

**CITY OF EAST LANSING
CITY COUNCIL
WORK SESSION MINUTES
June 26, 2012**

Present: Beard, Loomis, Power, Triplett, Goddeeris

Absent: None

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Goddeeris. The meeting was held in Courtroom #2 of the 54-B District Court, 101 Linden Street, East Lansing.

Item 1 **Communication from Audience**

- None

Item 2 **Approval of the Minutes**

It was moved by Triplett and seconded by Power to approve the minutes of the June 12, 2012 work session.

ALL YEAS
MOTION CARRIED

Item 3 **Administrative Service Agreement**

Amy Schlusler-Owens, Community Development Specialist II, presented a synopsis of the program to fund efforts of low-income artists and the proposed partnership with the Arts Council of Greater Lansing.

It was moved by Goddeeris and seconded by Power to approve the Administrative Service Agreement between the Arts Council of Great Lansing and the City of East Lansing for the July 1, 2012-June 30, 2013 time period.

ALL YEAS
MOTION CARRIED

Item 4 **State Revolving Fund Project Plan and Resolution**

Todd Sneathen, Director of Public Works and Environmental Services, requested approval of the resolution and stated that this has been discussed for 1.5 months.

Goddeeris said that this plan has been thoroughly written and thanked staff.

It was moved by Loomis and seconded by Beard to approve the Resolution for the State Revolving Fund.

ALL YEAS
MOTION CARRIED

Item 5**Safe Routes to School Resolution**

Todd Sneathen, Director of Public Works and Environmental Services, said that the Transportation Commission wanted this item in front of Council because of Council's upcoming intergovernmental meeting with members of the School Board. Sneathen said that moving this plan forward could help obtain grant funding.

Power said that an enormous amount of work has gone into this plan. Power said he wanted to move it to the School Board with Council's support.

Beard said that parents and others have spent time gathering data. Beard said that he and Power agreed to encourage adding this item to the intergovernmental committee agenda.

Goddeeris asked if Council was being asked to support the Action Plan. Sneathen affirmed that it is support of the Action Plan that is being sought.

Beard said he is more comfortable with keeping this item on the table for discussion. Beard said he wanted see what is workable and was unsure that taking a vote is the best way to start the discussion with the School Board

Power said he agreed with Beard.

Item 6**Policy Resolution 2012-2 – Concessionaire Licenses**

Lori Mullins, Community and Economic Development Administrator, said there may be a revised version of the policy at the next meeting. Mullins acknowledged letters of opposition citing competition and litter, and answered questions about license fee structure. Mullins said that the proposed policy will go back to the DDA (Downtown Development Authority) for a recommendation and will be on Council's July 10, 2012 agenda.

Goddeeris said she would like to know if there is an extra burden of trash.

Loomis said that exposure to the elements may discourage vendors.

Item 7**Amendments to the FY 2012 Budget**

Mary Haskell, Director of Finance, said that according to the Uniform Budget Act of Michigan the City is not authorized to spend any money that has not been appropriated by City Council. Haskell said that her job is to budget for the year-end and that we have to take cautionary measures for compliance purposes. Haskell said that projecting end of year is complicated with all of the changes and retirements. Haskell discussed proposed amendments to each of the City's funds and answered questions.

Haskell also discussed the OPEB (Other Post-Employment Benefits) transfer including the pay as you go and pre-funded components.

It was moved by Beard and seconded by Loomis to approve the amendments to the FY 2012 Budget for the General Fund, Major Streets Fund, Parks & Recreation Fund, Prime Time

Seniors Fund, Drug Forfeiture Fund, Library Fund, Capital Improvements Fund and Capital Improvements-Parks Fund in the amount of \$1,424,765.

ALL YEAS
MOTION CARRIED

It was moved by Triplett and seconded by Power to authorize the City Manager in consultation with the Finance Director to transfer by June 30, 2012, an amount to be determined by the City Manager, but not to exceed \$1,425,783 from the Self Insurance Fund to the Retiree Health Care Trust at MERS (Municipal Employees' Retirement System).

ALL YEAS
MOTION CARRIED

Item 8 **Renewal of City's Excess Liability Premiums**

It was moved by Loomis and seconded by Power to approve the renewal of the City's general, property and excess liability insurance premiums for the period beginning July 1, 2012 and to authorize the City Manager to bind coverage.

ALL YEAS
MOTION CARRIED

Item 9 **Policy Resolution 2012-4 – Parks and Recreation Revenues**

Mary Haskell, Director of Finance, said that according to GASB-54 (Governmental Accounting Standards Board) the resolution will stay in effect until Council rescinds it. Haskell said that the separate resolution allows us to report Parks & Recreation funds separately and that the stand alone status allows for rescission if Council should decide to do so.

It was moved by Triplett and seconded by Power to approve Policy Resolution 2012-4; a Resolution regarding the commitment of Parks and Recreation revenues as included in Council's packet.

ALL YEAS
MOTION CARRIED

CITY OF EAST LANSING

POLICY RESOLUTION 2012-4

COMMITMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION FUND REVENUES

WHEREAS, The Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB) has issued Statement No. 54, establishing a hierarchy clarifying the constraints that govern how a government entity can use amounts reported as fund balance; and,

Use Permit processes. Dempsey said that he is working on a system to make sure that miscommunication does not happen again.

