



MINUTES
Committee of the Whole
Monday, January 11, 2021 @ 5:30 p.m.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82473153790>; ID: 824 7315 3790; or Dial in: (646) 876 9923

Held virtually in an effort to protect the health and safety of the public & to mitigate the spread of COVID 19

CALL TO ORDER

Council President Spadafore called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

PRESENT- via audio/video

Councilmember Peter Spadafore remotely from Lansing, Michigan

Councilmember Adam Hussain remotely from Lansing, Michigan

Councilmember Carol Wood remotely from Lansing, Michigan

Councilmember Patricia Spitzley remotely from Lansing, Michigan

Councilmember Kathie Dunbar remotely from Lansing, Michigan-left mtg at 6:32 p.m. returned at 6:36p.m.

Councilmember Brandon Betz remotely from Lansing, Michigan

Councilmember Jeremy Garza remotely from Lansing, Michigan

Councilmember Brian T. Jackson remotely from Lansing, Michigan

MEMBERS PRESENT- via audio/video

Sherrie Boak, Council Staff

Joseph Abood, OCA

Lisa Hagen, OCA

Susan Cancro, Advent House

Scott Keith, LEPFA

Nick Tate, Deputy Mayor

Heather Sumner, OCA

Elizabeth O'Leary, HR

Kim Coleman, HRCS

Loretta Stanaway

Jake Brower, Budget Director

Minutes

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HUSSAIN TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM JANUARY 4, 2021 AS PRESENTED. ROLL CALL VOTE, MOTION CARRIED 8-0.

Public Comment

Ms. Cancro spoke about the recent actions at what is known as the homeless site "Back 40" and the outreach. Ms.Cancro spoke briefly on outreach in the Tri-County area. She then noted in this case they are trying to meet the needs of the people they serve, visiting sites every day, and again in this case they found a storage unit to assist with the residents of "Back

40” belongings. Council Member Jackson asked Ms. Cancro what people can do to assist and also in the case of the “Back 40”, what her thoughts were on how it transpired. Ms. Cancro replied for people to help they can donate with food, donating blankets, socks, gloves, water, and hand warmers. Regarding how the encampment of “Back 40” was addressed, it was a crowded site, so they are continuing to working with people on what the next step is. Council Member Garza asked for an address or email for funding donations or drop off location. Ms. Cancro said items can be dropped off at the office of Advent House at 743 N. MLK, call 517-485-4722, and there are details on the website of www.adventhouse.com for Paypal. Council Member Spitzley acknowledged Advent House for what they are doing and appreciated that the residents are not being forcibly removed. She then asked what relationship there is with Advent House and the City HRCS Department. Ms. Cancro spoke briefly on the HUD funding investigation, and that she was watching the progress on this. Ms. Cancro also noted that both agencies are engaged in this project with the homeless, correcting earlier statements in the media that items were taken. If they were taken it was by mistake. Council Member Spitzley asked that if that occurred she hopes the administration works with agencies. Council Member Dunbar asked about the food needs in the camps. Ms. Cancro said cooking options in the encampments are minimal, so anything with nutrition they can eat without preparation is appreciated. Council Member Betz noted he had visited ‘Back 40” and some of the residents there had Section 8 vouchers, but the phone numbers were disconnected, and he asked what process is in place to update the lists. In addition if a person is homeless, and having problems reaching out to use that voucher how they make contact. Ms. Cancro assured them that when they have a voucher if there are issues with the phone numbers, they can contact Advent House to help them make connection.

Ms. Stanaway asked about issues where homeless residents are couples, and when they are relocated to shelters have to be separated. She then spoke in support of DeLisa Fountain in the proposed position on the agenda.

Discussion/Action

RESOLUTION – Elected Officers Compensation Commission; Setting the first Meeting of the 2021 Session

Council Member Wood confirmed the Council Office Manager staffs the Committee and works with the coordination of the first meeting. Ms. Boak noted the resolution was referred by the City Clerk, who will make initial contact with the Commission per the Ordinance. Ms. Boak noted the Commission meets every 2 years, and the first meeting in 2019 was February 9, 2010 so she proposed February 9, 2021 for the first meeting of 2021.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HUSSAIN TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION SETTING THE FIRST MEETING OF THE EOCC FOR FEBRUARY 9, 2021. ROLL CALL VOTE, MOTION CARRIED 8-0.

