# **CITY OF LANSING**

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
January 3, 2019

### **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: Andi Pawlowski and Don Studnicka

Ward 3: Jesse Garvey

Ward 4: Tony McNeill and Gregg Buehler

Councilmembers Absent: Kerry Brungardt

# **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Approval of Minutes:** Councilmember Studnicka moved to approve the regular meeting minutes of December 20, 2018, as presented. Councilmember Kirby seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

**Audience Participation:** Mayor Smith called for audience participation and Mayor Smith invited Representative Elect, David French to the microphone.

Representative Elect 40<sup>th</sup> District David French introduced himself to the Council and stated he considers himself part of the team to make Lansing a better place to live. He will be located in Room 167 North in Topeka and always welcomes visitors.

# **COUNCIL CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA ITEMS:**

**2019 Legislative Action Plan:** Councilmember Buehler moved to approve the 2019 Legislative Action Plan. Councilmember Pawlowski seconded the motion.

- Councilmember McNeill stated I kind of sent Tim an email about it. I don't necessarily agree on the
  Tax Lid repeal personally but there was a couple options. One was instead of a vote I think there
  was a write in petition like if there was enough folks who didn't want it raised. I'd be in favor of
  amending the bill. I don't think we're going to get it repealed, first off. I mean I think it's a great idea,
  but I don't think that is going to happen. I mean I would say we'd be in favor of trying to get some
  kind of amendment to that Bill.
  - City Administrator Tim Vandall replied I think and you bring up a good point too. I think one
    of the issues the League would have with the Bill in its current form is the fact that it is a Tax
    Lid but also that cities would have to set up an election with next to no notice.
    - Councilmember McNeill responded right and pay for it.
      - City Administrator Tim Vandall stated yeah, exactly. And I think what you are kind of proposing, so you're saying amend it so people would have to file a petition instead of an election. Is that right?
        - Councilmember McNeill replied there's a couple of options and that's one of the options. An amendment to the Bill, I would be in favor of that versus trying to repeal it. I think that is going to go nowhere.
          - Councilmember Pawlowski stated if I can add. I actually went and testified for the League when they put that in. David, it's a good thing you're here. This is an issue that we talk about a lot and other communities talk about a lot. The rate of inflation is the same for everybody so say it is 1.5%. 1.5% in Shawnee, Lenexa or Overland Park to raise the Mill is a lot different than 1.5% in Lansing, Kansas. The reason why I talked about it at the League is because we had a road failure. I think at the time we had figured out to raise it, to fix the road it was going to be a quarter of a million dollars but to raise the Mill Levy enough to fix that, to raise

it according to Tax Lid was going to be \$31,000. Which could really mess us up. It happened before but I use that as an example. I think that's why they initially or originally put in the infrastructure. Didn't they put in infrastructure.

- City Administrator Tim Vandall stated I know there's caveats in there for public safety and possibly infrastructure too.
  - o Councilmember Pawlowski replied it's just sometimes I think that the big cities forget what happens in the little cities. And while I understand the idea of a Tax Lid it really kind of hurts us if we have a big crisis.
    - Councilmember McNeill stated it's currently the law. Ok, so I mean trying to repeal it, it might be useless.
  - Mayor Smith stated what happened about 30-40 years ago is they had it and they did repeal it. They brought it back because and then the people up there said listen the cities should be able to govern their own taxes if they are doing what they are supposed to be doing. I know this group has always been tight. We were raised by Mayor Bernard so I know we've always been tight on this stuff. They did repeal one time. It keeps going back and forth. I agree with Tony but I don't know if it will ever go to appointment. That is something we'd definitely like you to keep an eye on this Dave, if you would.
- David French replied we talked about this.
- Mayor Smith responded we did earlier, me, you and Tim.
- Councilmember McNeill stated at a minimum we should express the desire to have the them take out an election. Take that out then have a petition.
- Mayor Smith replied I agree.
- Councilmember McNeill stated if they don't want to raise it, they can petition.
- City Administrator Tim Vandall responded I think staff is good either way but we do want this approved, I guess, so we can give this to Senator Braun and Representative Elect French. I do believe there's a motion and a second on the floor though.
- Mayor Smith responded there is.
  - Councilmember Pawlowski asked do we need to change that. Is there any wiggle room in the wording so that you don't need to change it?
    - City Administrator Tim Vandall replied I would say we'd have to remove the motion and the second, but if we wanted to write we support amending the property Tax Lid to allow...
      - Councilmember Pawlowski responded other options.
        - City Administrator Tim Vandall asked do you have a wording suggestion?
          - Councilmember McNeill responded I think I cut and pasted the wording in from the email I sent you. I mean we would favor a repeal of course but you know if that should fail we would favor having an amendment to the Bill.
            - Councilmember Pawlowski stated I can tell you talking to other cities that they had opportunities to

