

RESOLUTION #2009-406

BY THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LANSING

WHEREAS, the Charter of the City of Lansing requires the Council to adopt an annual statement of Budget Policies and Priorities serving to guide the Administration in developing and presenting the Fiscal Year 2010-2011 budget; and

WHEREAS, the City Council recognizes that the State's continuing budget problems and the economy's slow recovery from recession will make the Fiscal Year 2010-2011 budget process difficult and challenging; and

WHEREAS, in light of the present economy, the City Council maintains that public and emergency services be protected from budget cuts to the extent possible and that tax increases be considered; and

WHEREAS, the City Council would like to continue its commitment, if funding is available:

- Maintain and improve the City's infrastructure;
- Preserve and ensure clean, safe, well-maintained housing and neighborhoods;
- Provide comprehensive and affordable recreational programs and youth and family services;
- Automate work programs for improved efficiency in service delivery; and

WHEREAS, in considering these Fiscal Year 2010-2011 budget priorities, the Administration is encouraged to ascertain the feasibility of funding any new programs through the reduction of spending in existing program areas; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Lansing City Council, hereby, acknowledges that the City will likely need to adopt, at best, a budget which recognizes the structural changes that are the result of lost revenues and encourages the Administration to prudently develop next year's budget with the following conditions:

- Protection of public and emergency services;
- Use of the Budget Stabilization Fund to prevent layoffs;
- Consider a property tax increase to fund additional patrol officers;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Administration review the attached statement of policies and priorities and implement those items that would boost efficiencies to increase productivity or reduce costs, that could replace existing programming, or if funding becomes available, that could be considered as new programming.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Training: All Departments should continue their work to improve community relations and reaffirm the City's commitment to ensure equality and freedom for all people regardless of actual or perceived race, sex, religion, ancestry, national origin, color, age, height, weight, student status, marital status, familial status, housing status, military discharge status, sexual orientation, gender identification or expression, mental or physical limitation, and legal source of income.

Arts Commission: The Administration should develop an Arts Commission and submit both the policy and recommendation of members to Council for their approval.

Environmental & Public Health Commission: The Administration should develop an Environmental & Public Health Commission and submit both the policy and recommendation of members to Council for their approval.

Facilities Plan: The Administration is requested to submit a five and ten year Master Facilities Plan. City Council is also requesting that the Administration continue work on the delayed maintenance issues with regard to all City Facilities. The Administration should develop a plan for consolidation of the North and South Precincts, Central Police Operation, and 54-A District Court and report back to Council within a sufficient amount of time to implement prior to expiration dates on leases.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

General Budgeting Practices:

1. Administration is to develop a line item budget.
2. Develop and analyze a cost recovery schedule for City services.
3. Develop a return on investment analysis for all proposed changes in City services.
4. Identify and provide a complete analysis of the City's structural deficits and the Administration's plan to eliminate the same.

PUBLIC SAFETY

FIRE DEPARTMENT

City-wide Emergency Preparedness: The Administration should allocate sufficient funding for the Emergency Management Division to prepare City Employees with appropriate emergency training, continue efforts to prepare the public and neighborhood

groups to assist in emergencies, and provide basic search and rescue operations and necessary emergency equipment at key City facilities, and communicate the plan to the public. The Administration should assist residents in times of unforeseen disasters.

Firefighters: The Administration in conjunction with the Internal Auditor is to determine if it is more advantageous to hire additional firefighters rather than increase overtime.

Fire Facilities Maintenance: The Administration is to conduct a study of the maintenance needs of all fire stations.

Fire Stations: All current fire station structures need to remain open unless one is closed in order to open a new station. If there is consideration of a reduction of the level of personnel at a station, it must be promptly brought before Council for approval. City Council encourages the administration to study the possibility of utilizing regional fire facilities.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Police-Community Relations: The Department should continue its work on improving police-community relations and reaffirm the City's commitment to ensure equality and freedom for all people regardless of actual or perceived race, sex, religion, ancestry, national origin, color, age, height, weight, student status, marital status, familial status, housing status, military discharge status, sexual orientation, gender identification or expression, mental or physical limitation, and legal source of income.

