

Call To Order:

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

Roll Call:

Mayor Mike Smith called the roll and indicated which councilmembers were in attendance.

Councilmembers Present:

Ward 1: Dave Trinkle and Gene Kirby
Ward 2: Andi Pawlowski and Don Studnicka
Ward 3: Jesse Garvey and Kerry Brungardt
Ward 4: Tony McNeill and Gregg Buehler

Councilmembers Absent:

OLD BUSINESS:

Approval of Minutes: Councilmember Brungardt moved to approve the regular meeting minutes of May 18 2017, as presented. Councilmember Studnicka seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Audience Participation: Mayor Smith called for audience participation and there was none.

Presentation: Lansing High School Valedictorian: Mayor Smith recognized Holden Giefer for his academic achievements in being named the 2016-2017 Lansing High School Valedictorian.

COUNCIL CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA ITEMS:

Ordinance No. 978 – Imposing 0.45 Percent Sales Tax: Councilmember Buehler moved to adopt Ordinance No. 978 as presented. Councilmember Pawlowski seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Structure Removal Cost Share Request – 1104 South Main Street: Councilmember McNeill moved to approve the structure removal cost share application with the bid from Frederick Contracting for the structure located at 1104 South Main Street. Councilmember Studnicka seconded the motion.

- Councilmember Kirby stated I was kind of one of the big ones when I came on about trying to get areas in the City cleaned up. What I had in mind was neighborhoods where people lived, not businesses. That was my intent I don't know how anybody else feels and I'm not anti-business, so let's not go down that road. I represent and live in the old part of town and that's where I see the biggest problems and biggest issues. I realize that this is visible as soon as you pull into town, but it's certainly not what I thought we were going to do with this money, and that's what I have to say about it.
 - Councilmember Garvey stated I agree, I mean I know the nursery has been for sale in the past and probably going to be for sale again, so if he sells it and makes money based on the house being torn down, then he's making money off of tax dollars. Does that makes sense? That's my opinion.
 - Councilmember Studnicka stated that's a stretch.
 - Councilmember Garvey asked you think that's a stretch, really?
 - Councilmember Studnicka stated I think that it's a stretch in the fact that we're cleaning up a blighted part of town, okay, whether it's a business or whether it's a residential area we're cleaning up a blighted part of the town. So then later on the owner of that property sells it, whether it be a house or whether it be a business, what's the difference if they're going to make money on sales tax dollars anyway.
 - Councilmember Garvey stated and I believe that if we had, we should have thought about this clearly when we posed this, that if the property owner sells the property within five years of being torn down that they should have to pay back a portion or something like that.
 - Councilmember Studnicka stated I don't think that's in our current policy.
 - Councilmember Garvey replied it's not and that's what I'm saying, we should have thought it through in the beginning.
- City Inspector Rebecca Savidge stated there are residences right next door to this property. This is only one of a list of eight that I put out earlier this year that are residences. Another one of them is on Main Street that probably will be sold for commercial once the house is gone.
 - Councilmember Trinkle stated you've got to start somewhere.
 - City Inspector Rebecca Savidge stated I will also say that if you look at those bids it is considerably lower and the only reason I can explain that is because it's being done as a favor. If we did it through the condemnation process we're looking at up to eleven thousand dollars. So this fifteen hundred, I mean that's how I weighed it out and that was one that was identified when we started this.

