

CITY OF LANSING
CITY COUNCIL MEETING

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
July 11, 2024

Call To Order:

The regular meeting of the Lansing City Council was called to order by Mayor McNeill at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call:

Mayor McNeill called the roll and indicated which Councilmembers were in attendance.

Councilmembers Present:

Ward 1: Gene Kirby and Kevin Gardner

Ward 2: Donald Studnicka and Marcus Majure

Ward 3: Jesse Garvey

Ward 4: Dan Clemons Pete Robinson

Councilmembers Absent: Kerry Brungardt

OLD BUSINESS:

The Regular Meeting minutes of June 20, 2024, were provided for review.

Councilmember Garvey made a motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of June 20, 2024, as presented. Councilmember Clemons seconded the motion. No discussion took place.

Roll Call Vote: Aye: Councilmembers Majure, Garvey, Robinson, Clemons, Studnicka, Gardner, and Kirby; Nay: none; Abstain: none; Absent: Councilmember Brungardt; The motion was approved.

Audience Participation:

Presentations:

COUNCIL CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA ITEMS:

Comprehensive Plan Amendments

A Vision for Tomorrow: Lansing 2030 Comprehensive Plan was adopted in December 2014. Since then, the Comprehensive Plan has not been updated. State statute directs the planning commission to review or reconsider the plan in part or whole, and may propose amendments, extensions or additions to the same. Staff is proposing to review the plan in stages, beginning with a revision of Section 1: Introduction, select maps and tables, and an update to the Implementation strategy found in Section 6: Funding, Statutes and Implementation.

Councilmember Robinson made a motion to approve and adopt the amendments to A Vision for Tomorrow: Lansing 2030 Comprehensive Plan. Councilmember Kirby seconded the motion. No discussion took place.

Roll Call Vote: Aye: Councilmembers Majure, Garvey, Robinson, Clemons, Studnicka, Gardner, and Kirby; Nay: none; Abstain: none; Absent: Councilmember Brungardt; The motion was approved.

Executive Session – Economic Development

Councilmember Studnicka made a motion to go into Executive Session for the preliminary discussion of Economic Development activities, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(4) for 15 minutes, beginning at 7:04 PM and returning to the Council Chambers at 7:19 PM and to include the

Governing Body, City Administrator, and Economic Development Director. Councilmember Kirby seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Aye: Councilmembers Majure, Garvey, Robinson, Clemons, Studnicka, Gardner, and Kirby; Nay: none; Abstain: none; Absent: Councilmember Brungardt; The motion was approved.

Councilmember Kirby made a motion to return to Open Session at 7:19 PM. Councilmember Robinson seconded the motion. No binding action was taken.

Roll Call Vote: Aye: Councilmembers Majure, Garvey, Robinson, Clemons, Studnicka, Gardner, and Kirby; Nay: none; Abstain: none; Abstain: none; Absent: Councilmember Brungardt; The motion was approved.

REPORTS:

Department Heads: Lansing Community Library Director Wojtalewicz updated the council that the library will begin receiving the accreditation grant.

City Attorney: Absent.

City Administrator: We're adding two new departments next year. We're looking to begin advertisements for two managerial level positions hopefully by tomorrow afternoon. We're going to advertise for a Pool Manager a.s.a.p. We'd like that person to be in place during the construction process so they can be familiar with the building, the pool, and everything. We've been talking with Coach Bresser a little bit about the type of person we should be looking for. He's been very helpful in that process. The Pool Manager position will be advertised very soon. We're also looking to advertise for the Fire Chief position. As you guys know, the current city policy is when there is an opening, we open that up to internal candidates for the first week. We would consider folks from Fire District 1 as internal candidates. So, we'll leave it open for about a week and a half just for internal guys to express interest in that job. I don't know if you guys are super passionate about having a work session on July 25. We don't really have anything super pressing on that work session agenda. We could push that back to the August work session. The one thing that we were looking at doing that we're hearing from other cities...with the World Cup coming to Kansas City and possibly the Royals or the Chiefs coming to this side of the border, it sounds like a lot of cities are updating the rules for Airbnb's and VRBOs. I think that's something that we should probably begin to at least talk about and look at. See if the city needs to be involved in that. If you guys are okay with that, we can schedule that for the August work session. Then you guys will be free for the last Thursday of July.

Councilmember Studnicka: Sounds good.

City Administrator Vandall: One thing that came up last week during all the fourth of July festivities. There was a little bit of confusion with some of our fireworks vendors...whether or not tents were allowed, whether tents have ever been allowed. The way the current city code reads, it does give permission for a temporary structure with three walls to sell fireworks.

Councilmember Garvey: The word temporary is not in there.

