



MINUTES
Committee of the Whole
Monday, September 9, 2024 @ 6:30 p.m.
Tony Benavides Lansing City Council Chambers

CALL TO ORDER

Council President Garza called the meeting to order at 6:30 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

OTHERS PRESENT

Sherrie Boak, Council Staff
Lisa Hagen-Lawrence, OCA
Greg Venker, OCA
Mark Lawrence, Mayors Office
Lori Welch, Sustainability Manager
Rawley Van Fossen, EDP Director
Jake Brower, Chief Strategy Officer

Minutes

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER SPADAFORE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM AUGUST 26, 2024, AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED 8-0.

Public Comment

No public comment at this time.

Discussion/Action

RESOLUTION – Grant Acceptance: USDA Forestry

Mr. Brower first acknowledged the Council for taking action immediately. They received award on September 3, 2024, and needed to have it accepted and returned by September 20, 2024.

Ms. Welch provided details on what the grant will do with the \$5,000,000. There will be outreach tools, planting of 2,000 trees in disadvantaged areas, partnering with LSD and MSU, creating paid internship and doing a mass demonstration project. In addition, they will do case studies to share with other municipalities. The City has partnerships with this grant with BWL and MSU.

Council Member Spadafore asked if these funds will be used for the stump grinding program and Ms. Welch stated it will not.

Council Member Hussain asked where the disadvantage communities are. Ms. Welch stated they use screening tools, and over 70% of the City is considered disadvantaged. They are not sure on specifics yet because that will come out of the planning stage. Council Member Hussain asked about the communication plan and who would initiate that. Ms. Welch stated they will contract that out. Council Member Hussain noted the grant period says 7/12/2029, but the application is 8/29/2029. Ms. Welch said it is due to the delay in the grant acceptance. They originally applied for \$30 million and were awarded this \$5 million so amended the grant.

Council Member Jackson referred back to Mr. Brower earlier statements and asked about dividends of sustainability and asked Ms. Welch what is the Wishlist if there is an ability. Ms. Welch stated that right now they pass on additional grants and would look for more staff. They would help administer grants, material management and composting. They are trying to keep things out of landfills as often as possible.

Council President Garza asked when they would receive the funds and if in one lump sum. Ms. Welch stated it is a reimbursement grant, and Mr. Brower could not provide the specifics and would get the information to Council. Ms. Welch stated the funds and grants they have already received they will have no problem implementing, but future ones are where they need the assistance.

Council Member Kost asked if this will supplement the current program or replace. Ms. Welch stated it will add and increase what we are planting now. Council Member Kost asked about the stump grinding project as well, and asked for Council to have details on that project assuming these trees will be planted where trees were cut down and stumps are left and being addressed in that project.

Council President Garza asked if they would contract out tree planting or will City forestry staff do this, and Ms. Welch stated it is planned to contract out to assist. Mr. Brower was asked if there were vacancies in forestry, and Mr. Brower stated he was not sure but it would be in the upcoming vacancy report.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HUSSAIN TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR THE GRANT ACCEPTANCE, USDA FORESTRY. MOTION CARRIED 8-0.

DISCUSSION – BUDGET PRIORITIES FOR BUDGET FISCAL YEAR 2025/2026

Council President Garza referred to the draft in the packet for action by October 1, 2024.

Council Member Jackson stated he will work on a budget priority to fund staff for the sustainability department.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 6:43 pm

Respectfully Submitted by,

Sherrie Boak Recording Secretary,

Lansing City Council

Approved by the Committee September 23, 2024