



**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF
THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF LANSING
PROCEEDINGS OF FEBRUARY 4, 2008**

City Council Chambers
Lansing, Michigan

The City Council of the City of Lansing met in regular session and was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Jeffries.

PRESENT: Councilmembers Allen, Dunbar, Hewitt, Jeffries, Kaltenbach, Quinney, Robinson, Wood

ABSENT: None

The Council observed a moment of Meditation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by President Jeffries

APPROVAL OF PRINTED COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

By Councilmember Quinney

To approve the printed Council Proceedings of January 28, 2008 and the corrected proceedings of January 24, 2008

Motion carried

COUNCILMEMBERS' COMMENTS AND CITY CLERK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Councilmember Quinney announced the Black Child and Family Institute's Boys to Men follow-up meeting, UAW Local 602's 17th annual Taste of Black History and UAW Local 652's 13th Annual Black History Program. He wished his grandson, Kiyan Davis a happy 3rd birthday.

Councilmember Dunbar announced the Clifford Park Neighborhood Association meeting and the Greencroft Park meeting. She spoke about the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program for code related home repair and she wished her father a happy birthday.

Councilmember Allen spoke about an invitation from Justin Sleight for those citizens that might want homes in a proposed Oliver Tower project.

Councilmember Robinson spoke about the 3rd Ward 2nd Saturdays meeting and thanked Wainwright Magnet school for allowing her to visit with them and for leading Lansing's students.

Councilmember Hewitt announced the Eastside Neighborhood Association meeting and the Fair Neighbors meeting. He announced the Women's Center of Greater Lansing's Breakfast event. He stated that he has received numerous complaints from citizens about snow plowing in the City.

Councilmember Wood stated that there were still tickets available for the Bea Christy Dinner. She said that the Development and Planning committee meeting this week would take up a number of issues. She announced that the Genesee Neighborhood meeting would not take place this week. She thanked all of the participants in the Ruth Hallman Chili and Soup Birthday Fundraiser. She stated that she has received numerous emails regarding the lack of snow plowing in the City.

Councilmember Kaltenbach asked Councilmember Hewitt about the calls he has received regarding snow plowing in the City and asked for an explanation of the Public Service Department's snow plowing policy.

Councilmember Hewitt gave details as to his understanding of the snow

plowing policy.

SPECIAL CEREMONIES

- Special Ceremonies

1. Presentation; Mayor's Drug Free Youth Task Force

Mayor Bernero spoke about the grants given to various school based programs.

Saturnino Rodriguez spoke about the Drug Free Task Force and thanked the Mayor, City Council, members of the Task Force and the participating schools.

Guillermo Lopez introduced school representatives present involved in the Task Force.

Jim Campbell stated that Otto Middle School's Proactive PALS program helps all students and families and gave details about the program.

Marybeth Braddick spoke about specific programs and the Safe Health Drug Free Program.

Mary Ellen Zeineh stated that she is involved in students' lives to promote a positive image. She also spoke about the Wexford Montessori Magnet School after school program.

Linda Ketchum spoke about the Peace Talks Series.

Pierre Balthazar and Kristine Pike of Eastern High School spoke about the Substance Abuse Prevention thru Education program.

Mike Botke spoke about the Teen Court program.

Mayor Bernero thanked each person who spoke for explaining their programs.

Councilmember Allen stated that the funds spent on these programs were money well spent. She asked Guillermo Lopez where citizens could send checks, and he stated that checks should be sent to the United Way. Councilmember Allen then challenged her fellow Councilmembers to write checks.

Troy Wendell was recognized by the Task Force for his work and he thanked everyone for the honor.

Saturnino Rodriguez thanked everyone again.

Mike Botke presented a plaque to Troy Wendell, as he is the outgoing chairperson.

2. Presentation; Recognition of Dan Voss and Robin Lewis, Former Lansing School Board Members

Mayor Bernero thanked Dan Voss and Robin Lewis for their dedication to Lansing Students.

Robin Lewis spoke about her experiences and her children who all graduated from the Lansing School District.

