



**MINUTES**  
**Committee of the Whole**  
**Thursday, May 9, 2019 @ 6:00 p.m.**  
**Alfred Schmidt Community Center, Sandy Allen Room**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Council Member Wood called the meeting called to order at 6:02 p.m.

**PRESENT**

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

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Sherrie Boak, Council Staff  
Jim Smiertka, City Attorney  
Angela Bennett, Finance Director  
Claude Beavers  
Anita Beavers  
Nancy Mahlow  
Elaine Fischhoff  
Linda Keefe  
Sandra Whitehead  
Elaine Womboldt  
Connie Doyle  
John Masterson  
Becky Page  
Willie Vinson  
Rachelle White  
Loretta Stanaway  
Denise Harris  
Jason Wilkes  
Ruth J Fox  
Marilyn Irvine  
Edward Forest  
Connor Mastin

Amber Rockwell

## **PRESENTATIONS**

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

Council Introductions

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

Ms. Keefe spoke on her concerns with climate change, provided examples of temperature exchanges in the nation and support a sustainability manager.

Ms. Page spoke in support of a climate action plan, green energy and encourage Council to look at areas such as parks, buildings, and transportation to address climate change.

Mr. Masterson spoke in support of addressing climate change and an energy manager.

Mr. Beavers spoke briefly on climate action and in his opinion was not sure what the Mayor was proposing for City buildings was something he could support. Mr. Beavers then went on to ask if the Council has looked at what the FHT has proposed. Mr. Beavers comments then went into the budget and he referenced page 9 and questioned why there was \$177,000 for golf if LEPFA was managing golf now, and if that is higher than when the City managed it. Then on page 17, he asked what a "pathway" was that the proposed \$503,000 would be spend on with sidewalks. On page 21 he inquired into what the \$400,000 for event parking enforcement was for and why and then lastly on page 22 what the \$500,000 for parking enforcement was for.

Ms. Stanaway stated her opposition to the \$50,000 for WIFI in the parks, opposition for the new position in Neighborhoods and Citizen Engagement, the \$295,000 in green energy and questioned the fee increases for recycling. She also informed the Committee in case they were not aware, as of 6/1/2019 there is a \$5 fee if you pay your bill over the phone. Ms. Stanaway did not support the \$100,000 in salary increases across the board and concluded with a statement the Council should consider of a quality of life versus quantity.

Ms. Womboldt spoke in opposition to the funds for WIFI in the parks, opposition to the new position in Neighborhoods and Citizen Engagement, moving the parking enforcement from LPD to EDP and was opposed to the \$285,000 in green energy.

Ms. Fox presented the Committee with photos on her phone from her neighborhood sidewalks on Bridgeport. Ms. Fox also asked for assistance in getting a second egress out of the development. Lastly, Ms. Fox was opposed to any tax increases.

Mr. Sorg spoke in support of the green wise energy idea, but was opposed to the funds proposed and suggested working in coordination with others. He also asked for consideration on better traffic enforcement.

Mr. Forest confirmed the earlier statement by Ms. Fox on sidewalks in their neighborhoods. He also spoke on his frustration with Public Service and their response to potholes.

Ms. Harris submitted a document to the Committee which was an email exchange with Treasury on her taxes. She asked for more funds to go into that department for better income tax processing.

Ms. Beavers asked if the City can start enforcing the weight limits and number of axles on a truck to save the damage to the roads.

Mr. Mastin spoke in support of the City addressing the ongoing climate change. He also supported the medical marihuana dispensaries for encourage revenue.

Ms. Fishhoff spoke in support of the proposed \$285,000 for green energy, but stated if they choose not to approve for the plan to approve for a sustainability manager. She also supported the Neighborhood and Citizen Engagement new position.

Ms. Rockwell spoke in support of the new or repaired sidewalks that Ms. Fox spoke about earlier in their neighborhood. Ms. Rockwell then spoke in opposition to WIFI in the parks, and regarding the energy discussion she inquired into the focus being on assisting and educating residents on how they can address green energy in their home.

Ms. White spoke in opposition to "Lansing Connect", her frustration in the complaint process, and asked why the City could not partner with MSU on the green energy. Ms. White went on to speak about the 10-11 Community Policing Officers, and asked if they continue to get pulled from their communities to assist with LPD situations, why not just make them strictly officers not community policing officers. Ms. White went on to support keeping parking enforcement in LPD, stated the proposed funds for sidewalk repair was too low, and was opposed to WIFI in the parks and the position in Neighborhood and Citizen Engagement. Lastly she encouraged the Committee to be cautious in their budget and focus on other areas that need help.

Mr. Morris spoke in opposition to WIFI in the parks, did not fully support green energy proposal, supported road repairs, but with an example of other areas he has lived in, spoke in opposition to parking meters. Lastly he stated he believed there was a disconnect with City communications.

Mr. Wilkes asked for Council to consider more staff in Treasury, filling all the vacancies in the City offices, supported sidewalk repairs and a community policing officer, but was opposed to WIFI in the parks. Mr. Wilkes then went on to encourage an audit on where to reduce the carbon footprint, but then asked the Council to not consider the new position in Neighborhood and Citizen Engagement and questioned why there was even a department. Lastly Mr. Wilkes asked them to look into what Code Enforcement does daily.

Ms. Mahlow spoke in support of funds for sidewalks, roads, LPD and LFD. She then questioned the funds spent on Sister Cities, art and culture, the position held by Bishop Maxwell, and encouraged them to look into the funds that are being spend on the Mayor's Neighborhood Grants. Lastly, Ms. Mahlow was in opposition to the Neighborhood and Citizen Engagement Department.

Council President Wood informed the public that the next meeting of Committee will be their regular meeting on May 13, 2019 and again on May 20<sup>th</sup> where the proposed budget will be consideration for adoption.

#### **ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Sherrie Boak, Recording Secretary

Lansing City Council

Approved by the Committee on May 20, 2019