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MINUTES

Committee on Public Safety

Tuesday, October 22, 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

Jordan Craig

Greg Venker, OCA

Nick Montry, EDP Director

Hal King, Parking Mgr.

Joe Neller, SIMTOB

Andrea Bitely

Farhan Sheikh-Omar

Lindsey LaBlanc

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MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER PEHLIVANOGLU TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 8, 2024, AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment at this time.

DISCUSSION/ACTION

RESOLUTION – Reappointment; Andrea Bitely; 4th Ward Member LPD Commissioners; Term to Expire June 30, 2028

Ms. Bitely briefly spoke on her experience on the Board of Commissioners and what she sees for the future of the Commission. Ms. Bitely noted she is a small business owner working in public policy and public affairs. Her time so far has been on learning, hiring a new police chief, review of policies and procedures for the LPD, and review of the operating plans for the department.

Council Member Spadafore acknowledged Ms. Bitely and supported her reappointment, continuing the role. Council Member Pehlivanoglu had no questions but acknowledged the work she has done so far. Council Member Kost asked if she has the time to make the Commission meetings, and she confirmed.

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MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER SPADAFORE TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR THE REAPPOINTMENT OF ANDREA BITELY TO THE LPD COMMISSIONERS WITH A TERM TO EXPIRE 6/30/28. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

RESOLUTION – Appointment; Farhan Sheikh-Omar; 1st Ward Member LPD Commissioners; Term to Expire 6/30/2025

Mr. Sheikh-Omar spoke briefly about his background, why he wishes to serve in this position, and what he hopes to see while he serves. He confirmed his residency for 19 years in the City of Lansing, already involved in the community attending Council, Public Safety, Charter and Commission meetings. He continues to speak to what people want to see changed. In regard to this role, he is committed to holding accountability, and make sure the police can do their job with the community trust.

Council Member Pehlivanoglu acknowledged Mr. Sheikh-Omar for the role he has taken so far with attending meetings and bringing his experience to this Commission.

Council Member Kost acknowledged Mr. Sheikh-Omar for all his passion for the City, and work ethic by attending meetings to serve his community. He then asked if he has the time to make the Commission meetings, and Mr. Sheikh-Omar confirmed.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER PEHLIVANOGLU TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF FARHAN SHEIKH-OMAR TO THE LPD COMMISSIONERS WITH A TERM TO EXPIRE 6/30/2025. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

RESOLUTION – Make Safe or Demolish; 1044 Ontario

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER SPADAFORE TO REMOVE FROM THE TABLE THE RESOLUTION FOR MAKE SAFE OR DEMOLISH FOR 1044 ONTARIO. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Council Member Kost recapped it was tabled at the last meeting to see progress.

Mr. Montry confirmed the building permit was applied for and under review. Once that is approved, the mechanical permit is ready to go. Mr. Van Fossen did tour, the red tag was not lifted, not livable yet, but do not believe it should be a make safe or demolish at this time. Council Member Kost asked if 60 days make safe or demolish is adequate, and Mr. Montry stated it would be better 90 days.

Mr. Craig confirmed he has been in contact with general contractors and sub-contractors; has not signed contracts but is making progress. He acknowledged he could use the 90 days. Mr. Venker stated with business days, it would include holidays. Mr. Montry stated he could suggest tabling 90 days and come back.

Council Member Spadafore stated his understanding would be to move forward with make safe or demolish in 90 days, would those 90 days be sufficient. Council Member Kost stated that if he is at the finish line and would give him the 90 days. Mr. Craig asked them to consider tabling 60 days for progress check.

