

**CITY OF EAST LANSING  
CITY COUNCIL  
WORK SESSION MINUTES  
February 29, 2012**

Present: Beard, Loomis, Power, Triplett, Goddeeris  
Absent: None

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Goddeeris. The meeting was held in Courtroom #2 of the 54-B District Court, 101 Linden Street, East Lansing.

**Item 1** **Communication from Audience**

None. See Item 6

**Item 2** **Approval of the Minutes**

It was moved by Triplett and seconded by Power to approve the minutes of the February 14, 2012 work session.

ALL YEAS  
MOTION CARRIED

**Item 3** **MDNR Grant Submissions**

Wendy Wilmers Longpre, Assistant Director of Parks, Recreation and Arts, briefed Council on three proposed Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) grant submissions. Longpre highlighted two proposed grant submissions to Natural Resources Trust Fund for Patriarache Park playground replacement and Northern Tier Trail extension, and one proposed grant submission to Michigan Recreation Passport grant program for Patriarache Park ball field improvements. She said the local match for these grants will come from private donations and funds required from adjacent property developers.

Longpre said request for approval for grant submission on April 1, 2012, will come before Council the last meeting of March.

**Item 4** **Michigan Avenue Corridor Improvement Authority**

Lori Mullins, Community and Economic Development Administrator, updated Council and answered questions on the Michigan Avenue Corridor Improvement Authority (CIA), which will include members from local Authorities from Lansing, East Lansing, and Lansing Township. Mullins said LEAP (Lansing Economic Area Partnership) and Michigan State University are also interested in working with the combined Authority, which will be used as a funding mechanism for improvements to the corridor and to analyze regional benefits of planning and redevelopment along Michigan Avenue.

Mullins said Council will be asked for approval for local authority members, development agreement, and inter-local agreement at upcoming Council meetings.

**Item 5****Albert Street Utilities**

Lori Mullins, Community and Economic Development Administrator; Todd Sneathen, Director of Public Works and Environmental Services; and Robert Scheuerman, Engineering Administrator, updated Council and answered questions on impact on the downtown of a project to install new sewer lines and reconstruct sections of Albert and Grove Streets which will be done in phases from April to end of August.

Council discussed communication with local businesses, parking, paving, access, and time frame.

**Item 6****Communication from Audience – cont.**

Shanna Draheim, 359 University, spoke regarding East Lansing School bond issue which was defeated in February 28, 2012 election.

**Item 7****Ordinance No. 1277**

Todd Sneathen, Director of Public Works and Environmental Services, and Tom Yeadon, Assistant City Attorney, briefed Council and answered questions on Ordinance No. 1277, a complete streets ordinance to be incorporated into Chapter 38 of the City Code. Sneathen said this is the next phase in the City's non-motorized plan and a request to set a public hearing for March 20 will be on March 6 consent agenda.

**Item 8****Sanderson Drain Interceptor**

Todd Sneathen, Director of Public Works and Environmental Services, and Robert Scheuerman, Engineering Administrator, briefed Council and answered questions on an emergency repair needed to the piping system of the Sanderson Drain Interceptor.

Council discussed contract award policy, financing, and timing.

It was moved by Loomis and seconded by Power to approve contract from C2AE Engineering to provide technical design, permitting, and oversight of the construction on a time and materials basis with a not-to-exceed fee of \$32,365.00.

It was moved by Power and seconded by Beard to table the motion to approve contract from C2AE Engineering.

ALL YEAS

MOTION TO TABLE CARRIED

It was moved by Power and seconded by Triplett to suspend City's policy for contract approval due to emergency of the situation located in Sanderson Drain Interceptor.

ALL YEAS

MOTION TO SUSPEND CARRIED

It was moved by Beard and seconded by Power to take off the table the main motion to approve contract from C2AE Engineering.

ALL YEAS  
MOTION CARRIED

Goddeeris brought Council back to the main motion to approve contract from C2AE Engineering to provide technical design, permitting, and oversight of the construction on a time and materials basis with a not-to-exceed fee of \$32,365.00.

ALL YEAS  
MOTION CARRIED

It was moved by Loomis and seconded by Power to approve contract from Insituform Technologies for bypass pumping, cleaning and televising, and lining the three existing sewer pipes lengths in an amount not to exceed \$189,694.70.

ALL YEAS  
MOTION CARRIED

Scheuerman said a recommendation for manhole repair contract will come before Council in a few weeks.

**Item 9** **MDOT Cost Sharing Agreement**

Todd Sneathen, Director of Public Works and Environmental Services, briefed Council and answered questions on a cost sharing agreement between Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) and City of East Lansing for the reconstruction of Harrison Avenue, and related utilities, between Mt. Hope Road and Trowbridge Road. Sneathen said Federal Highway Administration will fund 80% of the project.

It was moved by Triplett and seconded by Power to approve resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a cost sharing agreement with the Michigan Department of Transportation as included in February 29, 2012 Council packet.