RESOLUTION – Budget Authorization; LEPFA Funds transfer from FY2021 Golf Subsidy to GF Subsidy to sustain LEPFA Operations during COVID-19

Mr. Keith explained to Council that this resolution would allow, in the case of emergency, to move funds from one property/facility to another. He noted that the funds would be paid back to the fund as well, based on the allocation in the approved budget. Council Member Spitzley asked if LEPFA was anticipating a shortfall, and why the request in coming now instead of when they need the funds. Mr. Keith assured the Committee that they have been doing everything they can to not request this or transfer funds, but with COVID they are not able to meet the needs. Council Member Wood asked if they have any modifications since the budget, and Mr. Keith did not have the dollar amounts for the modification but can get the information. Council Member Wood then asked how the funding would be repaid, and was told by Mr. Keith they are currently working on grants that offer funding to similar entities. It

was noted that LEPFA does not own anything so they do not have the ability to borrow, banks have suggested small business loans, but they are not encouraged by that, and they have other PPE funding for LEPFA. Council Member Wood asked Mr. Keith what were the anticipated revenues from the golf course and was told in last year's budget there was an operating fund of \$85,000. In the proposed budget this year, they do not anticipate a significant change. Council Member Wood asked about revenues coming in from golf currently and Mr. Keith confirmed they were up. Council Member Wood asked Mr. Brower if the City is anticipating using park millage to offset the golf, and Mr. Brower confirmed they have not received any requests at this time. Council Member Betz asked if the City received any funding from the State on the entertainment funds. Mr. Keith stated there are some restrictions on if you received some funding, you might not be eligible for the other funding. Some of the requirements are also the type of facility, so they are keeping in touch on the application process. Council Member Garza asked if there is any revenue coming in now with the golf simulator program. Mr. Keith confirmed the winter leagues starts shortly for 12 weeks, and there are also lessons. He then spoke briefly about the COVID restrictions via MDHHS orders. Council Member Spitzley followed up on Council Member Wood earlier question, asking what the strategy was to pay it back, and what the ramifications are if this transfer is not approved tonight by Council. Mr. Keith acknowledged they will do everything they can to not do the transfer, but if they do, they have to pay back in 2 years. If this is not approved, they may not pay a utility bill, might not be able to pay a salary. He reiterated they are hoping not to do it, but want to be prepared in the case they have to.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HUSSAIN TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR THE TRANSFER OF LEPFA FUNDS. ROLL CALL VOTE, MOTION CARRIED 7-1

RESOLUTION – Appointment of Director of Neighborhoods and Citizen Engagement; Waiving Position Requirements

Mr. Tate spoke briefly on Ms. Fountain's role so far in her duties within the department, and admitted that even though there is an education piece missing from her resume, the Administration supports the appointment to this new role as Director of Neighborhoods and Citizen Engagement. Mr. Tate concluded by requesting that Council waiver the education requirements.

Council Member Dunbar lost connection and left the meeting.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HUSSAIN TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION TO WAIVE THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE POSITION FOR THE DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBORHOODS AND CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT. ROLL CALL VOTE, MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

Council Member Dunbar returned to the meeting.

RESOLUTION – Council Rules Changes

Council President Spadafore passed the gavel to Council Member Hussain. Council President Spadafore then outlined the proposed changes to the Rules to combine General Services and Public Services into "Committee on City Operations" and to eliminate the Committee on Intergovernmental Relations. He explained that the tasks of intergovernmental could be addressed with the Committee of the Whole if Council wanted to meet with other entities. The rules will also address the option for four (4) members on Committees if the President so determines, with a quorum being 2, so action can still be done at all Committees.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER SPADAFORE TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION TO CHANGE THE COUNCIL RULES 4, 16 & 17.

Council Member Hussain stated that after talking to some of his constituents, he was concerned that it appeared Council was reducing meetings when they should be addressing the business of the City. But after he reviewed the final document by combining Committees it will also allow members more activity. The Committee was assured that the rules have to sit on the floor of Council until the next Council meeting for action, but action out of Committee can take place at this time.

ROLL CALL VOTE, MOTION CARRIED 8-0.

{Closed Session-via ZOOM meeting}

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HUSSAIN TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION AT 6:40 P.M. FOR Pursuant to MCL 15.268(c) of the Open Meetings Act, I hereby move that we recess into closed session for strategy and negotiation sessions connected with the negotiation of a collective bargaining agreement as requested by the City.

ROLL CALL VOTE, MOTION CARRIED 8-0.

{Reconvene at 6:46 p.m.}

RESOLUTION- Ratification of the Teamsters 243 Supervisory Collective Bargaining Agreement

Council Member Hussain stated for the record that the only changes to the Agreements was an 11 month extension with no changes or increases. The new term is February 1, 2021 through January 31, 2022.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HUSSAIN TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR THE RATIFICATION OF THE TEAMSTERS 243 SUPERVISORY COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT.

Council Member Garza asked that the Administration also choose no increases this year as well.

ROLL CALL VOTE, MOTION CARRIED 8-0.

RESOLUTION – Ratification of the Teamsters 243 Clerical, Technical, Professional Collective Bargaining Agreement

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HUSSAIN TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR THE RATIFICATION OF THE TEAMSTERS 243 SUPERVISORY COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT. ROLL CALL VOTE, MOTION CARRIED 8-0.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 6:51pm
Respectfully Submitted by,
Sherrie Boak, Recording Secretary
Lansing City Council
Approved by the Committee **January 20, 2021**