MINUTES
Committee of the Whole
Monday, May 20, 2024 @ 5:00 p.m.
Tony Benavides Lansing City Council Chambers

CALL TO ORDER
Council President Garza called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

PRESENT
Councilmember Peter Spadafore
Councilmember Adam Hussain
Councilmember Tamera Carter
Councilmember Trini Pehlivanoglu
Councilmember Jeffrey Brown
Councilmember Ryan Kost
Councilmember Jeremy Garza
Councilmember Brian T. Jackson – arrived at 5:21 p.m.

OTHERS PRESENT
Sherrie Boak, Council Staff
James DeLine, Interim Internal Auditor
Lisa Hagen-Lawrence, OCA
Greg Venker, OCA
Mark Lawrence, Mayor's Office
Jake Brower, Chief Strategy Officer and Acting Budget Director – arrived at 5:21 p.m.
Jackson Mills, Budget Analyst
Chris Swope, City Clerk
Nick Zande
Mayor Schor
Loretta Stanaway
Deborah Mulcahy
Anethia Brewer
CFO of LAFCU
Michael Lynn
Erika Lynn

Minutes
MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HUSSAIN TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM MAY 13, 2024, AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

Public Comment
Mr. Zande spoke on the resolution on polling precincts and his concern with Precinct 12; his precinct.

Ms. Stanaway spoke on the budget and encouraged them to begin talking about the public service could use that could provide what is expected from the taxpayers. She then spoke briefly on the agenda item on the sale of Lansing Center, golf course and stadium.

Ms. Mulcahy spoke in support of not selling the properties but noted that she did not like the City subsidizing them.

Mr. Spike, CFO of LAFCU, spoke in opposition to the sale of the Lansing Center, Stadium and Groesbeck Golf Course. He asked Council to keep supporting, and they are community supported facilities.

Mr. Lynn spoke in the support of the proposed budget amendment by Council Member Spadafore to support gun violence prevention.

Council Member Hussain stepped away from the meeting at 5:12 p.m. and returned at 5:13 p.m.

Ms. Lynn spoke in support of the proposed budget amendment by Council Member Spadafore to support gun violence prevention.

DISCUSSION/ACTION:

RESOLUTION – Polling Places; relocation of multiple precincts

Mr. Swope explained the reason for the relocations due to conflicts with the schools, and the district wants them to reduce the number of schools that are used. This will go from 8 buildings that have education to 4.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HUSSAIN TO ACCEPT THE SUBSTITUTE RESOLUTION FOR PRECINCT RELOCATIONS. MOTION CARRIED 8-0.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HUSSAIN TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION SUBSTITUTE FOR RELOCATION OF FIVE (5) PRECINCTS. MOTION CARRIED 8-0.

ACTION – Budget Policies for FY 2024/2025

Council Member Hussain went through his proposed additions to the Budget Policies.

> Mowing of Parks and Cemeteries
>
> The Administration is requested to initiate a study to analyze savings realized on an annual basis stemming from the contracting of mowing to an outside contractor. As part of the study, it is also requested that the Administration study the cost of bringing mowing services back into the city, including start-up costs and annual personnel and operating costs moving forward. It is requested that the results of this study will be presented to City Council no later than September 1, 2024.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HUSSAIN TO ADD THE POLICY. MOTION CARRIED 8-0.

> Capital City Allocation
>
> The Administration is requested to study appropriations that other capital cities across the United States receive annually due to being a capital city. As part of this study, the Administration is requested to explore the framework for these allocations (e.g. formula for spending) and whether these allocations are constitutional or statutory. It is requested that the results of this study will be presented to City Council no later than September 1, 2024.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HUSSAIN TO ADD THE POLICY. MOTION CARRIED 8-0.

<u>RESOLUTION – Fiscal Year 2024/2025</u>
Mayor Schor noted the changes include fee changes from EDP that were not ready at the time of the budget presentation. Mr. Brower confirmed that it is the result of the fee study and also some clerical errors that have now been cleaned up.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HUSSAIN TO ACCEPT THE SUBSTITUTE PROVIDED BY THE ADMINISTRATION WITH CLERICAL CORRECTIONS AND ADDITIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING FEES. MOTION CARRIED 8-0.

Council Member Hussain spoke on the proposed new fees from EDP, noting there are certain items site plan reviews from $2,000 to consolidated rate of $900, and some other consolidated rates. He asked Mr. Van Fossen how they arrived at the numbers and impact. Mr. Van Fossen stated the contractor spent over a year, using those reviews with meeting with employees. They determined how much time was taken by employees for each task, and overall impact on the budget was determined each will have a net impact. Mr. Brower stated it projects $200,000 increases over the budget.

Council Member Hussain outlined his proposed amendment for $125,000 a Code Compliance District Officer. This was based on the questions during the EDP presentation and looking at the capacity within code on inspections and reinspection's to make sure the housing is safe. Based on the discussion with the mayor that there is a projection of $125,000 increases in revenue, and therefore this amendment would be to take $125,000 out of charges of services to EDP Personnel.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HUSSAIN TO APPROVE THE AMENDMENT.