Sherie Davy read a poem for Robin Lewis.

Robin Lewis thanked everyone for her honor.

Dan Voss spoke about the South Side Community Center and parental involvement.

Council President Jeffries thanked both Robin and Dan for their efforts to help children and congratulated them for jobs well done.

SPEAKER REGISTRATION FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Clerk Swope announced that the public comment registration form(s) for those intending to address Council on legislative or City government matters will be collected and that only those persons who have fully completed the form(s) will be permitted to speak.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Bernero spoke about several of tonight's Public Hearings for key economic development initiatives proposed by the Lansing Economic Development Corporation and the Administration. He gave a detailed overview of the proposed P.A. 425 agreement for Jackson National Life Insurance Company, the P.A. 328 personal property tax exemption requested by Spartan Internet to facilitate their growth, and the P.A. 328 incentive for XG Sciences. He also spoke about a communication from his office on tonight's agenda for a budget transfer to assist the BoarsHead Theater. On a sad note, Mayor Bernero stated he was honored to attend the funeral of a tremendous neighborhood advocate – Vivian Stauffer, who passed away last Sunday, January 27, 2008. He stated that she was a fixture in the community for 52 years and that she approached life with a philosophy of doing rather than talking. Her hallmark was her quiet effectiveness. She didn't make a lot of noise; she just got a lot done. He extended the City's sincere condolences to her husband Jack, the rest of the Stauffer family, and friends of Vivian Stauffer.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

- Public Comment on Legislative Matters:

Legislative Matters included the following public hearings:

1. In consideration of Act 425 Agreement; Alaiedon Township for Jackson National Life Expansion Project
2. In consideration of PPE-01-08; Exemption of New Personal Property filed by Spartan Internet Consulting Corp. for property located at 1030 S. Holmes St.
3. In consideration of PPE-02-08; Exemption of New Personal Property filed by XG Sciences, Inc. for property located at 2100 S. Washington Ave.
4. In consideration of an Ordinance of the City of Lansing, Michigan, to Amend Chapter 880 of the Lansing Codified Ordinances to add Section 880.04 to allow city residents to file a written tax appeal with the Board of Review as allowed by MCL 211.30(7)

Councilmember Wood gave a brief overview of Public Hearing #'s 1-3.

Councilmember Dunbar gave a brief overview of Public Hearing #4.

Richard Clement of 900 Long Blvd. spoke in support of PPE-01-08; Exemption of New Personal Property filed by Spartan Internet Consulting Corp.

Stan Shuck of 818 Cooper Ave. stated concerns with the Act 425 Agreement for Jackson National Life and with tax abatements in general.

John Brown of 1 Corporate Way spoke in support of the Act 425 Agreement for Jackson National Life.

David Pierson of 1305 S. Washington Ave. spoke in support of the Act 425 Agreement for Jackson National Life.

Darnell E. Oldham, Sr. of 3815 Berwick Dr. spoke in opposition to tax abatements and in opposition to the ACT 425 Agreement for Jackson National Life.

John Pollard of 1718 Blair St. spoke in support of the proposed Ordinance Amendment for written tax appeals and in opposition to Personal Property Tax Exemptions.

Charlene Decker of 2711 Pleasant Grove Rd. spoke in opposition to tax abatements.

Ryan Vartoogian of 115 W. Allegan St. spoke in support of PPE-01-08; Exemption of New Personal Property filed by Spartan Internet Consulting Corp.

Joel Wiese of 311 Strathmore Rd. spoke in support of PPE-01-08; Exemption of New Personal Property filed by Spartan Internet Consulting Corp.

REFERRAL OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. In consideration of Act 425 Agreement; Alaiedon Township for Jackson National Life Expansion Project

REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING

2. In consideration of PPE-01-08; Exemption of New Personal Property filed by Spartan Internet Consulting Corp. for property located at 1030 S. Holmes St.

REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING

3. In consideration of PPE-02-08; Exemption of New Personal Property filed by XG Sciences, Inc. for property located at 2100 S. Washington Ave.

REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING

4. In consideration of an Ordinance of the City of Lansing, Michigan, to Amend Chapter 880 of the Lansing Codified Ordinances to add Section 880.04 to allow city residents to file a written tax appeal with the Board of Review as allowed by MCL 211.30(7)

REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING

PUBLIC COMMENT ON CITY GOVERNMENT RELATED MATTERS:

Samuel Duncan of 5772 Castleberry Cir. spoke about the proposed New Faith Gardens Development.

David Foreman of 2425 Springdale Dr. spoke about the proposed New Faith Gardens Development.

Rev. Robert Nicholson of Grace Tabernacle Church spoke about the proposed New Faith Gardens Development.

William Hubbell of 3916 Wedgewood Dr. spoke about snow removal.

Ted Boettcher of 320 W. Northrup St. spoke about the proposed Public Improvement to Northrup St.

Stan Shuck of 818 Cooper Ave. spoke about various city matters.

David Wiener of 311 S. Jenison Ave. spoke about the Southside Community Coalition.

Frank S. Curtis X. of 1137 W. Allegan St. spoke about various city matters.

Darnell E. Oldham, Sr. of 3815 Berwick Dr. spoke about various city matters.

Willie Hobbs of 5017 Connors Ave. spoke about various city matters.

John Pollard of 1718 Blair St. spoke about various city matters.

Charlene Decker of 2711 Pleasant Grove Rd. spoke about various city matters.

LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION#024

BY THE COUNCILMEMBER SANDY ALLEN
RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LANSING

WHEREAS, the Lansing Code Compliance Officer has declared a certain structure (dwelling) at 226 S. Foster Parcel # 3301.01.14.305.231 and Legal Description: Lot 22 & S ½ Lot 21 Snyders Sub to be an unsafe and dangerous building and requested the property owner be ordered to demolish or otherwise make safe the structure; and

WHEREAS, The Code Compliance Officer red tagged the said structure on May 30, 2006, and requested the property owner be ordered to demolish or otherwise make safe the structure; and

WHEREAS, on September 27, 2007, the Lansing Demolition Board held a special meeting to consider and make a recommendation on whether to declare the structure a dangerous building, as defined in the Housing Law of Michigan (MCLA 125.539) and the Lansing Housing and Premises Code (1460.09) to order the property owner to make safe or demolish the structure; and

WHEREAS, the Code Compliance Office has determined that compliance with the order of the Lansing Demolition Hearing Board officer has not occurred; and

WHEREAS, the Housing Law of Michigan and the Housing and Premises Code require that a hearing be conducted to give the property owner an opportunity to show cause why a dangerous structure should not be demolished or otherwise made safe; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Lansing City Council hereby schedules a show cause hearing for Monday, February 25, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the Lansing City Council Chambers, 10th Floor City Hall, 124 W. Michigan, Lansing, Michigan in consideration of the finding and order of the Lansing Demolition Hearing Board Officer regarding the structure at 226 S. Foster; to give the owner, or the owner's agent, the opportunity to appear and show cause why the building should not be demolished or otherwise made safe; and to approve, disapprove, or modify the order of the hearing officer to demolish or make safe the subject structure.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Lansing City Council requests that the Manager of Code Compliance notify the owner of said property of the opportunity to appear and present testimony at the hearing, as required by law.

By Councilmember Allen

Motion Carried

RESOLUTION#025

BY THE COUNCILMEMBER SANDY ALLEN

RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LANSING

WHEREAS, the Lansing Code Compliance Officer has declared a certain structure (dwelling) at 433 N. Butler Parcel # 3301.01.17.231.291 and Legal Description: S 33 Ft of E 59 Ft Lot 1 Dodge and Daniels Sub W of Butler Rec L 55 P 553 to be an unsafe and dangerous building and requested the property owner be ordered to demolish or otherwise make safe the structure; and

WHEREAS, The Code Compliance Officer red tagged the said structure on June 23, 2006, and requested the property owner be ordered to demolish or otherwise make safe the structure; and

