

# CITY OF LANSING

## CITY COUNCIL MEETING

MEETING MINUTES  
August 17, 2023

### 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:** Don Studnicka

**Ward 3:** Jesse Garvey

**Ward 4:** Dan Clemons and Gregg Buehler

**Absent:** Marcus Majure and Kerry Brungardt

## OLD BUSINESS:

Approval of Minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 3, 2023, as presented.

**Councilmember Garvey made a motion to approve Regular Meeting Minutes of August 3, 2023, as presented. Councilmember Buehler seconded the motion. No discussion occurred. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Councilmembers Gardner, Kirby, Garvey, Buehler, and Clemons. Nay: none; Abstain: Councilmember Studnicka; Absent: Councilmembers Brungardt and Majure. The motion was approved.**

Council Member Marcus Majure arrived at 7:04pm.

### Audience Participation:

**Janet Campbell**, Covington Woods Apartments, stated she was called into the apartment manager's office and accused of misrepresenting her electric bill to the council. Ms. Campbell also spoke with the head of the state housing, who was told by the apartment manager that Ms. Campbell was confused and that she had run emergency heat. When she ran her air conditioning for the first time this year, she had to shut the a/c system off at the breaker because it was blowing hot air in her apartment. She was advised by the technician that came out when she had her \$600 bill that it would reset the system. She went on to discuss the unmown grass, potholes, and no repairs to the heating/air conditioning system. She provided her electric bills from the last two years for reference to City Clerk Tish Sims.

**Marjo Anderson**, 900 4-H Rd, stated on a Saturday 4-5 weeks ago that she found a dead deer in her yard. She did not believe it would be considered an emergency and waited to call until the following Monday. The coyotes and vultures had already scavenged on the carcass. The officers that responded stated that there was nothing that could be done as it was on her property. She was frustrated that there was no ordinance or code to address the removal of wild game from residents' properties that had been killed by a vehicle.

**Police Chief Steve Wayman** responded that any citizen that finds a dead animal on their property should consider it an emergency and get in touch with the appropriate entity as soon as possible. He clarified that any animal that has been left to decompose and then scavenged by other wildlife for two days in the summer heat is not going to be removable. He emphasized again to the council that immediate action is available if notified quickly and that there is also a non-emergency number available to the public.

The mayor and council discussed possible options to address removal of wild animal carcasses on private property.

**Presentations:**

**Countywide Transportation Study Update**

Jeff McKerrow from Kimley-Horn will present an update on the final product of the Countywide Transportation Study and outline the next steps to put the plan into practice. Mr. McKerrow discussed the final steps and the adoption of this plan as a guidance document for the city. It would not be a binding statement, but it would set priorities that carry some weight. He discussed the process and grant options available based on the results of the study. Mayor McNeill asked for the list of priorities ranked in the survey. Mr. McKerrow responded that it was available online. Councilmember Clemons and Mr. McKerrow discussed the #1 priority on the list and the differences between the K5 and Eastern Gateway.

**Mayor McNeill recognized Representative David Buehler in the audience.**

**Fire Grounds Operations Presentation**

FD #1 Chief Michael Stackhouse will present a discussion on what happens during a structure fire and the personnel needed.

**Rob Gaslin** with the Board of Trustees for Fire District #1 gave a brief introduction regarding the hiring process involved with choosing the Fire Chief.

**Chief Michael Stackhouse** presented regarding Fire Ground Operations and the personnel requirements associated with structure fires. He also reviewed with Councilmember Gardner the decision process on sending personnel into a structure fire. Councilmembers Majure, Garvey and Clemons discussed with Chief Stackhouse the incentives and recruiting options to fill the vacancies indicated in the presentation and the length of time of the vacancies.

**Becky Gordon**, 102 S 3<sup>rd</sup> Ct, requested permission to ask Chief Stackhouse questions regarding the hiring ages, starting wage, and requirement for experience or if training would be provided.

**COUNCIL CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA ITEMS:**

**Valley Drive Storm Sewer Rehabilitation Project 2023-03**

Lexeco and Linaweaver submitted bids to be opened on August 9, for the Valley Drive Storm Sewer Rehab project. Staff recommends acceptance of the base bid plus alternates 1 & 2. Alternate 3 would require securing an additional easement and staff recommends that alternate 3 not be accepted.

