

CITY OF LANSING

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
September 3, 2020

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: Gene Kirby and Dave Trinkle

Ward 2: Don Studnicka and Marcus Majure

Ward 3: Jesse Garvey and Kerry Brungardt

Ward 4: Tony McNeill and Gregg Buehler

Councilmembers Absent:

All Councilmembers were present via Zoom video conference.

OLD BUSINESS:

Approval of Minutes: Councilmember Trinkle moved to approve the regular meeting minutes of August 20, 2020, as presented. Councilmember McNeill seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Audience Participation: Mayor Smith called for audience participation and John Dalby, USD 469 School Board President, gave the Council an update on what direction the schools are going in as we start the 2020-2021 school year. First, he acknowledged how great the teachers we have are and they are his heroes. The ROARS plan offered 2 types of learning – in person at school or remote learning at home. The in-person learning is based off a 4-1 week where four days are spent in school and the other day is at home remote learning. The school board didn't go with a 50/50 hybrid model because they didn't feel it gave the kids enough time for in person learning. That 50-50 plan could possibly expand a child's radius of exposure to the virus due to them having to go to daycare, a sitter, or another relatives house on days they aren't in school. In gating criteria discussions with the County Health Department, there will be a lead time of 1-2 weeks if we have to transition from in person learning to all remote learning. If the community is wondering what they can do, there is a shortage in substitute teachers. Most often, substitute teachers are retired teachers and they are now considered high risk, so they have removed themselves as an option. If anyone in the community has time to spare so teachers can go to the doctor, take their own kids to appointments, etc. then please consider being a substitute teacher. This shortage is nationwide, not just in our district. It's also important to enforce at home what is being required at schools like handwashing, mask wearing and social distancing. It's important to keep your kid at home if they are sick. And again, thank a teacher if you get the chance. They are leading our kids into the future.

- Councilmember Kirby asked about social distancing on buses.
 - John Dalby replied it's nearly impossible. We don't have enough buses or time to do routes multiple times. They are trying to put one kid per seat. Kids will be required to wear a mask and have their temperature taken before they get on the bus. Parents have the option to drop their kids off and pick them up if that is a concern.
 - Councilmember Kirby asked what the procedure would be if a kid does have a fever and can't get on the bus.
 - John Dalby responded he doesn't have specific details on that yet. They are still working on how that would be handled. They will not leave a kid at the bus stop though.
 - Councilmember Kirby asked if he knew how many classrooms would not be able to social distance.
 - John Dalby replied out of the rooms he visited at the elementary and middle school the day before, there was one classroom where desks were not 3 ft apart. These desks were larger desks so they took up more square footage but sitting at the desks the kids would be 3 ft apart.

- Councilmember Kirby asked that masks are going to be required at the football games and who is going to enforce it.
 - John Dalby responded that is a KSHSAA policy and we support it. We aren't going to call the police or anything like that if someone is not wearing one but we do need people to comply and do the right thing so these kids can continue to play sports.
 - Councilmember Kirby asked Mr. Dalby to be transparent when we have a student/class quarantined or large number of positive cases and let the community know.
 - John Dalby agreed that information does need to be shared within the rules and laws that exist. The County may already be ahead on that since they have to verify all cases.
- Councilmember Trinkle asked if the bus drivers will be protected.
 - John Dalby replied he believed they would be outfitted with PPE but would follow up on that. They are getting sanitation supplies as well.

Councilmember Trinkle stated it would be good for the City to join forces with the School District to head off rumors. Everyone wants their kids safe so maybe dispelling rumors will help.

Councilmember Brungardt stated across the state many districts are concerned about their State Assessment scores. The State tests given now are more rigorous compared to previous years. Our curriculum had to be rewritten so it was in line with State Assessments. We are still a good school district and our kids show that. Whether our kids continue education through college or enter the workforce, they are successful. The middle school is either at or above the State average with the exception of 7th grade Math.

Councilmember Studnicka stated the schools are doing everything they can to keep the students safe, but we need parents to reinforce requirements like mask wearing and social distancing. He also stated he thought the Superintendent of the schools should be the face man and putting out information. He stated this is great information for the Councilmembers as the main focus going forward should be community safety.

Councilmember Majure thanked John Dalby for coming and thanked all the board members for volunteering. He pointed out teachers are going an extra mile by not only making lesson plans, doing the work but they are also cleaning a lot more. He thanked the teachers for all they are doing.

Presentations

COUNCIL CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA ITEMS:

Ordinance No. 1045 – Standard Traffic Ordinance Adoption: Councilmember Buehler moved to approve Ordinance No. 1045, adopting the 2020 Standard Traffic Ordinance for Kansas Cities, 47th Edition. Councilmember Kirby seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Ordinance No. 1046 – Uniform Public Offense Code Adoption: Councilmember McNeill moved to approve Ordinance No. 1046, adopting the 2020 Uniform Public Offense Code for Kansas Cities, 36th Edition. Councilmember Buehler seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Ordinance No. 1047 – Fine, Bond, Court Fees & Costs Established by Municipal Court

Judge: Councilmember Studnicka moved to approve Ordinance No. 1047, adopting the City of Lansing Municipal Court Fines and Fees Schedule. Councilmember Buehler seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

REPORTS:

Department Heads: City Clerk Sarah Bodensteiner asked the Council if they would prefer to wear polo shirts or suits for their professional photos for the city website. Several Councilmembers voiced an interest in the polo shirts.

City Attorney: City Attorney Greg Robinson had nothing to report.

City Engineer: City Engineer Matt Harding had nothing to report.

City Administrator: City Administrator Tim Vandall let the Council know Public Works Director Mike Spickelmier will brief the Council at the September 24th Work Session on a program to do a cost share for sidewalk repairs. Library Director Terri Wojtalewicz will also give a library update.

Governing Body: Councilmember Buehler thanked John Dalby for coming and keeping the Council updated. He also provided a fun fact, on this day in 1783, the American Revolutionary War ended with the signing of the Treaty of Paris by the United States and Great Britain.

Councilmember McNeill, Studnicka, Trinkle, Majure, and Garvey all echoed Councilmember Buehler's sentiments to John Dalby for coming to the meeting.

Councilmember McNeill thanked Councilmember Majure for asking John to come in and speak. He also welcomed Kerry back.

Councilmember Brungardt stated hats off to all educators in the district. He said it's good to be back and looks forward to being back to work soon.

Councilmember Studnicka stated he would like to hear from the Superintendent on any updates and our concern is community safety.

Councilmember Trinkle reminded everyone about fireworks tomorrow night. He asked that everyone be careful.

Councilmember Kirby let Kerry know it is good to see him. He said the staff, teachers, bus drivers and janitors are putting it on the line right now. He asked everyone to mask up.

Councilmember Majure said it was great to have Kerry back and can't wait to have him back at the school. He thanked the teachers, administrators and all who help facilitate the schools for all they do. He is excited for the fireworks. The Lansing American Legion Post 411 will be doing a flag line at 6:30 at City Hall so honk as you drive by.

Councilmember Garvey commended the school board, the district, and teachers for getting the kids back in school with some sort of normalcy. There are a lot of single income families and they have to go to work and need their kids in school. School is the best place for them. He is looking forward to the fireworks, stating it'll be a great time.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilmember Garvey moved to adjourn. Councilmember McNeill seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

ATTEST:

Michael W. Smith, Mayor

Sarah Bodensteiner, City Clerk