ALL YEAS  
MOTION CARRIED

**CITY OF EAST LANSING  
EAST LANSING CITY COUNCIL**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE CONTRACT FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF HARRISON AVENUE, AND RELATED UTILITIES, BETWEEN MT. HOPE ROAD AND TROWBRIDGE ROAD; LOCATED WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF EAST LANSING, MICHIGAN**

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of East Lansing has received a contract proposal from the Michigan Department of Transportation for the reconstruction of Harrison Avenue,

and related utilities, between Mt. Hope Road and Trowbridge Road, located within the corporate limits of the city of East Lansing, Michigan; and

WHEREAS, said proposal is identified as Michigan Department of Transportation contract number 12-5042; and

WHEREAS, this project is recommended for the improvement of vehicular travel and safety; and

WHEREAS, the estimated cost of this project is \$1,161,000, of which \$852,500 will be funded by Federal Highway Administration, \$189,000 by the City's Major Street Fund, and \$119,500 by the City's Water Supply System Fund.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the East Lansing City Council does hereby authorize the City Manager to execute Contract No. 12-5042 with the Michigan Department of Transportation.

**Item 10** **East Lansing City Council Strategic Priorities**

George Lahanas, City Manager, said the current Strategic Priorities document is on the City web site. He gave a brief overview of the current document which includes the overarching categories of Strong Neighborhoods, Vibrant Economy, Enhanced Public Assets, Environmental Quality, and High Performing Government.

Council discussed broad definition, purpose of strategic planning, number and title of overarching categories, an additional status update tracking document, and suggestions within each category.

Goddeeris requested Lahanas to draft a Strategic Priorities document incorporating Council discussion and present for Council review in one month.

**Item 11** **Conflict of Interest Determination**

Tom Yeadon, Assistant City Attorney, stated there is currently a case of *Phil Bellfy v City of East Lansing and Dennis McGinty* and an offer presented by attorney Mr. Hank. Yeadon said the offer presents an appearance of a conflict of interest for Yeadon's office to present this offer to Council and to advise Council on it because Dennis McGinty is one of the targets of Mr. Bellfy's allegations. Yeadon said, pursuant to the Rules of Professional Conduct, if the City, after consultation, consents to the continued representation by his firm, he can continue to represent the City and Mr. McGinty. Council discussed the issues.

It was moved by Triplett and seconded by Loomis that, having been informed of the nature of the potential conflict and the alternatives available to this Council, Council consent to the continued representation in this litigation by the City Attorney's office.

ALL YEAS  
MOTION CARRIED

**Item 12****City Manager Evaluation Process**

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Council discussed process of how to evaluate City Manager performance, including input from Human Resource Administrator.

It was moved by Power and seconded by Loomis to move forward, with two Councilmembers, with City Manager performance evaluation system proposal and present a report to Council at May 22 work session.

ALL YEAS  
MOTION CARRIED

Power said he will be one of the Councilmembers on proposal committee. Beard said he could join the committee after May 11.

**Item 13****Board and Commission Review**

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Power highlighted a long-term review process for Boards and Commissions.

Council discussed timing, need to define issues, State law mandates, skill and transparency in decision making, and data collection for discussion.

Goddeeris said this item will be brought before Council again on July 24, 2012.

**Item 14****Planning Commission Appointments**

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It was moved by Power and seconded by Beard to appoint Paul Stokstad to the Planning Commission for a full term ending December 31, 2014.

ALL YEAS  
MOTION CARRIED

It was moved by Triplett and seconded by Beard to appoint Lee Reimann to the Planning Commission for a full term ending December 31, 2014.

ALL YEAS  
MOTION CARRIED

**Item 15****City Manager Oath of Office**

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It was moved by Triplett and seconded by Beard to approve scheduling a special meeting of the City Council for Tuesday, March 6, 2012, at 6:30 p.m. at 101 Linden Street, Courtroom #2 to hold the public swearing-in ceremony for City Manager, George Lahanas.

ALL YEAS  
MOTION CARRIED

**Item 16****Council Member Reports**

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Councilmember Beard:

- No Report

Councilmember Loomis:

- No Report

Councilmember Power:

- Reported on bicycle Ride of Silence to be held May 16, 2012 from MSU to the Capitol in honor of those who have been injured or killed while cycling on public roadways. Goddeeris said a letter of support will be on consent agenda next week.
- Reported on MSU Greek community involvement in the needs of City of East Lansing Parks and Recreation and East Lansing Public Library.

Mayor Pro Tem Triplett:

- Reported on cooperative effort to bring ultra-high-speed internet to the Mid-Michigan area as an important economic development tool for the region.

Mayor Goddeeris:

- Requested City Manager Lahanas set up initial meetings with East Lansing School superintendent Chapin to begin work on agendas for joint School Board and Council meetings.

**Item 17**

**City Manager's Report**

City Manager George Lahanas:

- Requested an Executive session for the purpose of discussing pending litigation in the cases of *Tribett v City of East Lansing* and *Bellfy v City of East Lansing*.

**Item 18**

**Executive Session**

It was moved by Beard and seconded by Triplett to adjourn to Executive session to discuss pending litigation in the case of *Tribett v City of East Lansing*.

Roll Call:

YEAS – Beard, Loomis, Power, Triplett, Goddeeris

NAYS – None

MOTION CARRIED

It was moved by Beard and seconded by Triplett to adjourn to Executive session to discuss pending litigation in the case of *Bellfy v City of East Lansing*.

Roll Call:

YEAS – Beard, Loomis, Power, Triplett, Goddeeris

NAYS – None

MOTION CARRIED

Council adjourned to Executive session at 10:29 p.m.

Council returned to the work session at 10:50 p.m.

It was moved by Triplett and seconded by Beard to adjourn.

ALL YEAS  
MOTION CARRIED

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:51 p.m.

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Diane Goddeeris  
Mayor

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Nancy O. Wagner  
Administrative Secretary