lower the Mill Levy but they didn't because of a crisis. So, it's kind of created the wrong, you know what I am saying, it has caused people not to do it when they could have because they knew if there was a crisis.

- David French replied they'd need it. 0
  - Councilmember Pawlowski stated so it's a double edge sword. Sarah. did you come up with something?
- Councilmember Buehler asked do you have the wording?
- City Clerk Sarah Bodensteiner replied I have the email, but I was going pick easier language for someone to say.
- Councilmember Pawlowski responded ok.
- Mayor Smith asked we got to withdraw this.
- City Clerk Sarah Bodensteiner replied we will need to withdraw, correct.
- Councilmember Garvey asked who made the motion to second.
- City Clerk Sarah Bodensteiner responded Andi would need to withdraw her second, and Mr. Buehler would need to withdraw his motion.

Councilmember Pawlowski withdrew her second. Councilmember Buehler withdrew his motion.

- City Clerk Sarah Bodensteiner stated the motion we are looking for would be to approve the 2019 Legislative Action Plan to include supporting amending the Tax Lid. That is really the only change you have provided.
  - Mayor Smith replied that kind of leaves it open so.

Councilmember Buehler moved to approve the 2019 Legislative Action Plan to include supporting the amending of the Tax Lid. Councilmember Pawlowski seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Preliminary Development Plan: Councilmember Pawlowski asked does this comply with all of our setbacks and everything.

- Community & Economic Development Director Matthew Schmitz replied ves.
  - Councilmember Pawlowski stated because I know Matt when we were talking about Freddy's there was discrepancy between the city setback and KDOT setback. And I think we proceeded under KDOT'S setback. Is that right?
    - City Engineer Matt Harding stated I think you are referring to the right of way. It varies through that section.
- Councilmember Pawlowski asked and you are good with this.
  - City Engineer Matt Harding replied KDOT is good with it.
    - Councilmember Pawlowski stated you are very diplomatic.
- Councilmember Studnicka stated the only question I got on this issue is when I read my packet there seems to be an issue about who owns what property and where the actual property lines are at.
  - Community & Economic Development Director Matthew Schmitz responded there is a property dispute along the South edge of the property.
    - Councilmember Studnicka asked and this plat includes that disputed area.
      - Community & Economic Development Director Matthew Schmitz replied the plat recorded with the county includes the disputed area. Yes. This development plan was modified so that no improvements are made in that disputed area. So even if it is established that property is not Greenamyre's, and its Mr. Connel's then there is nothing on what you're

approving tonight that's built in that area. So, if that was done, the setbacks are from the disputed line meaning that they are off of the farthest it could be so that if the property was given to Mr. Connel then nothing you're approving tonight will be affected by that.

