



MINUTES
Committee of the Whole
Monday, August 8, 2016 @ 5:30 p.m.
City Council Chambers

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:33 p.m.

PRESENT

Councilmember Brown Clarke
Councilmember Jessica Yorko- excused
Councilmember Patricia Spitzley
Councilmember Adam Hussain
Councilmember Kathie Dunbar.
Councilmember Carol Wood
Councilmember Jody Washington
Councilmember Tina Houghton

OTHERS PRESENT

Brian Jackson, Deputy City Clerk
Jim Smiertka, City Attorney
Sean McBrearty, Clean Water Action
Family of James Tate

Minutes

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM JUNE 27, 2016 AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED 8-0.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HOUGHTON TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM JULY 11, 2016 AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED 8-0.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Presentations

Clean Water Action

Mr. McBrearty provided a map of Line 5 and other main oil pipeline in the Midwest of the United States and Canada. He then proceeded to discussed Clear Water Action's concerns about the Line 5 oil pipeline. At this time, Mr. McBrearty was requesting the Lansing City Council to approve a resolution proposal that would call for swift action to shut down Line 5.

Council Member Houghton asked Mr. McBrearty what the source of information was regarding the number of spills. Mr. McBrearty responded that spills are required to be reported and information can be found on www.oilandwaterdontmix.org. There could be 1.5 gallons of oil lost at the Straits of Mackinaw according to a U of M university study that was signed off by Enbridge. He shared that his group believes that it would be a devastating impact if there was an oil spill or leak of Line 5. He continued by stating that it would take over seventy hours to provide clean up equipment to the site, and that the Coast Guard would not come out to break the ice unless there is human harm. The Kalamazoo spill was underestimated and his group questioned the validity of the facts that Enbridge provided about the Kalamazoo River Spill.

Council Members asked a question how does Enbridge repair or replace the line. CWA believes that an Enbridge line could be taken out of use and use the "Alberta Clipper" line and Line 6B instead of using the Line 5.

Council Member Wood wanted to clarify the number of municipalities that have passed the resolution. Mr. McBrearty believed it was over 50 municipalities including counties, and cities. Council Member Wood then asked how it impacts the past history of opposition of the proposed Wolverine pipeline. They believe 6B has additional capacities since the spill to handle the load. Lastly, Mr. MCBrearty was asked if there was support from labor, but he could not directly speak to that.

Council Member Houghton asked if Alberta Clipper pipeline goes over or under the Great Lakes. The Alberta Clipper does go along the shoreline at Chicago and at Lake Superior.

Council Member Dunbar asked about the Alberta Clipper capacity and purpose of the design of going through Chicago. Mr. McBrearty stated that the Alberta Clipper carries different types of fuel unlike Line 5. He could not speak to the complete impact of the additional capacity of the Alberta Clipper, but he stressed again the urgency to close Line 5. Council Member Dunbar then asked Mr. McBrearty about the impact to Michigan families who are impacted home heating fuel. It was clarified that residents in the Lower Peninsula do not receive that home heating fuel because it only goes to Sarnia.

Council Member Dunbar asked about safety issues of other gas lines, and Mr. McBrearty confirmed there had been an oil spill at every line in the last 20 years, however, the biggest concern is with Line 5 given the volume and risky location.

Council Member Spitzley asked if a federal or state permit is required to approve the shutdown of Line 5. Mr. McBrearty stated that the easement allows them to do it. The question was then asked on clarification that Line 6b was the one that caused the spill of the Kalamazoo River. Council Member Spitzley stated her concerns that Enbridge is not here to speak, and her concern is that there is speculation and someone is speaking on behalf of the company (Enbridge) that is not here to represent themselves. It was noted though that she also understand the importance of the issue and impact of environment. Lastly, Council Member Spitzley acknowledged experience working with the DEQ and EPA, and their diligent work to clean up after the Kalamazoo Spill. Council Member Dunbar shared the concerns, and the missing fact that Enbridge would have to support their plans.

The consensus of the rest of the Committee shared in the concerns without all the information from both sides. Council President Brown Clarke stated she would be making communications with Enbridge to have them present at a future meeting. Council Member Washington shared with Mr. McBrearty that as a private citizen she would notify the Governor and Attorney General.

Mr. McBrearty stated he would provide the packet of information he presented to Council via email.

Discussion/Action

Clean Water Action – Resolution

No action taken on the resolution.

RESOLUTION- Reappointments of Five (5) Individuals to Various Boards and Commissions

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR THE FIVE (5) INDIVIDUAL REAPPOINTMENTS TO VARIOUS BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS.

Council Member Dunbar asked why multiple boards are incorporated into one resolution.

Council Member Wood asked for clarification on the number of years for the EDC Board. Deputy Clerk Jackson confirmed the dates were correct.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 6:13 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Brian Jackson

Deputy City Clerk, Lansing City Council

Approved by the Committee on August 22, 2016