Crime Prevention: The Administration is requested and encouraged to invest in programs for long-term crime prevention strategies.

Expedite Hiring Process: The Administration should fill all the vacant funded positions and "front load" positions for the LPD to ensure that all critical positions are filled at all times. These positions are to be filled at all times even if it is on a temporary basis due to officers retiring or being called for reserves. The Administration should look at filling positions with civilians or volunteers allowing more officers on patrol.

Additional Police Officers: The Administration should place ten additional road patrol officers.

LPD Personnel: The Administration is requested to review the way the police department is structured to determine if civilian personnel or police officers could be deployed differently in order to increase the number of patrol officers on the street.

Allocate Overtime for Zero Tolerance Areas: The Administration should earmark sufficient overtime funds for patrol officers to address problem solving to help curtail

crime in zero tolerance areas. The Council recommends that overtime funds should not be taken from the current overtime budgeted line item.

HUMAN RELATIONS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

Audits of Organizations: The Administration should work with the Internal Auditor to provide the Ways and Means Committee with an analysis of the Federal 990 Statement and any annual audit or financial statement that is compiled by or for the organization that receives funding from HRCS or in-kind contributions in excess of \$5,000 from the City.

Carry Forward Funding: In accordance with the ordinance requiring 1.25% of the revenues set aside for funding of the Human Relations and Community Service programming, City Council wants all of these funds to be carried forward and distributed, which could entail a one time grant to qualified programs to ensure service to the community.

Emergency Housing: The Administration should establish a fund for temporary emergency housing needs which may not be met by outside agencies.

Special Events: The Administration should develop a mechanism to measure the City's costs associated with special events filed with the City. Identify all additional money or donated items given to the City to host or sponsor special events.

PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT/PLANNING AND NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT/PUBLIC SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Consolidation of Ground Maintenance: The Administration should pursue the consolidation of equipment and management for all grounds-related maintenance.

Trail/Greenways: The Administration should encourage the Parks and Recreation Department to work collaboratively with the Tri-County Planning Commission to develop/expand our citywide/regional trail system and seek opportunities to reduce expenses in this effort. Additionally, look at the feasibility of connecting the River Trail (through bike lanes/Greenways to Trails) where there is currently no access to the trail.

Mid-Michigan Football Youth League: The City Council encourages Administration to pursue all grants and outside funding sources to be identified for building a home facility for our local Mid-Michigan Youth Football League.

PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Baker/Donora Facility: City Council understands the service that is given at Baker/Donora Focus Center which affects the community in and around the center. Because of the opportunity which now avails itself with the Greater Lansing Housing Coalition and the NPP, City Council requests the Administration to make every effort possible in facilitating and utilizing the funding available to implement the plan for a new building.

Park Millage Usage: Park Millage money should be used for maintenance, programs, and improvements to our existing park facilities.

Golf: The Administration should pursue the recommendations made by the Public Service Committee by means of a 2006 Committee Report and approved by Council through a resolution.

Park Restrooms: The Administration should submit a plan which will allow for restroom facilities in the City's park system to be utilized during the day time hours, including weekends, and to analyze the cost and feasibility of installing semi-permanent restroom facilities.

Forestry: The Administration should make no further cuts to forestry/cemetery staff. Further, the Administration should pursue expanding forestry services, including staffing, by requiring the "in-sourcing" of these services in all City contracts where applicable.

PLANNING AND NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Neighborhood Preservation Program: The Administration should monitor the commitments made by City departments and non profits as part of the Neighborhood Preservation Program and make an assessment of the program and recommendation for a new plan.

Traffic: The Administration should provide a plan to be pro-active for the replacement of signage (stop signs, traffic signs, etc.).