City Administrator Vandall: We'll double check. I think current staff interpreted that differently that staff that departed three to four years ago. If it makes that whole process easier and cleaner, I don't think we have any objections if we just say, "Fireworks cannot be sold out of a tent." That would certainly make it less nebulous. If that makes it a little clearer. We can update the city code to add a statement like that if you want and bring that back to you.

Mayor McNeill: What is the purpose? I think we should always have a purpose. Selling it out of a trailer where you flip the side up or selling it out of a tent. What's the difference? All these codes should have a purpose.

Councilmember Garvey: There was a fire ten years ago in this town in a fireworks stand. A fireworks stand was in a tent and caught on fire, and they changed the code.

Mayor McNeill: Whatever we do, look up the reasoning on why we made that a code. It doesn't make a whole lot of sense to me.

City Administrator Vandall: I can bring this back for a work session if that's better. I just brought this up because it does seem like it wasn't clear. I think we had one of our long-term vendors frustrated, and we were genuinely...

Councilmember Garvey: A long-term vendor was forced to give up their tent and build a structure on a trailer because they were told they couldn't sell out of a tent anymore. Then we allow tents in the city to sell fireworks.

Mayor McNeill: I can see how you'd be frustrated.

City Administrator Vandall: And to clarify, that fire and if that discussion took place...that discussion took place 15 years ago. Prior to almost the entire staff. So, when we were told that there was this rule outlawing tents, we spent staff time looking through old minutes and old ordinances. We couldn't find anything that said no tents or anything like that. As you guys have been talking, I've trying to pull up the code on my phone to see if it does use the word "temporary" or not. I wasn't fast enough, but I will try to find that. For some reason I thought it said temporary structures were okay. I will look at that and try to double check. In know a few of you guys were aware of those discussions last week. Like I said, city staff is on it and aware of the complaint. We're fine bringing items for you guys to review and consider.

Councilmember Robinson: I am not aware of the complaint. Can you share that with us?

City Administrator Vandall: It was the vendor who was one of our longer-term vendors. They thought somebody from the city supposedly told them 14 or 15 years ago that we would not allow fireworks to be sold out of tents. I don't have a record of that. But the Chief did remember there was some type of fire at a fireworks tent on Main and Emile 14 or 15 years ago. We couldn't find anything in the code that says no tents. So, our inspector interpreted that temporary structure is okay to mean tents are okay as a temporary structure. That went against what this fireworks vendor was told 15 years ago by somebody that's been gone for years and years. So, again, I think it was more confusion. I just brought it up to add clarity. Because again, we want to be fair across the board. The way the code was written all of those years ago, it did create a little bit of confusion. Some people might consider a temporary structure a tent. Some people might not consider it one.

Councilmember Garvey: 7-503(b) says, "No fireworks shall be sold from any other structure other than a three-sided building with a roof. Building shall be considered so as not to grant immediate or

unrestricted access to the interior thereof by customers. Said building may be permitted or temporary structure. If permitted, the building must meet all building code requirements and must pass a safety inspection by the city inspector prior to the retail sale of fireworks. If temporary, the building must pass a safety inspection by the city inspector prior to the retail sale of fireworks." You could interpret that any way.

City Administrator Vandall: Again, that's the goal is to just make sure it's clear, so we don't have this situation again. I don't want you guys getting calls Saturday morning either. Again, I think that lead to a little bit of confusion.

Mayor McNeill: Yeah, we can put that on a work session.

Councilmember Robinson: We need to specify a better policy.

City Administrator Vandall: We'll talk about Airbnb's and fireworks tents. A couple other things really quick. Really proud of the job Ken Miller does with our city's social media and Lansing Connection and YouTube page and all of that. If there's ever city events or anything coming up, be sure to "like" those city photos. Share them if it's certain events. Things like that. That would be helpful in getting the word out on things. We always appreciate it when you guys do that. Community and Economic Development Director Gentzler and I are still talking to folks about residential development. And we are still hoping to have a RHID resolution on the agenda at a future meeting. It sounds like I don't think anything will be ready for this upcoming meeting, but hopefully one of the meetings in August. If you guys remember, we did that work session that talked about RHID a few months ago. Basically, that could rebate the increase in property taxes in a new subdivision back to the developer to offset their costs. In theory, that could lower home prices a little bit and hopefully spark some residential development. The hang-ups that we're hearing right now from developers is they're not able to make an agreement with some of the landowners in town. I think some of the landowners in town are passionate about their land and want to be sure they sell the land for what they want to sell it for. That's their right. Some of these builders that we're talking to are trying to make an agreement on some parcels. They just haven't made it there yet. That's been delayed slightly. Lastly, just want to give a big shoutout to Josh and his team. Great fireworks event. They did a spectacular job. Just really thankful for those guys. Also, Councilmember Majure, I really enjoyed working with you. It's been a pleasure. You will be missed.