Loomis said he is concerned about the process that was followed along with the structural integrity of the building. He said he wants to see engineer drawings and opinions. Loomis requested that Asch send a memo to Council with salient events and points as to why Asch thinks the building has structural integrity.

Power wants a log to show how often inspectors are on site.

Asch said that the role of inspector is not to watch work being done but to check that it has been done properly. Asch said that in the future, steel permits will be issued separately.

Triplett said that the City went beyond reasonable accommodation and that we have to have confidence that the process of diligence is working to ensure safety.

Goddeeris said that Council needs over-assurance for themselves and the community that this structure will not be defective, and that she wants more information and that it will be on Council agenda for further discussion.

Loomis said he does not want to reward the developer for not following the rules.

Dempsey said that he will provide a status update.

Beard asked if there was knowing and willful action.

Lahanas said that he hears the level of concern and that he shares it. Lahanas said that improvements to the process will be made.

Jeffrey Hank, Division Street, spoke regarding City Center II and the St. Anne Project

Item 11 **Cable, Internet and Technology Commission Dissolution**

George Lahanas, City Manager, said that Cable, Internet and Technology Commission dissolution came up during budget discussions. Lahanas said that part of our cost savings is to use Internet Technology employees for court IT support. Lahanas noted that the budget issue, as well as the impact of Public Act 480 of 2006, impacts the purpose of the Commission.

Triplett said that dissolution should not detract from the work of the commission members. Triplett stated that PA 480 took cable regulation out of their hands and that dissolution is responsible given budget concerns.

Lahanas said that he had communicated to members of the Commission the value of their service.

Beard said that the narrow focus of the Commission is public access but the ability to influence certain things is no longer there. Beard said the members of the Commission had

contributed tremendously but duties have changed dramatically with new legislation and the Commission is no longer feasible.

Goddeeris said that the ordinance for dissolution will be on Council's July 10, 2012 meeting agenda.

Item 12 **Street Closure for 900 block of Audubon Road**

It was moved by Loomis and seconded by Beard to approve a street closure for the 900 block of Audubon Road between Northlawn and Saginaw Street on Tuesday, July 24, 2012, from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. for a neighborhood picnic.

ALL YEAS
MOTION CARRIED

Item 13 **Re-appointments to the Downtown Development Authority**

It was moved by Beard and seconded by Triplett to approve correction on the re-appointments of the following commissioners to the Downtown Development Authority for a full term beginning July 1, 2012 and ending July 30, 2016, as opposed to 2015 as was stated during the last meeting, for:

- Eric Rosekrans
- Bill Mansfield
- David Krause
- Gretchen Neisler

ALL YEAS
MOTION CARRIED

Item 14 **Re-appointment of Jacob Horner to HHP**

It was moved by Triplett and seconded by Power to approve the re-appointment of Jacob Horner to the Hometown Housing Partnership, Inc. for a full term beginning July 1, 2012 and ending June 30, 2015.

ALL YEAS
MOTION CARRIED

Item 15 **Orchard Street Pumphouse Ice Cream Social Request**

It was moved by Beard and seconded by Power to approve a street closure request for Chittenden Drive and Linden Street, between Orchard and Kedzie Streets on July 11, 2012, from 5:00 pm. to 8:00 p.m. for their annual Ice Cream Social. Rain date scheduled for July 12, 2012.

ALL YEAS
MOTION CARRIED

Item 16**Councilmember Reports**

Councilmember Power:

- Expressed concern about the “brain drain” associated with recent retirements and whether action of the legislature regarding pension and health care is impacting this.

Councilmember Loomis:

- Provided a reminder that he will not be in attendance during Council’s next meeting on July 10, 2012.

Councilmember Beard:

- No Report

Mayor Pro Tem Triplett:

- Gave kudos to staff, volunteers and sponsors involved with the Summer Solstice Jazz Festival.

Mayor Goddeeris:

- Said that the Housing Commission presented to the Council of Neighborhood Presidents for feedback a draft ordinance to address concern in community on behalf of people who are unable to sell their homes. Goddeeris said that the Housing Commission has come up with some ideas and that an ordinance would be coming to Council by the end of the summer or early fall.

Item 17**City Manager Report**

City Manager George Lahanas:

- Lahanas said that tonight was the last night that the City of East Lansing would be providing dispatch for police and fire because of its transfer to the County. Lahanas said that he and Chief Liebler had had the opportunity to thank dispatchers for their work and that East Lansing had been very well served by the dispatchers.
- Lahanas requested an Executive Session to discuss pending litigation.

Item 18**Adjournment**

It was moved by Triplett and seconded by Power to adjourn to Executive session for the purpose of discussing pending litigation concerning Gallagher, et. al.

Roll Call:

YEAS – Beard, Loomis, Power, Triplett, Goddeeris

NAYS – None

MOTION CARRIED

Council adjourned to Executive session at 9:28 p.m.

Council returned to work session at 9:55 p.m.

It was moved by Beard and seconded by Triplett to adjourn.

ALL YEAS
MOTION CARRIED

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:56 p.m.

Diane Goddeeris
Mayor

Marie E. McKenna
City Clerk