



MINUTES
Committee on Public Safety
Tuesday, September 10, 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

OTHERS PRESENT

Sherrie Boak, Council Office Manager
Lisa Hagen-Lawrence, OCA
Chief Backus, LPD
Joe Neller, SIMTOB
Nick Montry, EDP
Jordan Creagh

MINUTES

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER PEHILIVANOGLU TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM AUGUST 13, 2024 AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment at this time.

PRESENTATION

LPD Crime Statistics in 2024

Chief Backus provided an overview on crime level to August 31st. Compared to last year, the City is down 8.2%. There are some numbers for that; this year 9 homicides, last year 7. Biggest reduction is robberies which is down 30%, and burglary is down 20%. In 2023 there was a large impact on automobile theft which was largely on KIA and Hyundai. There is also a large impact now on SUV and motorcycles. For calls for service, they are just about the same last year, 53,000 last year, 52,900 this year. Once increase was where dispatch to 2 officers to a call, this is up 6%, and dispatch determines how many officers to send. A positive item is with online reporting, where there has been a 15% increase; at 1300 reporting. With the topic of domestic violence, this year there has been a 5% increase and most of that is coming from "intimate partner violence". In relate to overdoses, have decreased 23%; there are many locations now with NARCAN dispensaries. Because of that immediate source, there is not as many incidents reported. Chief Backus then spoke on juvenile crimes, they know the busiest are June – August. In 2023 during that time compared to 2024 was 51% decrease in arrests, and looking at crimes being reported, there is a 54% decrease in crimes being reported.

Council Member Pehlivanoglu acknowledged that the reduction in criminal arrests and reporting shows that regional, LPD and sources are working.

Council Member Kost acknowledged Chief Backus for his time and was encouraged to getting the end of year numbers.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

RESOLUTION – Set Show Cause Hearing - Make Safe or Demolish; 1044 Ontario

Mr. Montry stated it was red tagged from mid 2016, he spoke to building safety for permit update and code and there is nothing new. It was heard in May with 60 days make safe or demolish to 7/23/2024. There was permit applied for in May and in holding pattern due to lack of payment.

Mr. Creagh stated he bought in 2019 at a tax auction, then found out red tagged since 2016. Got notice to come to board meetings and was told to get permit. As of 8/12/2024 got permit, told Code he could not make next Demo Board. He confirmed he pays \$150 red tag fee monthly, pays taxes, maintains exterior, and confirmed not completely finished, but it is in no way unsafe. The project includes kitchen, bathroom, siding and paint. Mr. Montry confirmed the permit was applied for but no inspections. Mr. Creagh stated he is finding a new company to work on this. He stated when he bought from the auction, he was not told there was timeline, and just went directly to the demo board. Council Member Kost referenced the State statute defines the process. Unfortunately it appears in the photos there was work, but no permits. Mr. Creagh stated they have not done any plumbing, they removed the drywall, the paneling, and back to plaster. He offered more current photos, and anything that needs a permit has not been done. Not updated electrical, no updated plumbing, and attempted to pull permit for mechanical.

Council Member Pehlivanoglu asked Mr. Creagh when he intended to complete. Mr. Creagh stated he was never given a timeline to complete, and at time purchased 3 properties and none at the time had a demo order on them. Has been working on them and this is his main project now. He appealed again this is not an eye sore and was not fire damaged.

Mr. Montry noted that just when one permit applied for, and not paid for in 5 years.

Council Member Kost noted the violation mentions the basement foundation. Unfortunately it has been five years, and Council is bound by law on how process and statute works. When recommendation from Code and Demo Board, they attempt to follow their recommendations. He noted he has estimates to repair a foundation and retaining wall, but still not stopping anyone from living. He intends to pull permit an electrical permit for the panel, and mechanical permit. Has not intention to do cosmetic changes.

Council Member Spadafore asked if red tagged in 2016, was this public information that he could have found out during title work in 2019. Mr. Creagh confirmed he started getting the red tag fee, but did not know there was a time frame to demo. Council Member Spadafore confirmed it was red tagged for the violation, but had later gone through the demo process. Mr. Creagh confirmed there are no nuisance, the roof had bad shingles replaced.

Council Member Kost asked if he was at the May meeting of the Demo Board. Mr. Creagh stated he told them he couldn't make it, and felt he was making progress. Council Member Kost noted it has been five years, with no permit.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER PEHLIVANOGLU TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION TO SET A SHOW CAUSE HEARING FOR 9/30/2024 FOR 1044 ONTARIO. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Council Member Kost stated the show cause hearing will be 9/30 in the council chambers.

Mr. Creagh asked if he gets the permits and water heater, get furnace checked, and electrical permit. Council Member Kost suggested making it safe, and Council Member Spadafore stated he will need to show cause he is making it safe. Mr. Montry stated on the order it specifically stated just pulling a permit does not stall the process, but working on the permits, inspections, etc.

DISCUSSION – Budget Priorities Fiscal Year 2025/2026

The Committee reviewed the draft document which listed what was in the document adopted last year. Council Member Pehlivanoglu acknowledged the speed bumps and the LFD apprenticeship should remain. The Committee consensus was to keep those two items in, remove the item on dedicated EDP resources and pilot program.

Council Member Spadafore suggested utilizing the \$100,000 redevelopment non-motorized plan to focus on pedestrian safety.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER PEHLIVANOGLU TO APPROVE THE AMENDED BUDGET PRIORITIES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025/2026 FOR THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

OTHER

No other topics

ADJOURN

Adjourned 4:28 p.m.

Submitted by

Sherrie Boak, Recording Secretary

Lansing City Council

Approved by the Committee on September 24, 2024