Mayor Schor supported adding more staffing and advocacy.

MOTION CARRIED 8-0.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER SPADAFORE TO APPROVE THE AMENDMENT.

Council Member Spadafore outlined his proposed amendment for $175,000 for plan development for a future office of Neighborhood Safety in the Neighborhoods, Arts and Citizen Engagement Office. Then another $175,000 from the LPD Budget to put into that new office of Neighborhood Safety. The idea is to create a new office to address violence overall and gun violence in the city. The State is currently debating expanding revenue sharing (end of June or July), and the funds will be come from that for the personnel. If those funds are not materialized from the State level, it will come out the City. He then asked Mr. Brower what this appropriation in GF does to the GF balance and policy. Mr. Brower with adjustment, the Council is appropriating the funds for two areas for the budget. One is Public Safety trust fund, establish as a separate entity with funds from the State, yet unknown. If the second component, if funds do not pass, then City will take from GF for a contractual position in NEC Department. Minimum foundation is not a mandate to send. Depending on where the funds come from, there will be a budget amendment. If using the GF, currently budget set to go to 12.3%, if passes then 12.2%.

Council Member Carter asked if with this fund, will it impact those already funded for other programs, Advance Peace. Council Member Spadafore said this is separate and will not impact Advance Peace funds.

Council Member Jackson stated he supports the results, but struggles on spending on another study, where there are already funds towards Advance Peace. Council Member Spadafore stated with speaking with the mayor, this is an example of what can be done. The goal is to work with other agencies; this is not a cabinet level but an employee working with community agencies. Council Member Jackson stated we need to walk before we run, and with statements of may have conversations, and again spoke in opposition with adding another department when there is already HRCS and Advance Peace when they are already working on gun violence. Council Member Hussain noted that if revenue at State level, then funds out of public safety and into NEC, so what doing if not be doing that we were planning. Mr. Brower stated the main source not touched by these were the officers, and the remainder was placed into public safety grants depending on what the final State revenue funds are. These would be spent within the city in comparison to granting out. Mayor Schor stated they are expecting $3 million; there will be officers, then this, and other dollars to allocate. This locks in this item and 15 police officers. The remaining funds will come back to Council for spending.

Council Member Brown asked if the funds can be used with Advance Peace and Lansing 360 or is it just for this new position; are they eligible as well for the State revenue funding. If the State partners with the city, then the City can decide. Mayor Schor stated his understanding is there is talks at the State level, but currently only at the House and in the Senate. Mr. Brower noted page 45-46 of the budget book outline the HB. Council Member Brown asked if they are making an investment for Neighborhood Office of Safety, and Mr. Brower confirmed that would be the guiding principle. Council Member Brown asked the mayor about the contract with Advance Peace, there was study that was being done, and that is why Advance Peace was contracted. Mayor Schor stated there is a website and should be reaching out to Council for a future presentation. Council Member Brown asked if there is an investment from the City spending on the Advance Peace travel, and if there were items listed in the contract. Mayor Schor stated that is their funding and program. Council Member Brown asked if there are funding going towards Lansing 360. Council Member Spadafore stated, not in this budget amendment. Council Member Brown encouraged funding towards other agencies on the actions they are taking.

Council Member Pehlivanoglu spoke in support of exploring in what can be done throughout the whole City. Advance Peace has done good work, but with this would allow Council to look at the city overall.

Council Member Jackson reiterated his concern, noting he understands doing this in-house; if the Council wants to look at reducing crime and violence look at homelessness, stress of poverty, drugs/alcohol and mental health. There should be funds towards those as well, where crime rate is reduced as well.

Council Member Carter asked if the match dollars from the State, can be used for re-occurring services; public safety grants would not be available. Mr. Brower stated the main portion is to not replace existing funding, and then this new department. The budget amendment would be drawing from the revenue sharing of the new funds, in addition to the GF operating fund. This would be part of the new fund money. Mayor Schor said the revenue is additive; this idea is to add a new position to investigate a new office. Council Member Carter then asked about the proposed personnel and doing collective effort and not just in-house. Mayor Schor, it depends on what passes; if revenue sharing trust fund passes and there is a personnel employee; it is internal HR hiring. If coming out of GF would be contract position. Council Member Spadafore stated that it is split to address personnel and operations. When he envisioned this, it was a partnership; one person(s) in the City.

Council President Hussain, with the proposed funding for officers; this will not take away from those positions correct, and it was confirmed by Mr. Brower. Council President Garza spoke on his concerns with duplicity and before moving forward on the person, would be interested in more information. He then asked with the funds in personnel, can that director move towards another person. Mayor Schor stated he honors the intention, and this position would be created.

Council Member Jackson asked about the State revenue sharing for 15 new police officers but for the last 9 years there have been vacancies every year, so this is adding 15 more vacancies to the department, basing it on historical data. They should consider taking those funds and increasing the salary for lower vacancies.

MOTION CARRIED 7-1.