Council Member Spadafore stated the Committee could consider tabling 30 days then take action in 30 days. Council Member Kost asked if they have been assessed the fee, and Mr. Montry confirmed once it goes to Council.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER PEHLIVANOGLU TO TABLE TO THE NOVEMBER 26TH, 2024 COMMITTEE MEETING. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

RESOLUTION – SETTING A SHOW CAUSE HEARING; MAKE SAFE OR DEMOLISH; 122 S GRAND AVENUE

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Mr. Montry stated was heard in May, then tabled, rescheduled until August. In May they were told the owners were going to demolish themselves, but as of today there have been no demolition permits pulled. He then referenced the materials in the packet. The recommendation from EDP is a 30 day make safe or demolish.

Ms. Leblanc, Director of Development with Grainger Group, and has been working before maternity leave, and were on track to take down this fall. There is a small team 9 so that has been delayed. The consideration is to evaluate on what they want to do with the property. The easiest solution for her group is to demolish and pave for a parking lot. Their company did reach out the asbestos report, and they are working with their contractor for the demolition. Ms. Leblanc provided a timeline, and they would like to get demolition itself done.

Council Member Kost asked what the target date now, and Ms. Leblanc stated it would be when Mid-Michigan can get started, then they are looking into November with 8 weeks to complete. Council Member Pehlivanoglu asked for start to finish. Ms. Leblanc stated that Grand and Allegan are owned by MDOT, and those permits will take a while. The first step is to have the building abated by Mid-Michigan Management, and once that is done then their partner company will demolish. Council Member Pehlivanoglu asked if there was any work during May and July, and Ms. Leblanc stated the paperwork was prepped but nothing was finished because at that time they were evaluating what they wanted to do once building was removed. Council Member Spadafore asked what would change before the next Committee meeting on November 12th and Ms. Leblanc stated again, they are waiting on the abatement. Council Member Spadafore asked who paid if the city did, Mr. Venker stated it would go on the tax bill. The ultimate resolution passed, is the owner makes safe or demolish, and if they are in the process the city does not step in.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER PEHLIVANOGLU TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION TO SET THE SHOW CAUSE HEARING FOR NOVEMBER 18, 2024, FOR 122 S. GRAND AVENUE. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Mr. Montry provided the certified envelope that was returned to sender when they attempted to notify of the demolition hearing in August.

RESOLUTION – Introduction and Set a Public Hearing; Amend Chapter 404; Provide designated Electric Vehicle (EV) parking space regulations

Council Member Spadafore explained that when Council spoke about EV charging rates and charging for people parking in a designated EV charging, if they are not actively plugged in to charge. These spots are designed to generate a service, and this ordinance would add a penalty. There is a forthcoming resolution for Ways and Means for fees.

Council Member Spadafore asked if it should be changed to reflect just City spots. Subsection C. speaks to parking. Mr. Venker stated they could clarify in B. Ms. Boak asked for the corrected document by Friday morning.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER SPADAFORE TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION TO SET THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR NOVEMBER 18, 2024, ON THE ORDINANCE AMENDMENT WITH AMENDMENTS FOR DEFINING AND DESIGNATING *PRIVATE AND PUBLIC* FOR CHAPTER 404. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

OTHER

Street Parking Enforcement – Office of the City Attorney (9/24/24)

Council Member Kost referred to a draft ordinance. Mr. Venker stated this is to address non-registered vehicles in public right of way, and all City right of way, not private lots. Under State law unregistered vehicles sitting for 3 days get towed, however they cannot tow immediately, but can make a civil offense. This would target towards storage of unregistered vehicles. When a VIN number is obscured,

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they cannot authorize towing, but the police would have to get a warrant to get into the vehicle for the VIN number. Council Member Kost asked for definition of unregistered. Mr. Venker explained it is no visible license plate, not registered to drive on roads in Michigan. Council Member Kost asked if this is enforceable by Parking and LPD, and Mr. Venker confirmed it will be.

Since there was no resolution for introduction and setting a public hearing this item was moved to "Discussion/Action" for the next meeting on November 12, 2024, for that action.

No other topics of discussion.

ADJOURN

Adjourned 4:40 p.m.

Submitted by

Sherrie Boak, Recording Secretary

Lansing City Council

Approved by the Committee on November 12, 2024