



## **MINUTES**

### **Committee on General Services**

**Monday, February 4, 2019 @ 3:00 p.m.**

**City Council Conference Room, City Hall 10<sup>th</sup> Floor**

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting called to order at 3:00 p.m.

### **ROLL CALL**

Council Member Jody Washington, Chair  
Council Member Brian T. Jackson, Vice Chair  
Council Member Carol Wood, Member

### **OTHERS PRESENT**

Sherrie Boak, Council Office Manager  
Scott Sanford, Code Enforcement  
Amanda O'Boyle, Assistant City Attorney  
Eric Brewer, Council Internal Auditor  
Chris Roelofs  
June Be  
Kathy Miles

### **Minutes**

MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 11, 2018 WERE PLACED ON FILE.

### **Public Comment on Agenda Items**

Comments will be made during agenda items.

### **Discussion/Action:**

#### **RESOLUTION – Liquor License: 1620 E. Michigan Avenue; Transfer Location of Class C Liquor License**

Mr. Roelofs explained he was looking for the approval of his license to move a liquor license from Okemos to his new location on Michigan Avenue. The restaurant is a “scratch made” Italian restaurant and wine bar. Council Member Wood asked what the percentage of alcohol was to food, and Mr. Roelofs stated it was 25% alcohol to food. She then asked if he had any complaints in the other municipality for moving his license out of their jurisdiction. He confirmed he had not, but this was the first step, and his attorney (Mark Burzych) is handling everything after the City of Lansing approval.

Council Member Jackson asked what the hours of operation would be and if he would be back for a change to allow live music and dancing. Mr. Roelofs stated there will be no music or dancing license, and the hours of operation currently are the kitchen closing at 9:30 p.m. and last customers out at 11:00 p.m.

Ms. O'Boyle confirmed law was set with the application

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR THE LIQUOR LICENSE AT 1620 E. MICHIGAN AVENUE. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

**RESOLUTION – Claim #1610 Appeal; A. Fallahi; 539 Avon Street; \$767.00**

Council Staff explained messages were left and he claimed he did not get messages, so Staff will contact applicant for the meeting on 2/25/2019.

**RESOLUTION – Claim #1632 Appeal; J. Mar Be; 2024 Hillcrest; \$518.00**

Mr. Sanford noted the property was fined on 8/21/2018 with a compliance date of 8/28/2018 and re-inspected 8/29/2018 for the contractor to arrive 8/30/2018 and removed the indoor furniture that was outdoors. It was originally located at the curb when the violation was initiated and the owner then move it to the back porch/door area.

Mr. Brewer reviewed the determination at the Claims Review Committee where they determined the violation did occur and the amount and defended the pictures and therefore was denied.

Council Member Jackson asked Mr. Sanford where the chair was moved from, and Mr. Sanford clarified it was initially placed at the curb and that is why it was cited. The owner then moved it to the back door.

Ms. Be's interpreter (nephew) stated that Ms. Be thought if she moved the chair back to the house she would be okay. At the time she was pregnant and the weather was nice so she wanted to sit outside.

Council Member Washington asked Mr. Sanford if the only item was the chair, and Mr. Sanford confirmed. She then asked why was the cost so large, \$518 for a chair. Mr. Sanford explained the City Administrative fee was \$265 of that \$518. Mr. Brewer detailed the contractor's fees of a minimum of \$175 and they charged \$75 for additional yardage because it is class 2 material. Mr. Sanford defended the charges stating that Granger has also raised their rates. Council Member Washington again stated her opinion that the charges were extreme for just a chair.

Council Member Wood stated that the City is not a trash business and residents have the ability to take care of the violation.

Council Member Washington asked Mr. Brewer if Claims Review Committee considered removing the administrative fee, and Mr. Brewer stated they did not. Council Member Wood stated the administrative fee is set at \$265 during the budget, based on work and they can't charge more than what it costs to do the work. Council Member Washington asked Law if that fee is based on the lowest paid employee capable of doing the job. Ms. O'Boyle stated it was based on the amount of hours.

Council Member Jackson asked the applicant if they had anyone assisting them in reading the notices in English and assisting them in how to appeal. The nephew stated she did not and he does not live here, but came to assist her today. Council Member Jackson then asked if she

was using the chair why it was placed at the curb. The nephew, after speaking to Ms. Be, stated she saw people driving around picking up stuff that was left at the curb, so she stuck it out there thinking someone would take it, and when it was cited, she moved it back to the house to use instead of paying to throw out.

Council Member Washington again stated she believed it was an exorbitant amount for picking up a chair and asked Council Member Wood, who has sat on this Committee in the past, if the Administrative fee has ever been waived on claims. Council Member Wood admitted it had but not on a regular basis but even then it would be based on Code Enforcement making a recommendation. Council Member Washington asked Mr. Sanford if he would consider waiving the fee. Mr. Sanford did not agree, and again stated the contractor has a minimum fee of \$175 and it would have been cheaper for the owner to purchase a large item sticker for \$35.

Council Member Jackson stated his understanding the applicant does not have English as her first language and that she did not understand that after moving the chair it was still a violation.

**MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD TO GRANT THE CLAIM #1632 FOR 2042 HILLCREST IN THE AMOUNT OF \$78.00 LEAVING A BALANCE OF \$440.00.**

Council Member Washington explained to the nephew that Ms. Be still has the opportunity to go to the full Council on February 11, 2019 and if it does not get granted she can make payment plans with the Treasurer office.

**MOTION CARRIED 2-1.**

Council Member Washington informed Ms. Be that the office would forward her information on Refugee Services and code information so she can have assistance in understanding the information.

#### **OTHER**

The following is a notification from the Clerk's office that a license is pending. It will remain on the agenda until the application is submitted.

- Michigan Liquor Control Commission; Transfer License with Sunday Sales, Outdoor Service, Catering Bars and Dance-Entertainment from 7786 E. US 10, Walhalla to 419 Spring Street, Lansing. Transfer Governmental Unit from Branch Twp., Mason County to Lansing City, Ingham County

#### **PLACE ON FILE**

Council Member Wood explained to the Committee that the transfers listed below are stores, and the City can have up to 15 days to make an appeal to Liquor Control if there is a concern on the location, the applicant, a problematic property, etc.

- Michigan Liquor Control Commission; Transfer Ownership 2018 SDD & SDM Business with Sunday Sales; Pavneet, Inc. to L.M. Liquor Store, Inc.; 2110 W. Jolly Road
- Michigan Liquor Control Commission; Transfer Ownership 2018 SDD with Sunday Sales PM Only; Zrad, LLC and Transfer Location from 990 Decamp, Leslie to Kroger Company of Michigan; 443 Mall Court, Lansing
- Michigan Liquor Control Commission; Transfer Ownership 2018 SDD & SDM Business with Sunday Sales; Kajal Liquor Inc., 3127 Tuner Street

Council Member Wood asked for a Committee discussion at a future meeting on the process of claims, how they are upheld and the potential for Code Compliance to create a bullet point for renters/landlords for refugee services to translate so they can pass out at their offices. Mr. Sanford explained and defended Code Enforcement. Mr. Brewer explained the Claims Review Committee process.

**Adjourned**

Adjourned at 3:46 p.m.

Submitted by Sherrie Boak,

Office Manager,

Lansing City Council

Approved by the Committee on February 25, 2019