Council Member Brown outlined his proposed amendment for $375,000 for a deputy clerk in the Eviction Court of the District Court, which is something that is being supplemented by a grant. Ms. Brewer stated the Court applied for and was asked to be involved in the national program. There are just under 1200 families, and Mr. Rosa role is to coordinate and develop the National Standards.

Ms. Brewer continued to outline the role for Mr. Rosa. Council Member Brown asked for these funds to add more funds for community outreach and administration for eviction diversion.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN TO APPROVE THE AMENDMENT.

Council Member Spadafore asked Council Member Brown how many staff and was told 2. Council Member Spadafore then asked if the 760 was a holding account, and Mr. Brower stated that the way to account for courts due to accounting reasons and courts their own legal entity, even though part of the GF. In the budget it is noted the court and budget are self-contained, and they are accounted for in a separate funds, and both expenditures and revenues returned June 30th. The budgeted use line item is a place holder, and the function of the amendment. Council Member Spadafore the amendment uses the court funds to pay for the diversion program without a source. Mr. Brower drawing from the GF balance. Council Member Brown noted when the Internal Auditor worked with Mr. Brower this was proposed for the amendment. Mr. Brower confirmed and there was a process map sent to Council, and at yearend total revenues got to GF line and total expenditures to GF line, and net is assets and liabilities holding to various court cases. Council Member Spadafore asked for confirmation if it is coming out of the City GF, and Mr. Brower confirmed. He stated he would work with Courts on the funding, and there would be a conversation. Council Member Spadafore stated he would support a lesser amount of $375,000. Council Member Brown asked for the amount of increase in revenue this year form lats year. Mr. Brower stated $165.1 million, with overall budget at 2.4%. Council Member Brown asked for the specific dollar amount. Mr. Brower $161 million. Council Member Brown asked again how much additional revenue; Mr. Brower stated $3.8 million. Council Member Spadafore stated those were spent on other items, and the policies set the balance. Council Member Brown stated he looked at HRCS and there are increases and this program is a similar community service program and would consider $300,000. Council Member Spadafore stated there is $119,000 is the cushion with previous amendments adopted, and Mr. Brower confirmed. Council Member Brown asked how much was invested in the last year, minus the grant into the diversion program. Mr. Brower stated no investment unless HRCS had funding.

Council Member Jackson the outcome of this program would be keep people in their homes, this would be an example because the needs have been established.

Council Member Carter asked confirmation there was no funding in previous years, but 1200 families assisted. In this amendment offers the capacity to continue the role and supports the successful program.

Council President Garza asked if this is passed, would the Council not pass a balanced budget. Mr. Brower stated it would be a balanced budget, but deferred to the City Attorney to see if effected the budget policies. He then added that HRCS is increasing from $27,645 to $50,000 for the program but was not sure if went to District Court directly. Mayor Schor, there are three places that do eviction conversion; courts, HRCS does eviction diversion in their department for basic human need which went to Legal Services. EDP also receives ESG funds from HUD and MSHDA ESG. Should they coordinate, absolutely, but wanted to make sure Council was aware of everything the City and Administration is doing on eviction diversion.

MOTION CARRIED 5-3.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HUSSAIN TO APPROVE THE AMENDED BUDGET. MOTION CARRIED 8-0.

<u>DISCUSSION – Directive for the City Attorney to Research the Sale of Groesbeck Golf Course, Baseball Stadium and Lansing Center</u>
Council Member Spadafore explained his reasoning behind the proposed resolution which is to start the conversation based on historical questions on the costs of Groesbeck Golf Course for an example. He proposed this to engage with the Administration on management for Lansing Center, changing fee structures to get the GF out of the city for subsidize. These are assets to the city and this brings the discussion on how the assets could be performed better.

Council Member Kost spoke on discussions in the past on subsidy to LEPFA and looking back to 1995-1996 the City moved from the Exhibit Authority to LEPFA was to get rid of the subsidy. He noted in the last three years that there was a subsidy over $6 million, and the goal of creating LEPFA was to eliminate the subsidy. He concluded that he supports owning but there needs to be a conversation on managing.

Council President Garza appreciated the dialogue and was not in support of selling City assets and was encouraged by earlier discussions on naming rights for the Lansing Center.

Council Member Hussain spoke on what other regional support could be, and there is Debt Service for the Lansing Center it is carried by TIFA. Mr. Brower confirmed there is debt service for Lansing Center via TIFA, and his previous meeting response was looking at the overall GF.

<u>RESOLUTION- Support of SB 632 of 2023 Concerning Payday Loans</u>
Council Member Hussain explained that when focusing on at risk communities, how they are structured and work that has been done in the past. He then spoke briefly on the work at the State level and encourage passage of the resolution in support.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HUSSAIN TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION. MOTION CARRIED 8-0.

Other
No other topics.

Adjourn
The meeting adjourned at 6:47 p.m.
Respectfully Submitted by,
Sherrie Boak, Recording Secretary,
Lansing City Council
Approved by the Committee June 10, 2024