WHEREAS, on September 27, 2007, the Lansing Demolition Board held a special meeting to consider and make a recommendation on whether to declare the structure a dangerous building, as defined in the Housing Law of Michigan (MCLA 125.539) and the Lansing Housing and Premises Code (1460.09) to order the property owner to make safe or demolish the structure; and

WHEREAS, the Code Compliance Office has determined that compliance with the order of the Lansing Demolition Hearing Board officer has not occurred; and

WHEREAS, the Housing Law of Michigan and the Housing and Premises Code require that a hearing be conducted to give the property owner an opportunity to show cause why a dangerous structure should not be demolished or otherwise made safe; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Lansing City Council hereby schedules a show cause hearing for Monday, February 25, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the Lansing City Council Chambers, 10th Floor City Hall, 124 W. Michigan, Lansing, Michigan in consideration of the finding and order of the Lansing Demolition Hearing Board Officer regarding the structure at 433 N. Butler; to give the owner, or the owner's agent, the opportunity to appear and show cause why the building should not be demolished or otherwise made safe; and to approve, disapprove, or modify the order of the hearing officer to demolish or make safe the subject structure.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Lansing City Council requests that the Manager of Code Compliance notify the owner of said property of the opportunity to appear and present testimony at the hearing, as required by law.

By Councilmember Allen

Motion Carried

RESOLUTION#026

BY THE COUNCILMEMBER SANDY ALLEN
RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LANSING

WHEREAS, the Lansing Code Compliance Officer has declared a certain structure (dwelling) at 717 S. Francis Parcel # 3301.01.23.127.041 and Legal Description: Lots 15 & 16 J L Putmans Sub Rec L 7 P 35 to be an unsafe and dangerous building and requested the property owner be ordered to demolish or otherwise make safe the structure; and

WHEREAS, The Code Compliance Officer red tagged the said structure on October 12, 1999, and requested the property owner be ordered to demolish or otherwise make safe the structure; and

WHEREAS, on September 27, 2007, the Lansing Demolition Board held a special meeting to consider and make a recommendation on whether to declare the structure a dangerous building, as defined in the Housing Law of Michigan (MCLA 125.539) and the Lansing Housing and Premises Code (1460.09) to order the property owner to make safe or demolish the structure; and

WHEREAS, the Code Compliance Office has determined that compliance with the order of the Lansing Demolition Hearing Board officer has not occurred; and

By Councilmember Wood

Motion Carried

WHEREAS, the Housing Law of Michigan and the Housing and Premises Code require that a hearing be conducted to give the property owner an opportunity to show cause why a dangerous structure should not be demolished or otherwise made safe; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Lansing City Council hereby schedules a show cause hearing for Monday, February 25, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the Lansing City Council Chambers, 10th Floor City Hall, 124 W. Michigan, Lansing, Michigan in consideration of the finding and order of the Lansing Demolition Hearing Board Officer regarding the structure at 717 S. Francis; to give the owner, or the owner's agent, the opportunity to appear and show cause why the building should not be demolished or otherwise made safe; and to approve, disapprove, or modify the order of the hearing officer to demolish or make safe the subject structure.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Lansing City Council requests that the Manager of Code Compliance notify the owner of said property of the opportunity to appear and present testimony at the hearing, as required by law.

By Councilmember Allen

Motion Carried

RESOLUTION#027

BY COUNCILMEMBER CAROL WOOD

RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LANSING

WHEREAS, Vivian Stauffer was born on August 12, 1937 in Watertown, New York, the oldest child of Viola and Lyle VanNess; and

WHEREAS, She met and married her husband John (Jack) Stauffer while he was stationed at Fort Drum in 1955, after which they relocated to Lansing in 1957; and

WHEREAS, Vivian retired in 1997 after working for the State of Michigan for thirty nine years; and

WHEREAS, Vivian enjoyed a full life and was most noted for her incredibly loving relationship with her husband. Vivian and Jack bowled, played cards, and worked on common causes together, like neighborhood preservation; and

WHEREAS, Vivian a quiet woman who led her life by doing instead of talking, she also was an excellent seamstress (sewed Barbie clothes) and cook. Vivian was known far and wide for her peanut butter fudge to the wonderful dinners she and Jack serviced to the police department during the holidays when they were away from their own families; and