- City Administrator Tim Vandall stated it would still be compliant with all of our work. And to kind of take it back, two years ago we had this same discussion and two years ago we told Mr. Greenamyre you cannot build a building as you have proposed because at that point the building would have been encroaching a little bit on the setbacks and disputed area. The way he's built the building now, he's reduced the amount of square footage he was going to have in order to comply with what we asked him two years ago. So, I think I feel he's made an attempt to atleast resolve the issue.
- Councilmember Trinkle stated according to the handout I have, he's saying or I guess the County is saying this or whoever the surveyor is that it could be a difference of two feet. Two feet east or west. That would make a difference wouldn't it.
  - Community & Economic Development Director Matthew Schmitz responded well it's North and South in this situation. The property line is not straight along the south side of Mr. Greenamyre's property. It angles as it goes toward the east. So, it varies from a maximum of two feet down to a foot and half or so as it goes along there. Like I said, the setbacks that have been designed in this development plan account for that so that even if was determined that the property that is being disputed was Mr. Connels, the setbacks would still meet our requirements.
    - Councilmember McNeill responded so even if the dispute gets done later and they say you're right, you have your two feet. It's just going to give them the two feet, right, there's no building or anything on there. So, it ain't going to affect the development. So, I mean, part of this piece of paper where the two surveyors of guys who have to get together.
      - Community & Economic Development Director Matthew Schmitz stated two surveyors or it can go to a judge and the judge can say this is what
        - Councilmember Kirby stated this has been going on for two years.
          - Community & Economic Development Director Matthew Schmitz replied it's been going on for quite awhile.
            - Mayor Smith stated it sure has.
- Councilmember Pawlowski asked this isn't a plat. Plat has already been approved. This is a development plan.
  - Community & Economic Development Director Matthew Schmitz responded that's correct. This is a development plan as required by the MSOD. The plat that is recorded with the county shows this two-foot strip of ground as being Mr. Greenamyre's.
    - Councilmember Pawlowski asked but that is what is in dispute.
      - Councilmember McNeill replied right.
        - Community & Economic Development Director Matthew Schmitz stated that's correct.
          - Mayor Smith asked but we aren't touching that part.
            - · Councilmember Pawlowski stated right.
- Councilmember Garvey responded even though it says it's his, he's not going to develop on it.
  - Community & Economic Development Director Matthew Schmitz stated correct.
    - Councilmember Buehler responded because of the dispute.
      - o Councilmember Garvey responded because of the dispute.
- Mayor Smith asked Mr. Connel you got anything to say on this. You got anything you want to say.
  - Russ Connel at 1812 Eisenhower Rd stated like you said Mr. Smith this dispute has been going on for a long time but I just now figured out what I can do. I'm going to file

grievance with the State, this surveying company because they should have knew because they were told 15 years ago it was wrong. They keep, you know I'm not mad at Mr. Greenamyre. I'm mad at the company he hired. I mean, you know and I think by me going through the legal way. I'm all for development.

- Mayor Smith replied right. I know you've got enough of it around town.
  - Russ Connel replied you know, but even commercial, I'm all for that. That's all. See I wasn't even notified it was going to be a topic. I didn't get the letter through the mail.
    - Councilmember Pawlowski stated probably since the plat has already been filed.
      - City Administrator Tim Vandall asked can you speak to that Matt.
        - Community & Economic Development Director Matthew Schmitz stated I can. So, the property, anytime there's a preliminary plat done. Any property within 200 feet of that gets notified. So, you would have received a letter or it would have gone to one of the houses there that you own.
          - Russ Connel stated everyone knows my address.
            - Community & Economic Development Director Matthew Schmitz replied it may have gone to the house that was there but we can go back and look.
          - Mayor Smith asked Matt don't we also send it to the property owner.
        - Community & Economic Development Director Matthew Schmitz responded should be, ves.
- Councilmember McNeill stated but the bottom line from our perspective on this issue is the two feet that is in dispute is not going to be built on so even if we approve this and later on you win your dispute, sir. You're going to get your two feet and it's not going to make a difference. I mean I understand your issue.
  - Russ Connel replied right, see there's three pins that it affects. It's just not one pin. It's how that railroad is. It's three pins that was there long before they surveyed it. But no, it's the surveying companies that I am after. And I went to look on the Planning and Zoning to see if they had their stamp on it so I can start filing my paperwork but it doesn't. There a couple of weeks ago when we were at the Planning and Zoning.
- Councilmember Buehler asked how far from the disputed area is that parking lot/driveway going to be? It looks like it's not, I mean based on the drawing it looks like its [hand gesture showing space].
  - Community & Economic Development Director Matthew Schmitz responded setbacks apply to buildings not parking lots or driveways so the driveway itself, I mean the curb that is there will be within a couple of feet of the disputed area.
    - Councilmember Buehler replied ok so a couple of feet, not right on top of the disputed.
      - Matthew Schmitz stated correct, correct. It's not set so it would be right on the line if Mr. Connel is correct.
        - Councilmember Buehler responded ok, it looked like that. I just wanted, I couldn't see any numbers because my eyes aren't that good.
- Russ Connel stated well my main concern, excuse me, my main concern is the water runoff. We had a meeting with the state, the state, you know, agreed to what was going to happen, you

know, years ago ok. So, that's what I hope we don't run into this problem on this development. Thank you.