**Councilmember Buehler made a motion to accept the base bid, alternate #1 & #2, and award the Valley Drive Storm Sewer Project to Linaweaver Construction \$359,665 with a 5% construction contingency. Councilmember Garvey seconded the motion.** Public Works Director Spickelmier clarified for Councilmember Clemons that the bid addressed an identified stormwater problem that was temporarily fixed last year. Discussion continued regarding a separate failure that was found at 4-H and K7 that would be addressed separately. Councilmember Garvey asked Director Spickelmier to elaborate on the repair process for the project. **Roll Call Vote: Aye: Councilmembers Studnicka, Gardner, Kirby, Majure, Garvey, Buehler, and Clemons. Nay: none; Abstain: none; Absent: Councilmember Brungardt. The motion was approved.**

**Resolution B-3-2023**

Upon review and presentation, all government entities who participated in the Countywide Transportation Study are being asked to formally accept the Study.

**Councilmember Clemons made a motion to accept Resolution B-3-2023, a resolution to accept the Countywide Transportation Study. Councilmember Buehler seconded the motion. No discussion occurred. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Councilmembers Studnicka, Gardner, Kirby, Majure, Garvey, Buehler, and Clemons. Nay: none; Abstain: none; Absent: Councilmember Brungardt. The motion was approved.**

**REPORTS:**

**Department Heads:** Nothing to discuss.

**City Attorney:** Nothing to discuss.

**City Administrator:** Representative Proctor and Senator Pittman reached out to the city about ideas for the existing LCF property. Mr. Vandall asked the council to let him know if they had any to pass along. He explained that the Old Missouri Penitentiary was being used as a template. He and Councilmember Garvey discussed previous interactions regarding LCF properties. He continued by stating that the city appreciated being asked to contribute to the plan. Following that, Mr. Vandall noted that Lansing was the first in Leavenworth County to participate in the Dolly Parton Imagination Library Program two years ago. He explained that the entire state took up the program and congratulated Lansing Community Library Director Terri Wojtalewicz. The Sales Tax Rate rollout that was coordinated with the state of Kansas did not go as smoothly as hoped. TSC, Harbor Freight, and QuikTrip caught the increase, but our smaller businesses did not know about it until a month afterward. They have asked for reimbursement of the difference for little over a month. Discussion continued with the council and the mayor regarding the cost of reimbursement. Mr. Vandall wished he had reached out to local businesses. The city was told that since people submitted their sales tax reports to the state, that the state had some type of mechanism to let those businesses know that the sales tax rate had changed. Finally, he asked for volunteers from the council regarding committees to review the RFPs for IT options for the city and a new official city bank. Councilmembers Kirby and Clemons volunteered to sit on the committee for the IT RFPs. Councilmembers Majure and Studnicka agreed to join the committee for the bank RFPs.

**Governing Body:**

**Councilmember Studnicka:** stated that the transportation issue for dismissal from Lansing Middle School needed to be addressed. He shared his own experience dealing with the traffic that blocked lanes of Main Street. He believed it may be because of the school district's new busing policy. He and City Administrator Vandall discussed reaching out to the school district and district transportation department as well as coordinating with the Lansing Police department.

**Councilmember Gardner:** Thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and thanked Director Wojtalewicz for her work regarding the Dolly Parton book program.

**Councilmember Kirby:** No notice was given to residents on E. Beth regarding installation of Clearwave Fiber, and it caused road access issues for the residents. Discussion continued between Mayor McNeill, City Administrator Vandall and Councilmember Kirby regarding permits and notifications to residents.

**Councilmember Majure:** Thanked those that presented. He also expressed his concerns about the vacant active-duty positions in Fire District #1. He continued by stating that we as a city would dedicate time and energy to put toward helping recruit.

**Councilmember Garvey:** Thanked those that presented. Congratulated Director Wojtalewicz on the reading program.

**Councilmember Buehler:** Thanked everyone for coming. Recognized Representative Buehler. Congratulated Director Wojtalewicz. On this day in 1977, Elvis Presley died of an overdose at age 42.

**Councilmember Clemons:** Reminded everyone about the fires in Maui and those affected by them. He then asked to speak to City Administrator Vandall after the meeting regarding code enforcement questions. Lastly, on this day in 1955, he was born.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**Councilmember Clemons made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Studnicka seconded the motion.** No discussion took place. **Roll Call Vote: Aye: Councilmembers Studnicka, Gardner, Kirby, Majure, Garvey, Buehler, and Clemons. Nay: none; Abstain: none; Absent: Councilmember Brungardt. The motion was approved.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:22p.m.

**ATTEST:**

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City Clerk Tish Sims, CMC