

# CITY OF LANSING

## CITY COUNCIL MEETING

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
June 18, 2020

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### 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

**Councilmembers Absent:** Gregg Buehler

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## OLD BUSINESS:

**Approval of Minutes:** Councilmember Studnicka moved to approve the regular meeting minutes of June 4, 2020, as presented. Councilmember Kirby seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

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

### Presentations

### COUNCIL CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA ITEMS:

**Contract Renewal – The Retail Coach:** Councilmember Kirby moved to authorize the Mayor to sign an extension of the contract with The Retail Coach in an amount not to exceed \$28,000. Councilmember Trinkle seconded the motion.

- Councilmember McNeill asked Matt.
  - Community and Economic Development Director Matthew Schmitz replied yes sir.
    - Councilmember McNeill asked so what are we getting in option year one, this year. This one we're trying to get.
      - Community and Economic Development Director Matthew Schmitz asked what are we getting in year two.
        - Mayor Smith responded this year coming into it.
          - Councilmember McNeill replied option year one.
            - Community and Economic Development Director Matthew Schmitz stated Austin is here from The Retail Coach. I'll let him answer that question.
              - Austin Farmer stated Hi Mayor, Council, it's good to see you again. I'm not sure I understood the question. What are you getting for year two?
                - Councilmember McNeill replied on option year one you did a lot of research analysis. Are we trying to capture in year two?
- Austin Farmer responded absolutely. So, the first twelve months, the bulk of the front end of first twelve months was all of our on the ground analysis so I came to the community three times to get a feel for it. We ran the data, looked at cell phone data, that GPS, all the analytics. That took up about the first four months of our process and then the last half of that plus eight months was the actual recruitment process. So, we've been out talking to retailers, going to conferences, doing all

the recruitment. Year two, all twelve months, is all recruitment. So we're talking to the existing retailers, developers, brokers we've been talking to adding new ones to the mix and then going out and helping represent the City at those big conferences whether that's local, regional, national and then acting as a an extension of the economic development teams specifically for retail. So basically, year two is kind of keeping the momentum going and then just doing all that recruitment. So, we kind of the on the ground team that is doing the day or day follow up with those retailers, developers, and brokers.

- Mayor Smith stated thanks Tony. Any other.
- Councilmember Garvey stated I guess my number one concern is based on the environment with Covid-19 is this going to do any good with new business.
  - Austin Farmer replied oddly enough I think it is. So, one of the things we've seen during Covid is most retailers that were in a good position going into Covid have come out ok. Most of those are kind of where they thought they'd be. The ones that went in that weren't good going into it, kind of the legacy retailers JCPenney, Pier 1 Imports as an example are the ones that have come out on the bottom side. So, they have filed for bankruptcy. A lot of those legacy retailers aren't going to make it out of Covid. Most retailers, most chain restaurants, most chain brands are going to do fine. Most have already seen an uptick. We looked at the cell phone data earlier, most of your local stores are seeing foot traffic increase as of really kind of mid-May. So, we're starting to see them come back into it. A lot of retailers we've been talking to, their planned location essentially got pushed back about 3-6 months. So, anything they were going to do before, most retailers are still doing that, just pushed it back a little bit. And then all their new locations they had slated for 2020 and 2021 have been pushed back as well. So, they're still doing things. They are still looking for markets. We as a company have been getting so much feedback from retailers because all their real estate teams are at home, they're not travelling, they're not looking at sites. So, we actually hired new recruitment staff and doubled our recruitment efforts because we were getting so much feedback from retailers. You'll see a little bit of that in the Executive Session. We have gotten some specific feedback and things like that but we're actually seeing a lot of them in them especially retailers that can't do anything else but plan right now. They are looking at a lot of sites and new locations.
    - Mayor Smith asked anything else Jesse.
      - Councilmember Garvey replied no, that's it.

The motion was unanimously approved.

**Service Agreement – Institute for Building Technology and Safety:** Councilmember Kirby moved to authorize the Mayor to sign the 2-year agreement with the Institute for Building Technology and Safety. Councilmember Trinkle seconded the motion.

