



MINUTES
Committee on Public Safety
Tuesday, July 9, 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
Rawley VanFossen, EDP
Joe Neller, SIMTOB

MINUTES

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER PEHLIVANOGLU TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM MAY 14, 2024 AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED 2-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment at the time.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

RESOLUTION – Reappointment; DeYeya Jones; At Large Member- Board of Police Commissioners; Term to Expire June 30, 2028

Council Member Pehlivanoglu stated she reviewed the application and did not have an issue taking action.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER PEHLIVANOGLU TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION TO REAPPOINT DEYEYA JONES AS AT LARGE MEMBER TO THE BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS.

Council Member Kost voiced an interest in having reappointments present at the meeting to answer questions.

MOTION WITHDRAWN BY COUNCIL MEMBER PEHLIVANOGLU.

Ms. Boak is to invite Mr. Jones to the next Committee meeting.

RESOLUTION – Set Show Cause Hearing; Make Safe or Demolish; 1342 N Walnut Street

Mr. Van Fossen stated to the Committee that the property was tagged March of 2014, is a fire damaged property, and began in the Make Safe or demolish process in June 2023. The property owner has not communicated for some time with Code, and at recent meeting of the Demolition Board they made the decision to Make Safe in 30 days. No work has been done to make safe, so they are recommending to make safe or demolish. Council Member Kost concurred he was present at the demolition board meeting and the owner was not present.

Mr. Van Fossen added that stated there was “30 days” in the past for fire, but it was brought to their attend the State Housing law has a requirement of 21 days. Ms. Boak stated any resolution coming to Council for fire will be set for 21 days if stating 30, per the law.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER PEHLIVANOGLU TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION TO SET A SHOW CAUSE HEARING FOR AUGUST 12, 2024. MOTION CARRIED 2-0.

DISCUSSION – Ordinance on Make Safe or Demolish Stricter Standards – OCA

Ms. Hagen – Lawrence stated there is a provision of the housing code, where the officer could set standards; stricter one to be established. In the overall process for Make Safe or Demolish a demolition officer shall make a finding pursuant to state law. Prior they have been tabling indefinitely. Now in collaboration with the Code officer and the property owner, if there is good cause they will discharge back to Code if there is no good cause to discharge they will take action to send to Council.

Regarding an earlier question on an ordinance, there is nothing that can be changed in the current ordinance that can make stricter standards, per Ms. Hagen-Lawrence. If there has been no effort by the property owner over 24 consecutive months, a court action can be issued to be demolished. That is separate from MSD process, and therefore another tool to be used. This will be fact dependent.

Mr. Van Fossen confirmed that recently the Demolition Board was informed that their past practice with a hearing officer hears a case were one of two decisions: tabled or ordered to be make safe demolish. The practice of “tabling” is not supported with statute, and so his office is now in the process of training internal staff and the Demolition Board hearing officers. Their June meeting was canceled during the meeting and the July meeting has been cancelled as well. Currently the OCA is changing the forms, training internal staff and his office will also notify all cases in the process informing them of the statute and what the required practice will be in the future. With any new cases the process outlined by the statute, OCA; the Board will send back to code by discharging if there is good cause. That property will still be in the red tag. After discharge if there is no progress, then they will start the process with the Demolition Board again. This will require the owner the opportunity to explain why, and the board officer will have 5 days to make a decision. Mr. Van Fossen assured the Committee that none of these changes will change what happens at Council what it is referred to them.

Council Member Kost spoke in support of the hearing officers and what they have done in the past, but also from attending the meetings he sees they are also have a willingness to move on with the letter of the law requirements.

Council Member Pehlivanoglu asked when the next Demolition Board meeting would be and Mr. Van Fossen was not able to provide a date at this time due to the ongoing changes, training and list of cases. He noted that generally it is the 4th Thursday of the month. They are trying to look at a different date in August since June and July were cancelled and will keep Council updated.

Council Member Kost encouraged them to look at other locations since there is not a lot of space in the room they currently use. Mr. Van Fossen took the suggestion and confirmed all other EDP Board meet at the Neighborhood Empowerment Center. In addition they are looking at technical options so photos can be shown to the public during the meetings.

OTHER

Economic Development & Planning Department Updates –

- **SIMTOB**

Mr. Van Fossen went through the SIMTOB handout he brought to the meeting. Mr. Neller confirmed they have final building inspections scheduled for Monday on the rental inspection for 2222 W. Holmes.

Council Member Kost asked about the Kalamazoo properties, and Mr. Neller stated they are working on the project list but their strong efforts have been towards 2222 W Holmes to get it back open and rented out. They have also been working on the former Marvin Gardens and those inspections are scheduled for this Friday and next week. Regarding the specific Kalamazoo properties, SIMTOB is working with the Community Policing Initiative and would be encouraged if the Committee could plan a future meeting with the officer and SIMTOB.

Council Member Kost asked about his concern with lighting that he has mentioned in the past, and Mr. Neller confirmed they are getting quotes on lighting but want to also talk about the gaps in street lighting that might help as well.

Council Member Kost asked about their property at 828 Fred that had a fire, and Mr. Neller confirmed the contractors are starting work on 7/10 and there were 14-15 units effected, and they moved out everyone, even those ones not immediately impacted.

Council Member Kost then asked if they could look into 814 Louisa on what appears to be continual standing water.

Mr. Neller acknowledged the strong efforts have been on getting the Holmes Road project back open since it has been vacant for a year, and they want to get the 22 units available.

- **List of Open ACTION Letters-**

Mr. Van Fossen stated they cannot provide anything today because they are still figuring out the BSA transition that was done in June and the reports they used to create in the old system they are not set up in the new system.

- **List in the MSD Process-**

Mr. Van Fossen confirmed the list he provided at the meeting today, note all “tabled” because they are coming out with the new process with the Demolition Board.

Council Member Kost stated he would send Mr. Van Fossen details on a fire damaged house in Potter Walsh.

OTHER

No other topics of discussion.

ADJOURN

Adjourned 4:27 p.m.

Submitted by

Sherrie Boak, Recording Secretary

Lansing City Council

Approved by the Committee on July 23, 2024