



MINUTES
Committee on Development and Planning
Tuesday, August 18, 2020 @ 3:30 p.m.
Via ZOOM audio/video

CALL TO ORDER

Council Member Spitzley called the meeting to order at 3:32 p.m. via ZOOM

PRESENT via audio/video

Council Member Spitzley, Chair-
Council Member Garza, Vice-Chair-excused
Council Member Betz, Member
Council Member Hussain, Member

OTHERS PRESENT via audio/video

Sherrie Boak, Council Staff
Lisa Hagen, Assistant City Attorney, Council Research Assistant
Greg Venker, Assistant City Attorney
Jeffrey Johnson
Heather Goupil
Samantha Troutman
Steve Swan, Building Official
Hannah Bryant, LEAP

MINUTES

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER BETZ TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM AUGUST 4, 2020 AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment at this time.

DISCUSSION/ACTION

RESOLUTION – Appointment; Jeffrey Johnson; Regional Business Owner Representative Member; S. MLK Jr. Blvd. Corridor Improvement Authority Board; Term to Expire 7/31/2021

Mr. Johnson spoke on his business in Lansing; Bake N Cakes, and a recent space on the south side of Lansing where pre-COVID he had a second location. Council Member Hussain acknowledged Mr. Johnson on volunteer efforts and his offer to serve on this Board. He then asked Mr. Johnson what his thoughts were on long term visions for the corridor and business efforts for the area. Mr. Johnson stated the unique challenges included the landscaping in the corridor, some areas with inoperable or disabled vehicles on their lots, looking to cleaning up the corridor, was encouraged by the walkability, concerns with traffic flow because limited traffic lights, future plans could include street lights and lighting in the parks, encourage more usage of the parks in the area, and work on addressing some of the vacant buildings. Council Member Hussain and Spitzley supported comments by Mr. Johnson and his business efforts.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HUSSAIN TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF JEFFERY JOHNSON TO THE S MLK JR. BLVD. CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY BOARD. ROLL CALL VOTE, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

RESOLUTION – Reappointment; H Goupil; Member; Historic District Commission; Term to Expire 6/30/2023

Council Member Spitzley asked Ms. Goupil how many years she has currently served on the Commission and Ms. Goupil responded she has been on the Commission since 2018 where she was appointed to fill someone else's term. Ms. Goupil was encouraged with the work and mission so far the Commission has done and enjoys her time on the board. Council Member Hussain acknowledged Ms. Goupil for her work on the Commission thus far.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER BETZ TO APPROVE THE REAPPOINTMENT OF HEATHER GOUPIL TO THE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION. ROLL CALL VOTE, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

RESOLUTION – Appointment; S Troutman; Member; Historic District Commission; Term to Expire 6/30/2023

Ms. Troutman provided details on her residency in Lansing, her college time at MSU, and family connection where her father was on an historic board in Battle Creek. Ms. Troutman continued to speak on her vision in the importance in this role when they partner with business owners and home owners in their attempts to work on keeping up the historic buildings and districts. Council Member Hussain noted that there are 11 single site districts, appreciated her volunteering for this Commission, and asked if this was her first choice. Council Member Spitzley referenced the application where it was noted the neighborhood advisory council was the first choice with this being the second.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HUSSAIN TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF SAMANTHA TROUTMAN TO THE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION. ROLL CALL VOTE, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

RESOLUTION – Reappointment; J Bell; Member; Historic District Commission; Term to Expire 6/30/2023

Mr. Bell was not present for the meeting, so discussion and action was moved to the next meeting on September 1, 2020.

RESOLUTION – Introduction & Set Public Hearing: Ordinance Amendment to Consolidate Building Board of Appeals, Board of Plumbing, Mechanical Board and Electrical Board into a Construction Board of Appeals

Council Member Spitzley noted that she was aware of an issue in the past of obtaining and maintaining members on the multiple building related boards and so this could be a solution to that. Mr. Swan confirmed the multiple boards are not utilized often, it is hard to obtain volunteers so this is an effort to consolidate and utilize one Construction Board of Appeals. It was also noted that this new board would meet quarterly. Council Member Hussain asked how membership would be determined and who would be the members. Mr. Swan stated it follows PA 230, and uses the language established from the State Construction Act on membership. Council Member Spitzley asked if the change will include all different parts of the State Construction Code. Mr. Venker clarified to the Committee that the current ordinance has building code so this ordinance would change it to “construction code” and adopt Michigan Construction Code Act, and they will add in the creation of one Construction Board of appeals and adopt all of the sub codes. Sections of the ordinance this will repeal are 1422, 1424 and 1426. Regarding the earlier question on the makeup of the membership, page 3 of the ordinance noted three (3) design professionals, one (1) residential builder, (1) master or journeyman plumber, (1) master or journeyman electrician and on (1) mechanical contractor. Council Member Betz noted on page 5 it states “shall meet no fewer than four (4) times per year..”, and asked why that is being required. Mr. Swan stated it would not be a requirement but a way to engage the board, work with them more since they are volunteer. Council Member Betz made note that currently it does say “shall”, so that should be considered in the next draft. Council Member Hussain asked what would be the plan for the current members of the current four (4) boards if this is created, and if they would be given another pathway to serve on a board. Mr. Venker informed the Committee that currently with the number of participating members, number of vacancies they anticipate they will be able to utilize them on the new board. Mr. Venker then acknowledged that there had been an exchange of multiple emails with his office (OCA) and EDP and there are a number of provisions with the electrical code and he has not had time to review everything, so he would have a new draft of the document before the Council meeting on August 24, 2020 when they set the hearing. Council Member Spitzley asked what they were adding since it appeared they were repealing 1424.01, 1424.10, 1424.12 and 1424.13. Mr. Venker stated after his review a second time he might find more sections to repeal. Council Member Spitzley stated she was not a fan of setting a public hearing on a document they had not reviewed or approved for a hearing, and asked the Committees opinion on tabling discussion and action until the next Committee meeting. Mr. Swan concurred that there not an immediate urgency for action, and he agreed with her thoughts on seeing a final document before setting a hearing. Council Members Hussain and Betz both concurred with no action until September 1, 2020.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HUSSAIN TO TABLE DISCUSSION AND ACTION UNTIL NEXT MEETING, SEPTEMBER 1, 2020 SO OCA CAN PRESENT THE NEXT DRAFT. ROLL CALL VOTE, MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Other

No other topics of discussion.

Adjourn

Adjourned at 4:03 p.m.

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

Approved by the Committee on September 1, 2020