- Councilmember McNeill stated they have to volunteer to do it with us right and then when they say they'll do it with us, then we can't now go back and go well this is part of your business property that you bought that you had this ugly house on, I mean we can't go backwards and say that. I mean they've offered to do it, part of our plan said that we'll help you do it if you tear them down. It's listed as one of the homes that's a blight, its right when you come in or out of town, so I don't see any issue.
 - City Administrator Tim Vandall stated I guess one thing that I'll add to what Don had said, this is a property that twenty thousand people drive by every day that represents Lansing and it looks terrible. Secondly, if we go through the condemnation process, that process takes months and months and months, and you're dealing with getting permission from a Judge to enter the property, or dealing with a lot of legal issues and you're probably going to have a property owner who's going to fight you every step of the way. This is a kind of way to work together and like you guys said earlier, the price is a lot less than what we were originally expecting too.
- Councilmember Brungardt stated bottom line is we have a policy, we can't change the policy part of the way through because we have a differing view point, I mean that's just not how it works, it wouldn't be fair.
- City Inspector Rebecca Savidge stated I just want to say the one on North Main is coming in about a week or two, they are trying to get their second bid, and it is the same exact thing, it's going to be sold a commercial property because that's what it's zoned and it's a blight and we want it gone.
 - Councilmember McNeill stated there are several, some on Main Street, there are all kinds of little homes out there that nobody's in.
 - Community & Economic Development Director Stefanie Leif replied that is the minority that is on our list, really only a couple of them are commercial properties, the majority are residential in residential neighborhoods, so it is a mix, but the majority are residential.
 - Councilmember Brungardt stated we did not specify residential or business, so I mean that's what I'm getting at.
 - City Administrator Tim Vandall stated I think we even showed you guys a picture of this house when we talked about it.
 - Councilmember Garvey stated and I questioned this at the original meeting because Councilmember Pawlowski though Kevin owned it because she thought he owned the nursery; me and her had the discussion, but Keen owns it because he still owns the nursery, the land.
 - Councilmember Pawlowski stated like Kerry said, this is our policy and, like it or not, we have the option of changing it after this meeting if we feel like we need to make some tweaks to the policy since we've had this one brought forward, and I think we probably should do that. The other thing is that these properties have all been a problem for a number of years and have been dealt with or not dealt with, which is a separate issue, but I know Don's talked about it, Gene's talked about it, I think that Tim and the staff felt like this was a way to try and hurry, because I wasn't in favor of the policy at all but Tim convinced me that it is a way to hurry them up, probably save us money in the long run without having to go to court. So I'm torn but I would like to see it off Main Street, it's an eyesore.

The motion was approved, with Councilmember Kirby voting against the motion and Councilmember Garvey abstaining from the vote.

Executive Session – Economic Development: Councilmember Buehler moved to recess into executive session for economic development purposes to discuss confidential data relating to the financial affairs or trade secrets of corporations, partnerships, trusts, and individual proprietorships for 45 minutes, beginning at 7:12 p.m. and returning to the Council Chambers at 7:57 p.m. Councilmember Pawlowski seconded the motion. The motion was approved, with Councilmember McNeill voting against the motion.

Councilmember Studnicka moved to return to open session at 7:57 p.m. Councilmember Pawlowski seconded the motion. The motion was approved, with Councilmember Trinkle voting against the motion.

REPORTS:

Department Heads: Department Heads had nothing to report.

City Attorney: City Attorney had nothing to report.

City Engineer: City Engineer had nothing to report.

City Administrator: City Administrator Tim Vandall stated that the bill for the special election came in about six to seven thousand dollars less than anticipated, so that was good news. He also brought up scheduling for a strategic planning meeting for the future. The last one the City participated in was done on a Saturday morning for about four hours. Tim asked the Council if that would be doable again and he'll forward out possible dates in the future to get it on everyone's calendars. Tim briefed the Council on the County's current design plans for McIntyre Road and discussed with the Council what add-alternate items they would like to have considered in the design and bid process. Through discussion, the Council identified the sewer sleeve and additional asphalt to approach the County with in regards to add-alternate items for the project. It was also mentioned that at this time the County and City still do not have a Memorandum of Understanding for the project and that maintenance of the roadway needs to be clearly stated in that document.

Governing Body: Mayor Smith advised that he will not be at the next meeting and Council President Gene Kirby will preside over that meeting.

Councilmember Garvey asked about a camper that was parked in Wyndham Hill and has someone living in it. He asked if that was allowed.

- Community & Economic Development Director Stefanie Leif and Police Chief Steve Wayman advised that the City Code allows for the parking of the camper for a timeframe of seven days and then the item must be removed. They also stated that the Code doesn't address occupancy of the unit, but they could not determine someone was living in it, but also mentioned that the Officer who went out to the location and spoke with the camper owner advised the person of the Code and the camper owner said they were leaving the next day.

Councilmember Buehler provided a fun fact, on this day in 1967, the Beatles released Sergeant Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band.

Councilmember Trinkle sent his well wishes to the valedictorian Holden Giefer.

ADJOURNMENT: Councilmember Trinkle moved to adjourn. Councilmember Pawlowski seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

ATTEST:

Michael W. Smith, Mayor

Sarah Bodensteiner, City Clerk