- Mayor Smith replied thank you, anymore discussion?
- Councilmember McNeill asked there was discussion on the detention part of it, right.
  - Community & Economic Development Director Matthew Schmitz correct. The tension base is to the northeast of this property was developed with Fairlane Commercial to serve all of those properties. So, this property would essentially have off site retention.

Councilmember Pawlowski moved to approve the preliminary development plan for 400 North Main Street, Lot 3, Fairlane Commercial District. Councilmember Buehler seconded the motion. The motion was approved with Councilmember Trinkle voting against the motion.

Request to Purchase - Parks & Recreation Department Mowers: Councilmember Pawlowski moved to approve the purchase of an Exmark Lazer Z 72 inch mower and an Exmark Lazer Z 96 inch mower from Kansas Golf and Turf in an amount not to exceed \$55,998.00. Councilmember McNeill seconded the motion.

- Councilmember Pawlowski stated you're our lawn mower guy Gene. You got nothing.
- Councilmember Garvey asked one was already used when we got it, right?
  - Parks & Recreation Director Jason Crum responded that's right. The first one. The wide area mower was already used when we got it.
    - Councilmember Kirby stated the Wing mower is shot. Ain't no getting around that.
      - Parks & Recreation Director Jason Crum replied it's toast.
        - Councilmember Kirby stated I've been down and looked at it. So, we're good. It's nice to see we're trying to maybe get away from Kubota. Don't sue me Kubota wherever you are.
          - Parks & Recreation Director Jason Crum responded try something different.
            - Councilmember Kirby stated I guit using them.
- Councilmember Garvey asked are we mowing more than we use to or about the same.
  - Parks & Recreation Director Jason Crum about the same. If we can do everything in a given week, it's right around 100 acres we do.
    - Councilmember Garvey because we contract the area the prisoners use to mow,
      - Parks & Recreation Director Jason Crum that's right.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Request to Purchase - Police Department Vehicles: Councilmember Buehler moved to approve the purchase of two police package patrol vehicles from Landmark Dodge in an amount not to exceed \$62,352.00. Councilmember Pawlowski seconded the motion.

- Councilmember Pawlowski asked didn't we buy Explorers last year.
  - Police Chief Steve Wayman responded we did buy Explorers last year. Dodge's offering the Durango and a Pursuit package now which wasn't available last year. I bid the Dodges out and I think they're going to be a better unit than the Explorers. I'm not real thrilled, this week I've had to replace a part I've never heard of before and its call a Hydraulic Engine Mount, Motor Mount which now that's what Ford uses Hydraulic Motor Mounts. So, there's parts on it. You know the cost difference between the Durango Pursuit package and the Explorer is about \$180 and the reason for that is that Dodge offers blind side mirror. So, if anybody comes in your mirror blind spot or a vehicle or anything, it's a safety feature. So, its running about \$180 more a unit.
    - Councilmember Pawlowski stated I have that on my car. I like it.
      - Police Chief Steve Wayman continued so really if I didn't want that, it's \$325 a unit. You take that off, it lowers it but it's a safety issue. So, I went ahead and added it into that package.