Governing Body:

Councilmember Garvey: It's been a pleasure serving with you, Councilmember Majure. I wish you well. The fireworks display was awesome. Great time out there. All the vendors were lined up just how they had to be. Everything was perfect out there. Until the end. Then it was the typical juggernaut of traffic getting out. Honestly, if I was to rate it, it wasn't any better than leaving Kenneth Bernard Park leaving the high school. I don't think it was. Once you left the high school and got up to the four-way stop, they had the road blocked so people couldn't go north. People were stopping at the stop sign.

Mayor McNeill: You got out at the... when I got out, they made us turn south. Then all the cars that had parked along that road to watch the fireworks, you were kind of just squeezing in between there. You had to go down to McIntyre and over. I'm not sure what the road thing was, but it's always difficult to get people in and out of any place like that. I was just a little confused going south.

Discussion continued regarding how traffic was directed at the end of the event.

Councilmember Garvey: The city did a great job. CED Director Gentzler, your team is awesome. I saw everybody out there working really hard. Discussion continued regarding the city's UTV's.

Councilmember Robinson: Just a couple weeks before, we had the event at Ten and Two. We had the concert. A lot of the Lansing residents, especially my neighbors, told me what a great time that was. You throw in the 4th of July, and we're really bringing the community together. It was just a great experience at the 4th of July, the fireworks especially. But all the different events and vendors for cooking. I just got a lot of great compliments from my neighbors and some of the residents in our ward. We're going to miss you, Councilmember Majure. Library, thank you for everything you do. Thank you to all the staff. We are blessed to have such great employees.

Councilmember Clemons: Want to echo on the 4th. I heard from the American Legion flag line that they may want to change locations next year. But everybody loved it. They loved the food. They loved the area. They thought the fireworks were great. Nothing but kudos. Congratulations to Library Director Wojtalewicz on your achievement. Shout out to Finance Director Sanford. Councilmember Majure, I appreciate your counsel, your mentorship, and your friendship.

Councilmember Studnicka: On the fireworks, nothing but compliments. Citizens called me later and said what a great venue it was, and they had a really good time out there. Always kudos to the library. Councilmember Majure, it's been working with you. Going to miss you, and the ward's going to miss you. Good luck to you in whatever you do after.

Councilmember Gardner: Library Director Wojtalewicz, congratulations on your work. PIO Miller, the communications here are continually updated. People not only have one or two areas where they can find out what's going on, but several now because of the work you've done over the last 15 years. As fast as you get the information out is a blessing for the whole city. Councilmember Majure, it's been an honor and a privilege.

Councilmember Kirby: Congratulations to Library Director Wojtalewicz. CED Director Gentzler, I think the location is the best location we've had. Parked all the food trucks on solid ground. It was raining that morning, and I was worried. But that setup worked out very well. Thanks to City Administrator Vandall. You talk about communicating with the staff, and I have found the staff, the department heads, always ready to sit down with you and let you know what's going on. Councilmember Majure, you're going to leave. It's been a pleasure sitting next to you. We'll miss you and hopefully get your seat filled. Thanks, and good luck.

Mayor McNeill: I left it to Councilmember Majure for last. We said farewell to you. I'm opening it up to say some remarks.

Councilmember Majure: This is my last one. I'm smiling and excited because we've been so successful. I use the word "We" in all caps. We have been successful. It's truly been an honor and privilege to serve with each and every one of you to include our past, and our present, and our Dave Trinkle. Huge impact. With that being said, City Administrator Vandall, you lead an incredible staff. You have to endure my compliments all the time, and compliments to all the staff. This goes out to all our city staff, our first responders, our police and all of our police that are out there, our fire, EMTs, Beth, and Terri, and Josh, and Ken, and Tony, and Mike, our City Council, our Mayor... I know I'm leaving some off, but it's truly been an honor and a privilege to be able to be up here to serve with all of you and serve our community and make great things happen. The only reason I did this was to try to make a positive difference in our lives. I ran a campaign objective on just a few things, and we did them. I give me an A- on the Town Centre because we are still working that one.

But we've done great things on it. The rest of it, I give A+. We've got roads. We've got curbs. We did rock. We got sewage going all across. We got water running. We got businesses coming in. We've got a pool going in. We finished the parks and rec, and things are happening. Fiber optics, 5G, and list goes on and on. And we did all these things of which there was a year, year and a half of COVID. It really slowed us down, but it didn't slow the city down. This city is truly a city with a future. It can't be done, Mayor, without you and all these leaders.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilmember Majure made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Garvey seconded the motion. No discussion took place.

Roll Call Vote: Aye: Councilmembers Majure, Garvey, Robinson, Clemons, Studnicka, Gardner, and Kirby; Nay: none; Abstain: none; Absent: Councilmember Brungardt; The motion was approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:46 PM.

ATTEST:



City Clerk Tish Sims, CMC