



MINUTES
Committee on City Operations
Wednesday, November 6, 2024 @ 4:00 p.m.
City Council Conference Room

CALL TO ORDER

Council Member Jackson called the meeting to order at 4:00pm

PRESENT

Council Member Jackson, Chair
Council Member Hussain, Vice-Chair
Council Member Kost, Member

OTHERS PRESENT

Renee Richmond, Council Administrative Assistant
Charles Randall, Internal Auditor
Lisa Hagen-Lawrence, OCA
Greg Venker, OCA
Nick Montry, Deputy Director EDP
James Davis

MINUTES

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HUSSAIN TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 16, 2024, AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public present.

Discussion/Action

RESOLUTION – Fireworks Display License; ACE Pyro, LLC for the City of Lansing's Silver Bells Celebration

Councilmember Jackson explained this is routine and was done last year as well.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HUSSAIN TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR FIREWORKS DISPLAY LICENSE; ACE PYRO, LLC FOR THE CITY OF LANSING'S SILVER BELLS CELEBRATION. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Councilmember Jackson moved Item C, Claim Appeal for 1504 Lansing Avenue to the end of the claims to allow claimant time to attend.

RESOLUTION – Claim Appeal #2081; James Davis for \$625 in trash fees at 5223 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

Mr. Montry explained the complaint went to CRC and claimant stated trash wasn't theirs. He then explained the process of Code, they go out, give compliance date, returned to reinspect trash still there so they contacted the contractors to pick up. Councilmember Kost asked did CRC decide to deny in full, and Ms. Hagen-Lawrence confirmed. Councilmember Hussain noted it went through the process and if others are dumping onsite it's negligence on the owner.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HUSSAIN TO DENY THE CLAIM APPEAL; CLAIM #2081; JAMES DAVIS FOR \$625 IN TRASH FEES AT 5223 S. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. BLVD. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

RESOLUTION – Claim Appeal #2068; David Ludkin for \$565 in trash fees at 818 Call Street

Mr. Montry summarized the claim, trash was onsite, a letter sent for compliance, it was re-inspected trash still visible, contractor was sent out. Adding, per agreement with Eric's minimum charge is for 3 yards. Councilmember Hussain asked it's not that there was more it was the type of material correct. Mr. Montry responded not necessarily, there was an additional \$32 charge for construction material, but thought CRC took that out. Ms. Hagen-Lawrence added CRC recommended taking it off, but it was not signed so it goes back to the original amount of \$597. Councilmember Hussain asked OCA about the CRC meeting. She answered she was not in the meeting but reviewed the notes and was informed claimant did not appear and they still reviewed, and there were no photos to support the additional charge.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HUSSAIN TO GRANT AN ADJUSTMENT TO DEDUCT \$32 FROM THE ORIGINAL AMOUNT OF \$597 FOR THE CLAIM APPEAL; CLAIM #2068; DAVID LUDKIN FOR A BALANCE OF \$565 IN TRASH FEES AT 818 CALL STREET.

Councilmember Jackson asked if Mr. Ludkin was invited, Ms. Richmond answered yes and referenced the email from Mr. Ludkin on the 2nd page of the items for the claim, he declined to come and feels he presented his case.

Mr. Montry also clarified part of the amount is the administrative fee.

MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER HUSSAIN TO RECONSIDER CLAIM APPEAL #2081; JAMES DAVIS FOR \$625 IN TRASH FEES AT 5223 S. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. BLVD. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Mr. Davis referenced a few pictures the city took and pointed out trash, a mattress, and a couch, he does not deny it was there, but it was dropped off there and was not his. This is his business and people just drop stuff off once in a while. He left messages with Code that it wasn't his and he would take care of it, his dumpster is picked up every two weeks. The mattress was left because it was too big for dumpster and informed code, then noted it was gone.

Councilmember Jackson asked how long he thinks it was there, Mr. Davis was unsure and noted he lives 3 blocks from the business. He referenced a letter he received from code about removing a fence and complied with the letter and removed the fence. Councilmember Jackson commented if the debris was not on his property, Mr. Davis answered a lot was not, the wood was from the back fence. Councilmember Jackson noted the wood is considered debris violation.

Councilmember Kost clarified with Mr. Montry that the contractors clean up any trash they see including what is initially noted or if the mattress was gone, Mr. Montry confirmed. Ms. Hagen-Lawrence verified specifically all violations present will be removed along with any additional found.

