THE RESOLUTION FOR MAKE SAFE OR DEMOLISH AT 1519 LINVAL STREET. MOTION CARRIED 2-0.

Council Member Kost stated this will continue to be added to the upcoming agenda.

DISCUSSION – Emergency Sirens – LFD

Council Member Kost noted this was presented in 2023, and 2 weeks ago test sirens went off and so residents have contacted Council because they did not hear sirens.

Chief Sturdivant noted that this came up because in 2023 there was some confusion on the County, and after a deep dive Council and Chief asked for a survey. He presented the survey results and noted the design is to be heard outdoors, they were not intended to be heard indoors. They are to inform the public to get into shelter, but these go with TV and radio reports, weather radios. No one component is going to address everything. The number of sirens went to 12 but that siren coverage increased. The sirens are driven and provided with oversight from Ingham County and are not City of Lansing resources. Part of the Tri-County coverage under emergency management, and the first Saturday is tested on a "loud test", the other 3 Saturdays in the month are quiet to check technology. The City of Lansing LFD and emergency management are proposing running a media public knowledge blitz of information and so are working with City communications on how to get that information out. There is misunderstandings, miseducation and misconceptions and so they are looking forward to addressing

those errors and get out in front of the education now. The Chief outlined the survey, knowing there were only 38-39 respondents, and the results reflect that in one question, everyone responded yes on if they receive emergency information or alerts through other means. So to educate people they are working on a platform to educate, working with the County to elongate the “blast” to make sure people hear, then will reach out for open feedback.

Council Member Kost asked if someone was outside and does not hear it, who can they call. Chief Sturdivant stated they should call 311. The Chief asked the Committee to look for ideas and suggestions and bring to LFD to make things better.

Mr. Wilkes asked if LFD is looking at another way of gathering data, because only 40 respondents are not a good reflection. He asked them not to just use website, but to reach out to neighborhoods.

Committee suggested utilizing the schools for information.

DISCUSSION – Ordinance Amendment to Parking Ordinance – OCA

Ms. Hagen- Lawrence stated OCA is still working on it, she has met with Public Service Director. The primary hurdle that they have to work through is for the areas that have traffic control orders on one side due to street width. Any way to draft ordinance would require a period time to park on street, and that is difficult.

Council Member Pehlivanoglu asked if the concept is one side or several nights on one side and on another. Ms. Hagen- Lawrence they are working on a draft with odd/even parking.

Ms. Linden stated she spoke to Grand Rapids on the financial side and working on document for them.

Mr. Wilkes suggested the Committee to look at what work was done in the past by Council, proposals that wouldn’t work and didn’t work. He asked for information to provide on an ordinance to enforcement and the courts so they can understand.

Council Member Kost asked about the rv, trailers and other vehicles in the road, if that is City or State law. Ms. Hagen-Lawrence stated it is under City ordinance. Council Member Kost asked if State law circumvents or preempts the City of making something tougher, and Ms. Hagen-Lawrence stated the City looks at towing under State law.

OTHER

Pending Topics

City Attorney Updates on Commercial Sign Ordinance-

Ms. Hagen-Lawrence stated the Planning Commission began their work in March. If for some reason there are changes, OCA will update the Committee.

Council Member Kost stated they will remove from pending.

Economic Development & Planning Department Updates –

- Autumn Ridge-

Ms. Hagen Lawrence stated there should be no discussion in open session because it is pending litigation.

- SIMTOB –

Mr. Neller confirmed they are making progress in certifications and renewals. There was a change in time on W. Holmes. It is not a common area walkway and there was some decking issues brought up, and after inspections they will take down and rebuild it, so that pushed the timeline out a month. The rest of the properties continue to move forward. Council Member Pehlivanoglu asked if the April 1st date is moved, and now May. Mr. Neller stated they are trying to work fast and a quick fix but this is a better long term solution. Moving people in by April 1st now is unlikely and will also be dependent on building safety and code. He assured them he will have more specifics at the next Committee meeting. Council Member Pehlivanoglu noted she

has seen some progress he is speaking of. Council Member Kost informed Mr. Neller and encouraged the location at Kalamazoo are dark at night. Mr. Neller accepted the note and stated he will follow up. Regarding the door paint on the main office, he asked if the façade improvement grant would qualify. Ms. Linden stated she was not aware of a minimum, but they are small dollar grants. Mr. Neller stated they are looking at it.

- List of Open ACTION Letters
Mr. Montry sent the letter just before the meeting asking for more information.
- Progress on Dormant Properties
Mr. Montry sent an earlier document and the Committee briefly looked at it.
- Fee Study Update
Only noted in the email.

Council Committee asked for further discussion at future meetings once EDP can attend.

ADJOURN

Adjourned at 4:59 p.m.

Submitted by

Sherrie Boak, Recording Secretary

Lansing City Council

Approved by the Committee on March 26, 2024