- Councilmember McNeill stated I've got quite a few questions.
  - Mayor Smith replied go ahead.
- Councilmember McNeill stated when I read the agreement, it basically had every single box checked off.
  - Community and Economic Development Director Matthew Schmitz responded which means.
    - Councilmember McNeill replied as I read the terms that we will use IBTS exclusively for any of that stuff. That is what it says, I'll read it to you in

paragraph seven. It says during the term of the service agreement, jurisdiction agrees to use IBTS as its exclusive provider of the services selected. So we selected all of them. So I want somebody like maybe, where's our lawyer, make sure that isn't, that I'm not reading into it because it also has an ala carte type where it says you can pick specific tasks that actually fill in any of your services that you want to fill. So my question is what analysis do we do. If it's inspections then we probably should have selected that piece and said we want the ala carte. That's my first question. That is my first issue with it. If somebody can tell me what that means.

- Community and Economic Development Director Matthew Schmitz responded when we had the conversations with Curt Skoog who is the representative with IBTS, the way he explained it me was check all the boxes that you think you may ever need services for. Checking the boxes does not mean you have to utilize those services. The exclusivity piece you are talking about means that we are not going to go to another firm like IBTS and ask them to do those tasks. It means we would go to IBTS if we can not handle it in house. That is how it was explained to me by IBTS.
  - Councilmember McNeill stated yeah I know but that is really not what it says in the contract. I just want that confirmed that maybe you can look at it Greg. The other thing I am trying to figure out is I am trying to read their fee schedule and what it would take, right, if we use them. And I got to build a deck. I come in, I get a permit for \$25 I think it is to build a deck. When it was inspected by the city, they came out twice, once to make sure I put the post in 36 inches down and then when it was completed, they checked it out. Total time maybe 30 minutes between both those inspections. Their fee schedule is \$160. So if we have them inspect the deck, the City nets a negative \$135. If you do that on a hourly basis, that's \$270 it cost us per hour for these guys to come out and inspect a deck. I know I seen in there we can use some of the funding from wherever but bottom line is, its citizen funding, right. I mean we're all paying for this extra amount. So I'd like to see some analysis on if we used them for, whatever we're going to use them for, right, I mean you guys have recommended we use them for things because we need them. So what do we need them for. How much do we need them for. And then do the math on it and say, geez, we could have hired seven people for that, or no that would be like half a man if we actually hired somebody.
- City Administrator Tim Vandall stated I can jump in for a moment of that. If we hired a building inspector, they were on the family plan and with KPERS on top of that with our 2% ICMA contribution and everything, you're probably talking \$70,000 a year. It would be frustrating to spend \$70,000 a year hiring a second building inspector and they sat around the whole time. So I think the thought process here is as things come up, commercial projects or something like that we could utilize these guys for large scale projects. Things like decks, bathroom remodels that could be handled in house. I think the thought process here is allowing the building inspector stay caught up and focus on residential and things like that.
  - Mayor Smith responded Tim, the way I saw it this is just when it's needed. Just because we checked all of them, just gives us the opportunity to go out there if we need something inspected. During winter times, a lot of times there is nothing going on. I understand what Tony is saying about the cost. That probably would be helpful with a little bit more of a break down but I also see what the need is. We got rid of City Inspectors before because of the cost. Tim makes a valid point. Now I think Lansing is going to continue to take off. We're doing great but at the same time I agree with this but

I would like to see some more numbers to clarify a little bit. Something basically like what Tony was saying