Councilmember Jackson passed the gavel to Councilmember Hussain

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON TO REDUCE THE AMOUNT BY HALF FROM THE ORIGINAL AMOUNT OF \$625 FOR THE CLAIM APPEAL; CLAIM #2081; JAMES DAVIS FOR TRASH FEES AT 5223 S. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. BLVD. MOTION FAILED 1-2.

Councilmember Hussain passed the gavel to Councilmember Jackson.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER KOST TO DENY THE CLAIM APPEAL IN FULL FOR CLAIM #2081; JAMES DAVIS FOR \$625 IN TRASH FEES AT 5223 S. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. BLVD. MOTION CARRIED 2-1.

Councilmember Jackson informed Mr. Davis it will go to council on Monday, November 18th at 7pm.

RESOLUTION – Claim Appeal #2059; IPLANGROUP for \$1672.50 in red tag fees at 1504 Lansing Avenue

Councilmember Jackson asked if EDP had a chance to do some research. Mr. Montry stated they won't dispute it's nice inside, however it was non-permitted work, and they cannot lift red tag fees. Councilmember Jackson inquired about the claimant trying to set up various appointments for inspections and couldn't. Mr. Montry noted it was not a scheduling problem, Code Officer Everett Coates did walk through on Oct 4th, the gas meter was still pegged, again stated they cannot lift red tag fees, adding the work was done without proper permits and they informed Ms. Zacks-Carney. Councilmember Jackson asked why gas would be on if nobody is living in the property and it's being fixed to sell. Mr. Montry stated when it was initial red tagged it was lived in, but to do safety inspection one criteria is to have utilities on, there is certain criteria to follow. Councilmember Kost noted they bought it knowing it was red tagged and proper permitting wasn't followed.

Mr. Montry wanted to note that when red tagged, it is to make sure property is secure and ensure safety, this property had multiple prior violations. Councilmember Hussain concurred and stated it is to discourage unsafe work.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HUSSAIN TO DENY THE RESOLUTION FOR THE CLAIM APPEAL #2059; IPLANGROUP FOR \$1672.50 IN RED TAG FEES AT 1504 LANSING AVENUE. MOTION CARRIED 2-1.

ORDINANCE – Amending Chapter 606, Section 606.02, to prohibit the placement of signs in or on the public right of way and public buildings, places, and facilities

Councilmember Jackson reviewed based on this ordinance the owner of the sign is responsible and feels it should be property owner should be responsible of where the sign is placed. Mr. Venker stated generally when discussing signs in public Right of Way (ROW), there is an issue with enforcement with the way it's currently written. Nobody can put signs in the ROW unless authorized to do so, primary target is not an accidental political sign, but advertisements on utility poles, in the median, and/or along corridors. It is a violation to place or cause to place in the

ROW. Once it's verified a violation, then it will be investigated who put it there. If they can't figure it out then it will be presumed it's the owner of sign.

Councilmember Jackson asked if language can be added to say it is rebuttable, Mr. Venker answered he believes so, the way it's written shall be presumed responsible, which can be rebuttable but yes can add. Councilmember Jackson asked does targeting certain signs effect the first amendment and will there be any warning notice. Mr. Venker noted it is still against the law to put any signs in the right of way and there is no notice provision written in at the moment.

Councilmember Kost supports the ordinance and feels it is a good change, acknowledging he hopes this will get people to stop as they are everywhere. Mr. Venker addressed a comment from the public hearing with a concern on a conflict with 1310.09 section, signs that are exempt from permitting and this 606 is not in conflict.

Councilmember Jackson noted Page 1, Line 21 says "cause to be placed", and asked if could also add "allow to be placed, allow to remain" from property owner. Mr. Venker indicated he would like to research, and Ms. Hagen-Lawrence noted her concern with vagueness with 'allow to be place', because for what time period.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER KOST TO APPROVE THE ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 606, SECTION 606.02, TO PROHIBIT THE PLACEMENT OF SIGNS IN OR ON THE PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY AND PUBLIC BUILDINGS, PLACES, AND FACILITIES. MOTION CARRIED 2-1.

ORDINANCE – Amending Chapter 203, Section 203.03, to establish the service requirements for municipal civil infraction violations arising from the unauthorized placement of signs
No discussion.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HUSSAIN TO APPROVE THE ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 203, SECTION 203.03, TO ESTABLISH THE SERVICE REQUIREMENTS FOR MUNICIPAL CIVIL INFRACTION VIOLATIONS ARISING FROM THE UNAUTHORIZED PLACEMENT OF SIGNS. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Other

Adjourn

Adjourned at 5:04pm

Submitted by Renee Richmond

Recording Secretary, Lansing City Council

Approved by the Committee on November 20, 2024