



**MINUTES**  
**Committee of the Whole**  
**Thursday, May 2, 2019 @ 6:00 p.m.**  
**Foster Community Center**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Council Member Wood called the meeting called to order at 6:03 p.m.

**PRESENT**

Councilmember Kathie Dunbar- excused  
Councilmember Jeremy A. Garza  
Councilmember Adam Hussain  
Council Member Brian T. Jackson - excused  
Councilmember Peter Spadafore  
Councilmember Patricia Spitzley  
Councilmember Jody Washington  
Councilmember Carol Wood

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Sherrie Boak, Council Staff  
Jim Smiertka, City Attorney  
Angela Bennett, Finance Director  
LaSandra Jones  
Alice Flomoa  
Claude Beavers  
Anita Beavers  
Nancy Mahlow  
Elaine Fischhoff

**PRESENTATIONS**

Ms. Bennett provided an overview of the proposed budget highlighting the process, Mayor public forums, priorities and the changes and increases.

**Public Comment on Agenda Items**

Council President Wood informed the Committee of comments she had heard from the public include that they do not support the \$285,000 proposed for Green Energy, they want more funds in local streets, more funds in sidewalk repairs and have a concern with the fee increases in recycling and proposed park fees. They also informed her they do not support WIFI in parks but again want more money into the streets.

Mr. Beavers asked what changes cause the proposed increases and decreases, and if the labor was also seeing increases. Council President Wood stated that the proposed increases were not a collectively agreed upon change, and that the labor was getting increase based on their union contracts. Mr. Beavers then asked if it was the same percentage as the Administration and Council Member Washington stated it was not, the labor was getting between 2-2.5%. Mr. Beavers then acknowledged he watched the LEPFA Budget Presentation and did not agree with statements made about the Groesbeck Golf Course workers who had worked there before the transition. He then asked what the list of changes in the budget were and their cost. Council Member Spitzley asked Ms. Bennett if there was a costs savings in moving parking enforcement to Economic Development and Planning. Ms. Bennett stated the numbers are neutral, it is the time that is offset by not having to use a LPD Sergeant, and that person can now work FT in LPD. Lastly Mr. Beavers asked Council to spend the funds on fixes not everything new.

Ms. Fischhoff spoke about the proposed \$285,000 in Green Energy stating that \$180,000 out of General Fund and the balance from Enterprise could be used for a project to generate funds to make Lansing a sustainable City. Ms. Fischhoff concluded by suggesting the City start by changing all street lights to LED.

Ms. Beavers spoke in support of repairing sidewalks, more street equipment and better back up man power.

Ms. Mahlow spoke in support of funds for sidewalk repairs, opposed to the distribution being used for the Mayor's Grants, and questioned the spending and proposed spending in the Neighborhood and Citizen Engagement Department.

Ms. Jones spoke about her concerns in her neighborhood, Potter Walsh. This included concerns of the area where the homeless stay and leave their debris, the concern with lack of lighting at bus stops, the need for new lights on the East side, and the return of a Community Policing Officer. Council Member Washington acknowledged her concerns and stated she was not aware that the LPD did not replace the CPO in the area.

### **Council Comments**

Council Member Garza asked the Committee on the status of street parking enforcement. Council President Wood confirmed that the Committee on Public Safety met before this meeting to review the first draft, and they hope to have a document in front of the Committee of the Whole the first meeting in June.

Council Members Washington and Spadafore both acknowledged the public who spoke and attended and assured they took notes of their concerns for their deliberations on the budget. Council Member Spadafore informed Mr. Beavers he wanted to speak to him after the meeting regarding Mr. Beavers comments on LEPFA.

Council Member Spitzley stated to the public that the FHT have encourage the Council to look at other ways to address issues along the way, and Council will collaborate.

Council Member Hussain assured the public they heard the concerns and they understand the need to provide services and retain residents and businesses.

Council President Wood acknowledged the public and stated the next meeting is Thursday, May 9<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm at the Sandy Allen Room at the Alfreda Schmidt Community Center.

**ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:56 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by,  
Sherrie Boak, Recording Secretary  
Lansing City Council

Approved by the Committee on May 13, 2019