- Councilmember McNeill replied well I mean what I am concerned about is we checked all the boxes and if you read the addendum for each one of those services, right, several of them say you can also do ala carte. Right, so you select the task that you specifically want. That is why I am a little worried about selecting them all and say they are exclusive. Because part of it is fire codes, right. Does not the fire department do an inspection.
  - Community and Economic Development Director Matthew Schmitz replied they do.
    - Councilmember McNeill asked so could we have them do it or do we exclusively have to use IBTS.
      - Community and Economic Development Director Matthew Schmitz replied we would continue to have the Fire District do those inspections for us. But this would give us the flexibility that should something change in the availability of that we would have a back up plan we could roll right over to.
- Councilmember McNeill stated I mean the citizens are paying for that already, okay, so that's my point, is financially we've got to look at it by the numbers and like I said if it looks like we only need folks in inspections and something else, okay, well than do the math and say hey lets just pick that ala carte one and then we'll do that, but you know there's some of these services, in my view, could be done by the Planning Commission right? I mean some of the stuff they offer in those nine things are things that the Planning Commission does, which are volunteers, so if we get overcome by the Planning Commission and their timing are we going to hire these guys to review a Plan or Plat, if we do what do we say to the guys who we just had as volunteers on the committee that we're paying somebody else to do something that you do for free. So I've got a lot of issues with the current, as it's laid out.
  - City Administrator Tim Vandall stated the Planning Commission is a group of volunteer citizens, that's their role; these guys would be professionals reviewing. So it would be comparable to Mr. Spickelmier or Mr. Harding. So I just want to clarify, its different levels of review that the Planning Commission would look at, but I think we could go back and talk to these guys and refine more what we're asking and if there's a couple boxes we don't need to check.
    - Councilmember McNeill stated well yeah if we could ask them that first question on the services, like do we have to pick all nine because some of them is Building Green, we're never going to use that one, I don't know, maybe we are. So there are some in there that I'm like if we're going a direction in one of those other ones maybe we don't want to use them because I guarantee we haven't researched anybody else who does it in some of those areas.
      - Community & Economic Development Director Matthew Schmitz stated so the reason we haven't researched anybody else and the reason IBTS is who we presented, was because IBTS has a partnership with Mid-America Regional Council, they are a not-for-profit entity; these costs will go up if we go to a private firm, like BHC Rhodes or somebody like that and ask them to start doing inspection services for example.
        - Councilmember McNeill stated I read the MARC study and the results of that study, and the way I read it says large towns ten thousand or higher typically selected one or two of the services. The smaller towns don't have a staff and some of the smaller towns picked all nine. So then I'm wondering why wouldn't they all just select nine and pick whatever and then I started reading the ala carte part, so did we just pick the whole enchilada when we only might need x and y.
          - Community & Economic Development Director Matthew Schmitz stated the emphasis like I said was to give my

department flexibility, so that was the reason we selected all nine of them when we presented it, but we can certainly go back and re-evaluate that.

- Councilmember McNeill stated I just want to know if it puts us in a box where we can't use somebody to do what we want them to do.
  - Councilmember Brungardt asked why would we want to re-evaluate those services, I don't understand.
    - Community & Economic Development Director Matthew Schmitz replied we can go back and narrow that down and only select building inspections if that is all we believe we are ever going to use this firm for, but like I said, the intention that I had, because I was the one who did all that, I checked all nine of those boxes thinking that if we ever need those services we would already have an agreement in place and be ready to go. That was my thinking, but if that is not what the Council wants then I can certainly go the other way.
      - Councilmember Brungardt stated I see that as proactive.
        - Mayor Smith stated I agree with Kerry, that's the reason to check them all, you may not need to use them, but they are still available to them. And I think the staff would be really cautious on how they spend the taxpayer's dollars, and it's definitely better than hiring more staff at this time.
        - Community & Economic Development Director Matthew Schmitz stated your example of a deck is a great example, I certainly would not want to utilize IBTS to do a deck inspection where I've got to pay that person travel, that \$160.00 that's what it's for, is to cover their time plus their travel, mileage everything; so I don't want to pay somebody to come up here and be here for fifteen minutes. I want to pay somebody to come up here where I need them on a job site for six to seven to eight hours a day because it's a commercial project that's being built, like QuikTrip for example.
          - Councilmember Brungardt stated and we're going to be able to see and hear what you've spent. So if we have a lot of heartburn, the product is overused, then I think we'd do something about it.
          - Councilmember Trinkle stated or we may even have to hire someone, another person.
            - Community & Economic Development Director Matthew Schmitz replied and that's what I would say. If I got to a point where I felt like we were overusing it and it was getting to the point where it was costing the same as what it would to hire somebody, then Tim and I would certainly have that conversation about how to get another person on board rather than continue to pay a contract agency that would cost a lot of money.
              - City Administrator Tim Vandall stated Matt and I have had that conversation too, but we have one subdivision that is bogged down out of our control that we don't know when that's going to kick off. If that was going on

and two or three things were going on we probably would hire another building inspector, but with that kind of in limbo right now, but we do have commercial projects in the pipeline and that's why we felt like this was a good solution.