Focus on Home Ownership: The Administration should direct the Planning Department to designate the City's HOME dollars for owner-occupied housing.

Beautification: The Administration should include a beautification standard/expectation in all proposed development projects, including those capital projects that are financed with City funds. Such standards should serve as a planning and economic development tool that will enhance property values, create jobs, and revitalize neighborhoods and business areas.

Corridor: City Council encourages the Administration to develop a plan to revitalize and enhance major corridors that lead into the City.

Allocation of Code Compliance Time: The Code Compliance officers should spend an equal amount of their time between rental registration inspections and quality-of-life issues and complaints from residents that may not generate revenue.

Code Compliance: The Code Compliance Office should develop a plan for coverage of code compliance issues during evenings and weekends.

Expedite Improving Abandoned Residential and Commercial Buildings: The City Attorney and the Planning and Neighborhood Development Department should expedite the forced improvements or closure of abandoned, neglected, and burned out houses and commercial buildings, and develop a commercial building code.

Housing Court: The Court, City Council, and the Administration should work to create a Housing Court to expedite code enforcement and housing issues.

Specialty Grocery Market: The Administration and the City of Lansing Economic Development Corporation should pursue, as a destination location, a specialty grocery market such as a Whole Foods Market, Fresh Market, or Trader Joe's in Lansing.

Grocery Stores: The Administration and the City of Lansing Economic Development Corporation should pursue grocery stores in the urban core.

PUBLIC SERVICE DEPARTMENT

Maintenance: The Administration should ensure money is allocated for the maintenance of alleys, rain gardens, and other public areas.

Street Sweeping: The Administration should develop a plan for maintenance of the street right-of-way, which includes increasing street sweeping, trash, and brush removal. Additionally, Administration should establish priority zones for bike lanes.

Residential Solid Waste: City Council encourages the Administration to analyze the costs and benefits of providing all residential solid waste services through the City.

Compost Material: The Administration is requested to provide a final report to City Council regarding the cost/benefit of retrofitting yard waste trucks with hydraulic lifts and providing rigid recycling bins that would be compatible with such trucks.

Sidewalks: The Administration should ensure that sidewalks are installed, maintained, and free of snow in high traffic areas to provide the public, especially children, with safe routes to and from schools and shopping areas. The Administration should also submit plans to upgrade the skywalks to make them handicap accessible. The Administration should ensure that all sidewalks in all areas identified in the 2005 Public Service Gap Closure Analysis are addressed in order of their priority unless construction is scheduled.

Skywalks: The Administration should submit a report to upgrade existing skywalks to make them handicap accessible and identify additional sites for installation of future skywalks.

Sidewalk Repairs: The Administration should provide Council, for their review, the ordinance and mechanism to enact the Sidewalk Inspection Due on Sale of Property Program as well as guidelines that would allow property owners to pay for the replacement/repair of deteriorating sidewalks and be reimbursed by the City for its share of the cost and ensure that all temporary repairs meet ADA standards for "Rise and Run".

Rain Gardens: The Administration is requested to provide a comprehensive design plan and costs for adding to or transitioning from traditional storm sewers to rain gardens, wherever feasible. Every effort should be made to coordinate installation with existing and planned construction projects. The Administration should provide information about and encourage the use of rain gardens on all new development. Once the plan is approved by City Council, the Administration shall install rain gardens according to the plan.

Bike Lanes: The Administration is encouraged to expedite the Walkable/Bikeable Plan as outlined in the current ordinance.

Utilities: The Administration should make every effort to coordinate with utility providers to bury utilities where and whenever possible.

CSO Projects: The Administration should partner with City Council to engage residents affected by CSO in a project review, survey, and evaluation of the City's CSO Control Project with a focus on the existing project approach of total separation of the remaining combined sewer system.

CSO Project Funding: The Administration should review and determine long term strategies for financing and funding CSO projects which do not primarily rely on sewer rates.