WHEREAS, working together as partners Jack and Vivian worked diligently to organizer their community, serving not only on the neighborhood boards, but a long time member of the Lansing Neighborhood Council; and

WHEREAS, when she was not physically busy, she enjoyed challenging herself with word and jigsaw puzzles; and

WHEREAS, Vivian was a loving mother, awesome housekeeper, and incredible neighbor and will be deeply missed by all who knew her; and

WHEREAS, she is survived by her sister, Linda Purdy, her husband Jack, and her six children, Sandra, John, Michael, Rodger, Joellen, Arnold, and Roy, her fourteen grand children and two great-grandchildren; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council hereby wishes to express its deepest condolences to the family of Vivian Stauffer. May she rest peace knowing her presence touched so many.

**REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICERS, BOARDS, AND
COMMISSIONS;
COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS;
AND OTHER CITY RELATED MATTERS**

By Councilmember Quinney that all items be considered as being read in full and that President Jeffries make the appropriate referrals

Motion Carried

• Reports from City Officers, Boards and Commissions:

- a. Letter from the City Clerk submitting minutes of Boards and Authorities placed on file in the City Clerk's Office

RECEIVED AND PLACED ON FILE

- b. Letters from the Mayor re:
- i. Resolutions; Noise Ordinance Waiver for 2008 Street Projects

REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON GENERAL SERVICES

- ii. General Fund FY 2008 Budget Update

REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

- iii. ACT-14-07; 525 Filley St., Vacant Storm Sewer Easement

REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING

- iv. ACT-15-07; 5330, 5336, 5402, & 5404 Wexford Rd., Vacate Daft Drain Easement

REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING

- v. Proposed Program Objectives and Projected Use of Federal Funds Fiscal Year 2009

REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING

- vi. TCO-08-002; Installation of stop signs on Grant St. at the intersection of Pacific Parkway

REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

- vii. TCO-08-011; Traffic regulation on Pleasant Grove Rd. from Reo Rd. to Risdale Ave.

REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

- viii. TCO-08-012; Parking Regulations along Shiawasse St. Between Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. and Sycamore St.

REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

- ix. Transfer of Funds; BoarsHead Theater

REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE AND REFERRED TO INTERNAL AUDIT

• Communications and Petitions, and Other City Related Matters:

- a. Letter from Tri-County Office on Aging submitting its budget request for Fiscal Year 2009

REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS AND

INTERNAL AUDIT

- b. Letter from Rory McNeal of the Black Child and Family Institute expressing gratitude to City Councilmembers for their contributions to the back pack drive

RECEIVED AND PLACED ON FILE

REMARKS BY COUNCILMEMBERS

Councilmember Kaltenbach asked Jerry Ambrose, Executive Assistant to Mayor Bernero to comment on state of snow plowing in the City.

Jerry Ambrose, Executive Assistant to Mayor Bernero, gave detailed information on how the Public Service Department determines a full snow plowing effort in the City.

Councilmember Dunbar spoke about the City's program for poverty exemptions and deferments for property taxes

Councilmember Robinson spoke about phone calls she received regarding snow plowing and the response of the telephone operators in the Public Service Department.

Councilmember Wood expressed her concerns regarding snow plowing in the City.

Councilmember Hewitt expressed his concerns regarding snow plowing in the City.

Councilmember Allen expressed her concerns regarding snow plowing in the City.

Councilmember Quinney expressed his concerns regarding snow plowing in the City.

Council President Jeffries expressed his concerns regarding snow plowing in the City.

**REMARKS BY THE MAYOR
OR EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT**

Jerry Ambrose, Executive Assistant to Mayor Bernero, spoke about tonight's Public Hearings and the Administration's desire to see those issues moved forward.

Council President Jeffries appointed Councilmember Wood to the Community Corrections Advisory Board.

ADJOURNED TIME 9:31P.M.

CHRIS SWOPE, CITY CLERK