- Community & Economic Development Director Matthew Schmitz stated right, but you and I have also talked and we definitely agree that what we certainly don't want to do is ask for the authority to hire somebody and then have them sitting there for forty hours a week and only working ten of those forty because I don't have enough work to keep them busy.
  - Councilmember McNeill stated I understand that, that makes total sense.
    - Councilmember Brungardt stated when a project is completed and things settle down, you're not as busy, that's what I would worry about too.
  - Community & Economic Development Director Matthew Schmitz replied certainly, and this agreement gives me flexibility that I can ramp up to take those mountains off of the waves so to speak.
  - Councilmember Trinkle stated who's to say we couldn't have two inspectors if we have two big projects going on, do they have enough to where you could have two, one on one site and one on the other and then you've got one doing residential, if you had to do that, that leaves the option there for us to do that.
    - Community & Economic Development Director Matthew Schmitz replied correct.
  - Councilmember McNeill stated it's actually set up as regional support so in the region of they have enough inspectors then you're correct Dave, if not then you're waiting in line just like everyone else.
- Mayor Smith asked anymore comments on this.
  - Councilmember Studnicka asked the only question I have it what about shared resources. Like if you needed another building inspector to inspect my deck, couldn't we go to Leavenworth and say hey we'll pay your guy or gal whatever the rate is to come out and inspect.
    - Community & Economic Development Director Matthew Schmitz replied so there is some sharing that currently exists between us and Basehor, for example, there have been times where our building inspector will go to Basehor and help cover for them and Basehor's will come up here and cover for ours. Usually that happens during vacation times, that's primarily when that's used, this is more, my thought process behind asking for this agreement is longer term projects when I know I'm going to need an inspector for the next six months and I simply don't have the staff to do that.
- Councilmember McNeill stated I think Basehor actually has signed up for this too.
  - Community & Economic Development Director Matthew Schmitz replied they have.
    - Councilmember McNeill stated I'm more worried about signing up for every service and then us saying hey we have an x number and we signed up for the fire code and these saying hey that's us.
      - Councilmember Trinkle stated but we're not saying you have to use it, it's just saying hey we could possibly need it.

