



MINUTES
Committee on Ways and Means Special Meeting
Friday, September 11, 2020 @ 8:30 a.m.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m.

Members Present via audio/video

Council Member Carol Wood, Chair
Council Member Peter Spadafore, Vice Chairperson
Council Member Brian T Jackson, Member- unexcused

OTHERS PRESENT

Sherrie Boak, City Council Office Manager
Jim Smiertka, City Attorney
Lisa Hagen, Assistant City Attorney

Council Member Spadafore asked the OCA to provide an opinion on if the Council rules and/or Charter address absences or unexcused absences from Committee meetings without a request for recusal or it only applies to Council meetings. Mr. Smiertka stated he would research the question and Council Member Spadafore stated he could provide the response in email if he chooses.

Minutes

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER SPADAFORE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM AUGUST 28, 2020 AS PRESENTED. ROLL CALL VOTE, MOTION CARRIED 2-0.

Public Comment

No public present at this time.

Council Member Wood stated at 8:46 a.m. the Committee will pause the meeting for a moment of silence for 911 remembrance.

Discussion/Action

DISCUSSION- Fiscal Year 2021/2022 Budget Priorities

Council Member Wood turned the discussion over to Council Member Spadafore. Council Member Spadafore looked for a reexamination on how the Information Technology budgets are allocated. Mr. Smiertka added that the Committee should look at other departments as well. Council Member Wood added to the discussion that there are also expenses with rentals such

as vehicles, costs for street lights, etc. Council Member Spadafore added to the discussion his question as to why it would cost approximately \$8,000 per employee for Information Technology, he then presented his suggested budget priority:

Encourage the Administration to focus in on budget allocations and centralize the fees and costs associated with items such as Information Technology, utilities, etc.

The Committee was encouraged with this task because it would create transparency and an understanding of the budget when departments have to set their costs annually for their budget proposals.

Council Member Wood proposed a budget priority asking for language that would recommend the Chief Strategy Officer provide reporting on short and long term resolution for revenues and expenses. Council Member Spadafore concurred with the recommendation.

Council Member Wood asked that the Finance Director be invited to the next meeting to discuss the progress on the RFP Council was told went out for a new auditing firm.

Mr. Smiertka updated the Committee on their request at the last meeting for a report on outside counsel expenses. He stated the OCA would be reviewing it today and then sharing with Finance. He then responded to the earlier request on unexcused absence from Committee meetings, he noted there is a provision on forfeiture of office.

8:46 a.m. Moment of Silence

Mr. Smiertka continued his explanation of Charter 3-204 that spoke to attendance at meetings, that could address compel the appearance of absent members. He added that it could also allow for an ordinance that would require attendance leading to forfeiture of office. He offered to continued researching into the Charter and the Council rules. Council Member Spadafore asked for research on the recourse of unexcused absence.

Other

ADJOURN

Adjourned at 8:50 a.m.

Submitted by,

Sherrie Boak, Council Office Manager

Lansing City Council

Approved by the Committee on September 25, 2020