- Councilmember Buehler asked will that set off if someone is walking.
  - Police Chief Steve Wayman replied no. I think it's more if when it's in gear, driving and you go to change lanes or anything and set off an alarm and let you know somebody is there.
- Councilmember Pawlowski asked how much does the other stuff cost just for grins. The other stuff.
  - Police Chief Steve Wayman responded you're probably looking at anywhere, the camera systems now we're probably going to go intermittent in-car camera systems which means I'm not going to put shoulder mount body camera so part of the cars will have an in-car camera system. An in-car camera system will cost \$5,000, I probably won't put that in these cars. But by the time, I got to look, I'm thinking about recycling a light bar, that's \$1,500 if we buy a new one and all the other odds and ends. \$3-4,000 by the time you put partitions and everything else in.
    - Councilmember Pawlowski asked so probably another \$10,000?
      - Police Chief Steve Wayman replied if we're replacing all the camera systems and everything also, yeah.
        - Mayor Smith asked Steve is that in your Police Reserve Fund that comes out of.
          - Police Chief Steve Wayman replied it comes out of City Equipment Replacement Fund.
            - City Administrator Tim Vandall stated no, these come out of General Fund. We've just been programming them in.
              - Mayor Smith responded ok, thank you.
                - Police Chief Steve Wayman stated sorry about that.
- Councilmember Studnicka asked you have sufficient budget to handle that for what you need.
  - Councilmember McNeill responded we approved this for this budget year.
    - Councilmember Studnicka responded right it was approved for cars.
- Councilmember Garvey asked did Speedway just chose not to submit a bid?
  - Police Chief Steve Wayman replied Speedway, you know I've gone up there every year that I bid stuff and I take it up there. I talked to Bryce who's their manager. When it comes to fleet sales or commercial vehicles, most your independent dealerships they don't do a lot. They've got to specialize in that. Landmark out of Independence, they base it off the MARC bid out of the greater Kansas City area and I believe Davis Moore, whoever it was out of Wichita, they're the Kansas bid.
    - Councilmember Pawlowski asked they have the State bid.
      - Police Chief Steve Wayman responded yeah, they had the State bid. So actually, the MARC bid has always come in cheaper than the state bid on contracts.
        - Councilmember Garvey stated they can't compete with them then.
          - Police Chief Steve Wayman responded well when you do fleet vehicles like this, there is a lot of special codes that they use and if they don't do it a lot, then they make no money off the car for what they get. I mean Speedway right here in town, they're getting the back end anyways which is repair work.
            - Mayor Smith stated yeah, maintenance.
              - Councilmember Kirby stated it's not like they get shut out of the picture at all.
                - Police Chief Steve Wayman stated no and Speedway right now, our Explorers, we take them back to the dealership to be worked on. It's

taken us up to 3 weeks to get a car back just because of how long they are. Speedway is usually, if they can get the parts, has been 2-3 days and we're back on line.

Councilmember Pawlowski stated thanks Steve.

The motion was unanimously approved.

## **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 the Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner is January 25th at the Riverfront Community Center. City Administrator Tim Vandall relayed there will be a meet and greet with the new Director of Alliance Against Family Violence on January 8th from 4-6pm at The Depot if anyone wants to attend. City Administrator Tim Vandall stated conversations with the Townships have been positive since the last meeting, so a new meeting is pending the week of January 14-18 in the evening to meet with representatives from each Township to continue discussion. Councilmember McNeill, Councilmember Kirby, Councilmember Pawlowski and Mayor Smith volunteered to attend that meeting. Councilmember McNeill asked that the Townships bring their requests for what they need from a Fire Entity to the meeting. City Administrator Tim Vandall reminded the Council that Highland Park bids previously came in high, the plan was scaled back a bit and, updated bids will be coming in again for a meeting in February. Also, the Request for Qualifications for the Parks and Rec. Master Plan will be coming in soon. Councilmember Pawlowski and Councilmember Garvey volunteered to be a part of the committee that reviews the qualifications from the firms. During the last Coffee with the City Administrator, discussion on pools arose again. City Administrator Tim Vandall thought surveying Lansing residents with questions such as if they want a pool or not, if a specific tax increase amount is reasonable, etc. would be helpful. Parks & Recreation Director Jason Crum suggested even using Survey Monkey to get an idea on what residents want could benefit the discussion.

Governing Body: Councilmember Studnicka relayed that he has heard from multiple residents with how pleased they were on how well the Angel Falls walking trail and the City Center have been maintained. Councilmember Trinkle passed along he heard residents were happy with the way Public Works handled the snow removal in November.

Councilmember Garvey referenced a letter from Stacia Radke was awesome and wanted Steve to pass along to Officer Mock that it was great that he represented the City the way he did.

Councilmember Buehler provided a fun fact, on this day in 1959 Alaska was admitted as the 49th State of the Union.

# ADJOURNMENT:

Councilmember Buehler moved to adjourn. Councilmember Pawlowski seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

ATTEST:	Michael W. Smith, Mayor
Sarah Bodensteiner, City Clerk	