- Councilmember McNeill stated okay so I'm just saying if we get the lawyer to say that paragraph that says you will exclusively use them, and says that's not what it means, okay, I'm good with it.
  - Community & Economic Development Director Matthew Schmitz replied like I said Councilman McNeill from my conversation with Kurt when I asked him, not that exact question, but those types of questions about whether I would have to utilize his services, he told me you would only have to utilize me for what we need. So if you don't need our services the agreement would stay in place but you would never pay us for any of it.
    - Councilmember Kirby stated I think all that Tony's asking for is for Greg to look at the contract, right?
      - Councilmember McNeill replied yeah that part of the contract to make sure that isn't what it says. Because I could see getting sued for something silly like we used the fire department to do a fire code.
        - City Attorney Gregory Robinson stated when I reviewed this is was technically for whether or not is was legally sufficient and it is. My review of the contract is for legal sufficiency, it is legal, can you sign this agreement, yes you can. However, the debate we're having is whether or not the terms are what you would accept. Had I know that that was a question you had prior to tonight's meeting, I could have perhaps had that question answered for you tonight or before the meeting, but it shouldn't take that long to review. But I certainly, I've been flipping through it as you've been talking, and I certainly can appreciate your concern just for clarification purposes.
- City Administrator Tim Vandall stated I was going to say I think we, the thing that is impending right now that we envision this for is commercial projects that are in the pipeline. So do we want to verify this and bring it back in two weeks?
  - Community & Economic Development Department Matthew Schmitz replied we have time, there is nothing that says it's got to be done tonight.
    - City Administrator Tim Vandall stated so if that's the direction we're getting from you guys, that we want to double check that paragraph.
- Councilmember Studnicka stated I agree with Tony, we don't want to lock ourselves in to something. It says in there exclusively use them, so we'll use our guy and then that company turns around and goes wait a minute you were supposed to use us based on this agreement, that's the argument here and I agree with that.
  - Councilmember McNeill stated I'm thinking x now because it probably wouldn't apply to our own employees, the fire department is not our employee.
- Councilmember Brungardt stated so then we get the clarification and vote next time.
  - City Administrator Tim Vandall replied yeah we can bring it back for the next council meeting.
    - Councilmember Kirby stated there is a need because of things like QuikTrip and some of the bigger stuff coming up, the little guys are having to wait days, sometimes to get an inspection, and that's frustrating for the, they want to build and move on, so at times there definitely is a need for some assistance.
      - Community & Economic Development Director Matthew Schmitz replied certainly, and I want to be more proactive about managing that and trying to make sure that doesn't happen.
- Mayor Smith asked is everybody ok with that, we've got a motion and a second, don't we Sarah, so if we go that direction then we'll need to pull that unless we want to vote on it now.
  - City Clerk Sarah Bodensteiner replied we do.
    - Councilmember Trinkle asked so we vote on it for the revision like we did before or we can't do that.
      - Mayor Smith replied no, if we're going to pull it, we need to pull it Dave.
- Councilmember Brungardt asked how pressing is this.
  - Community & Economic Development Director Matthew Schmitz replied it can wait.

- Councilmember Brungardt stated then I say we wait two weeks and bring it back.
  - Community & Economic Development Director Matthew Schmitz replied my suggestion would be to table it until the next meeting.

Councilmember Trinkle withdrew his second.

Councilmember Kirby withdrew his motion.

The motion was withdrawn.

- Councilmember Studnicka asked do we need a motion to table this.
  - Mayor Smith asked Sarah do we need a motion. Let's table this.
    - City Clerk Sarah Bodensteiner replied yes.

Councilmember Kirby moved to table the Service Agreement for the Institute for Building Technology and Safety. Councilmember Trinkle seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

**Withdrawal of Prior Notice of Intent to Terminate:** Councilmember McNeill moved to approve the recession of notice of intent to terminate.

- City Administrator Tim Vandall stated if I could just make a note, on the letter it says December 2019 and it should say December 2018, so just want to make that clarification.

Councilmember Studnicka seconded the motion.

- Councilmember Kirby stated I see that one of our County Commissioner's is here this evening. Is there a reason for your surprise visit, would you like to address us?
  - County Commissioner Jeff Culbertson stated I was just observing, I thought my mask would hide me. I'm just here because Chad couldn't make it, he's attending the High Prairie meeting. If you had any questions, that's why I'm here.
    - Mayor Smith stated I've got one, so I'll direct it towards you, I've been following with interest about the communication and things going on about the, I think the board we've got in place right now is fine. I mean there's going to be some personalities, no doubt about it, but it seems like we're going forward, I would recommend very strongly to the County Commissioners not to take control since we've rescinded this and let's see what happens in the Appeals Court. I think that's the smartest thing to do and just let it keep going. We're not taking anything away from anybody and it just keeps going forward until we see what the Appeals Judge is going to do. I'd strongly like for you all to think about it, I know there are strong feelings, everybody's getting hit up for this item, but I think who we've got sitting in there, including the others, Dean, is doing a good job from what I understand right now, I'd like to see it stay in place. That's just my comments on that Jeff.
  - Councilmember Kirby stated I'll comment on it, I've been watching the meetings on YouTube, I watched the last one and I feel like we have a solid board. There are some learning curves because there are some people who are new to this, but what I saw today was people with years of experience on there, I mean I saw them working together, okay, now because there are three new people who don't have any experience in this, but there's the one guy who said the other night my loyalties are to the fire board, fire district, not the City. And I know Greg and I take him at his word to be an honorable man. And I've been impressed with what I've seen and I think that everybody else just needs to back up, get out of the way, and let them do their job. I suspect some of them are on there now, if they had any idea of what they were walking into probably won't be there. I think for continuity, to calm things down, and make it easier for to hire people, everybody needs to back up and let the board run. Give them a chance, because from what I've seen I'm impressed with what I see and I think they need to be left alone.



