

# CITY OF LANSING

## CITY COUNCIL MEETING

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
March 18, 2021

---

### 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 Dave Trinkle

**Ward 2:** Don Studnicka and Marcus Majure

**Ward 3:** Jesse Garvey and Kerry Brungardt

**Ward 4:** Ron Dixon and Gregg Buehler

### Councilmembers Absent:

---

Councilmembers were present via Zoom video conference with Councilmember Kirby attending in person.

## OLD BUSINESS:

**Approval of Minutes:** Councilmember Buehler moved to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of March 4, 2021, as presented. Councilmember Studnicka seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

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

**Presentations: Military Saves Month Proclamation:** Councilmember Studnicka read the Military Saves Month proclamation requested by Armed Forces Bank. This proclamation encourages service members to save money and reduce debt for financial security.

**Child Abuse Prevention Month Proclamation:** Councilmember Buehler read the Child Abuse Prevention Month proclamation brought to us by the First Judicial District CASA Association. The proclamations efforts are to make community resources and support available so children can be raised in safe environments.

**Arbor Day Proclamation:** Councilmember Kirby read the Arbor Day proclamation in honor to Lansing being a Tree City U.S.A. April 2, 2021 will be Arbor Day in Lansing with a ceremonial tree be planted at 10:00 am on the northeast corner of 730 First Terrace.

### **COUNCIL CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA ITEMS:**

**Executive Session – Preliminary Discussion of Acquisition of Real Property:** Councilmember Buehler moved to recess into executive session for the preliminary discussion of the acquisition of real property pursuant to K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(6) for 10 minutes, beginning at 7:07PM and returning to the Council Chambers at 7:17PM. Councilmember Studnicka seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Councilmember Studnicka moved to return to open session at 7:17PM. Councilmember Majure seconded the motion. The motion was approved with Councilmember Garvey not voting.

**Executive Session – Consultation with Attorney:** Councilmember Brungardt moved to recess into executive session for the preliminary discussion of the acquisition of real property pursuant to K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(2) for 45 minutes, beginning at 7:19PM and returning to the Council Chambers at 8:04PM. Councilmember Buehler seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Councilmember Studnicka moved to return to open session at 8:04PM. Councilmember Majure seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

## **REPORTS:**

**City Attorney:** City Attorney had nothing to report.

**City Administrator:** City Administrator Tim Vandall brought up discussion of the mask ordinance that is set to expire on March 31<sup>st</sup>. According to the County Health Department, the number of people being

vaccinated is increasing with the number of positive cases decreasing. Leavenworth will not be extending their mask mandate.

- Councilmember Studnicka recommended extending the mask ordinance to the end of April.
  - Councilmember Kirby, Brungardt and Dixon agreed with Councilmember Studnicka.
    - Councilmember Buehler stated he disagreed and is jumping on board with Councilmember Garvey. It's time to allow residents to make their own decisions. After speaking with the Police Chief, we have given zero citations to people for not wearing a mask and have only issued a couple of warnings to residents. Most of the warnings were to businesses where employee weren't wearing masks. It's time to let the residents be responsible and take their health into their own hands.
  - Councilmember Garvey believes we should let it expire. We're starting to open back up nationwide. They are wanting people to get back to normal. Cities may not have mask mandates, but businesses and organizations can make their own rules.
    - Councilmember Majure agreed with Councilmember Garvey and Buehler. The percentage of cases are less. People can wear a mask if they want to but we don't need to mandate it anymore.
      - Councilmember Brungardt stated the CDC is still encouraging masks and maybe the reason our numbers are lower is because of the mask ordinance. We've seen it this far, thirty more days isn't a big deal if it means keeping people safe.
    - Councilmember Dixon stated he thinks we should continue it and we've made great progress in a short period of time. Thirty more days won't hurt anything. It's a minor inconvenience compared to the hardships people have gone through.
      - Councilmember Kirby stated nationwide cases are up 10% in the last week and vaccinations are up 30% in the last week. The schools will continue to have students wear a mask at school. The County Health Department has given just over 10,000 vaccines out of 80,000 residents. He believes they should be given all the time they need to get out as many shots as they can to those who want them.
        - Councilmember Majure responded he isn't telling people they can't wear a mask; we're just saying they don't have to wear one.

Mayor McNeill read a couple of emails he received from residents. Beth Stevenson requested we wait to lift the mandate until every adult has had the opportunity to be vaccinated. Last summer we got the positive numbers down like now, opened everything back up and look at the year we had. She would rather not repeat last year. Susie Jorgeson would like the mask mandate extended until the CDC states they are no longer needed.

- Councilmember Kirby stated he has talked to several businesses on Main Street. They have appreciated we have mandated it because it takes the pressure off of them. They hope we continue it because it is helping them to stay open.
  - Councilmember Garvey asked didn't we get a letter from a business to let it expire.
    - Councilmember Majure stated we did get letter asking to let the mandate expire because they didn't need to be told to wear it.
    - City Administrator Tim Vandall stated they could do a special meeting before the work session on March 23<sup>rd</sup>.
      - Councilmember Brungardt stated he liked that plan.

City Administrator Tim Vandall reminded the Council of the work session on Tuesday, March 23rd and not on Thursday.

**Department Heads:** Department Heads had nothing to report.

**Governing Body:** Councilmember Majure stated Tim and the staff have done a fantastic job and praised our first responders through all this. We are getting there, we're not at the halfway point but we are getting there.

Councilmember Garvey thanked Greg and Tim for their input tonight. He stated this Council will agree to disagree, but we don't argue. We have rational discussions, and he likes that they can do that. He told Matt Schmitz Happy Birthday.

Councilmember Buehler thanked Steve and Tim for their quick responses and info they gave. He also provided a fun fact, on this day in 1992, South Africans voted to rid the country of apartheid.

Councilmember Brungardt agreed with Councilmember Garvey that they don't agree on everything but at the end of the day, we agree to disagree and move on. He thinks our leaders in Washington could learn something from this Council.

Councilmember Kirby thanked the Leavenworth County Health Department. Their vaccination clinic is ran like clockwork. They get people in; they get people out and are doing a fantastic job.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Councilmember Kirby moved to adjourn. Councilmember Studnicka seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

**ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor, Anthony R. McNeill

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk, Sarah Bodensteiner, CMC