- County Commissioner Jeff Culbertson stated I think our sentiment is the same. I think the board that is in place now is doing a good job. To answer, um, to address what you said thought Mike, I think it's on auto-pilot where the County has to take over July 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - City Administrator Tim Vandall stated that's not what Mr. Van Parys said at the last meeting, Mr. Van Parys said at the last meeting that if we rescind this per paragraph two it continues.
    - County Commissioner Jeff Culbertson stated continues as it, right. And that's what I'm trying to figure out is if you guys rescind this you're withdrawing your withdrawal.
      - City Administrator Tim Vandall stated it renews automatically the same way it has the previous fifteen years.
        - Mayor Smith stated that's what we're doing Jeff.
      - County Commissioner Jeff Culbertson stated okay and that's why I came to see whether you guys withdraw. So if you're going to withdraw the withdrawal then I think it continues as is and I think our sentiment is the same we want to just let the board continue that's in place now, but thank you for your comments on that.
    - Councilmember Kirby stated I'll be honest of what I saw, I think there's too much, I don't think there's any doubt, that there is too much outside interference.
      - County Commissioner Jeff Culbertson stated I think the best thing you said was let things calm down.
  - Councilmember Kirby stated let them do their job, give them a shot.
    - County Commissioner Jeff Culbertson stated I think our sentiment is the same. I'm just speaking for one of out of five, but the consensus that I'm hearing from the rest of the board is the same.
      - Mayor Smith asked any other comments from the Council.

The motion was unanimously approved.

**Executive Session – Consultation with Attorney:** Councilmember Brungardt moved to recess into executive session to review economic development activities pursuant to the discussion of confidential data relating to financial affairs or trade secrets of corporations, partnerships, trusts, and individual proprietorships exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(4) for 30 minutes, beginning at 7:30PM and returning to the Council Chambers at 8:00PM. Councilmember Garvey seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Councilmember Kirby moved to return to open session at 8:00PM. Councilmember Garvey seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

## **REPORTS:**

**Department Heads:** Police Chief Steve Wayman briefed the Council on the homeless gentleman camped out on Centre Dr. He had not been causing any trouble and officers did do a welfare check on him. A resident expressed concern for their minor child who worked nearby and after looking into City Ordinances, he was violating an ordinance by sleeping on the bench. Officers gave him a ride to

Leavenworth since that is the direction he wanted to go. Families that had been providing the gentleman with food and water made racial accusations which wasn't the case. The police had determined the gentleman wasn't a threat and were keeping an eye on the situation. It wasn't until looking into the ordinances that police determined the gentleman couldn't stay camped on a public bench and gave him a ride elsewhere. It didn't have anything do with race.

- Councilmember Majure asked how many Police Officers we have.
  - Police Chief Wayman replied he's allotted nineteen officers, but we have two retiring, and three resign recently, so we are currently looking to hire five officers.

Parks & Recreation Director Jason Crum updated the Council on the Master Plan. There was good momentum at the start of the year before Covid-19 hit. If and when the money is available or the time is right, he would like to move ahead with Phase 1 of the Master Plan and just wanted to keep it on everybody's minds.

- City Administrator Tim Vandall stated that the company who was the point person on the Master Plan, is no longer with that company, so our perspective on what company would engineer the project may shift. But mainly wanted to keep this Master Plan in the forefront of everyone's minds.

**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 everyone know DeSoto Road is open.

- Councilmember Brungardt stated it looks so nice.

**Governing Body:** Councilmember Studnicka gave a shout out for DeSoto Road. It opened months ahead of schedule and looks great. He also mentioned the milling over on the hill on DeSoto and glad we're going to patch that up in between DeSoto Road Project phases.

Councilmember Trinkle stated QuikTrip is looking nice and it's come a long way and confirmed it's estimated opening date in July.

Councilmember Kirby addressed the recent videos on social media of current and former Lansing high school students that involved alcohol, racial slurs and the displaying of weapons. He read a letter from his daughter who is currently out of state but is concerned for the City of Lansing. The letter has been attached to these minutes as Exhibit A. Councilmember Kirby concluded his remarks by saying he has spoken with the Police Chief and Leavenworth NAACP President Joana Scholtz and while he doesn't know where to go from here, he is eager to help, so count him in. He also stated how proud he is of the kids who wrote and signed their name to the letter.

Councilmember Garvey let everyone know Low-n-Slow is opening next week. There have been a lot of positive things tonight like the letter Councilmember Kirby read and he is happy with the direction the City is going. The concluded his statement by saying love your neighbor as yourself.

Councilmember Majure thanked Councilmember Kirby for reading the letter. He also thanked his fellow Councilmembers for discussions and their patience as he asks questions. He is excited the library is open and the new businesses coming to town. He stated he agrees with Councilmember Kirby's approach of calmness and stability and things will be fine with our fire protection.

### **ADJOURNMENT:**

Councilmember Majure moved to adjourn. Councilmember Brungardt seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

**ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael W. Smith, Mayor

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Sarah Bodensteiner, City Clerk

**EXHIBIT A**

City Councilmembers, Mr. Vandall, & Mr. Mayor,

As many of you may know a video recently circulated on social media featuring a former Lansing High School student using racial slurs, threatening violence, and flashing firearms. You may also know that within hours, additional posts on social media revealed numerous other Lansing High School graduates repeating racial slurs and reinforcing harmful stereotypes.

However, what you may not know is that these verbal attacks on the black community are not new in Lansing, Kansas. Numerous students of color from Lansing High School have shared their stories in which racial slurs were used against them or their experiences as people of color were ignored. As a result, they felt excluded from the Lansing community. As residents of Lansing, Kansas and graduates of Lansing High School, we condemn this behavior from anyone in our city, state, or country.

As we have all witnessed with the death of George Floyd and the videos of former Lansing students on social media, racism is not a thing of the past in the United States or in Lansing. We cannot fall into the trap of believing that racism and stereotyping does not exist here because we are a small town. In fact, we must be even more diligent in the fight against prejudice because we are a small town.

This is not a one-time incident. It is a persistent issue that many of Lansing's residents are just now recognizing. That is why it is more important now than ever to listen to the black community. But we cannot just listen to them, we must learn from them. Now is not a time to apologize and hope for the best in the future. It is a time to educate ourselves and ask how we need to change in order to establish a safe and inclusive home for all of Lansing's citizens.

The task of improving diversity and inclusion does not rely on one person or department. It is your responsibility as elected officials to represent *all* your constituents and it is our responsibility as citizens to advocate for our peers. We urge you to use your power and influence to amplify the voices of minorities in Lansing and create policies and rhetoric that are actively anti-racist. With empathy, patience, and respect we can make Lansing a home for *everyone*.

Respectfully,

Graduates of Lansing High School

Hannah Kirby- '18	Noah Kincaid- ' 18	Gaby Smith- ' 17	Christian Lossa- ' 18
Elizabeth Krebs- ' 18	Riya Patel- ' 18	Brenna Darley- ' 18	Allyson Salavitch- ' 18
Azja Butler- '18	Piper Stevens- ' 18	Thomas Atkins- ' 18	Jake Merino- '18
Shelbie Cook- '18	Preston Thomas- '18	Annalise Hansen- ' 17	Alexsus Payne- ' 18
Maddie Walker- ' 18	Natalie Barrett- '18	Kaitlyn McClain- '15	Rebecca Paxton- ' 18
Elizabeth Paxton- ' 18	Devan Myers- ' 18	Will Snodgrass- '20	