



OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF  
THE CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF LANSING  
PROCEEDINGS OF MARCH 2, 2009



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 Quinney.

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

ABSENT: Councilmembers Allen (Arrived at 7:01 p.m.), Robinson

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

*Councilmember Allen arrived at the meeting at 7:01 p.m.*

#### APPROVAL OF PRINTED COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

By Councilmember Jeffries

To approve the printed Council Proceedings of February 16 and 23, 2009

Motion carried

#### CONSIDERATION OF LATE ITEMS

By Councilmember Jeffries

To suspend City Council Rule #11 to allow for Consideration of Late Items

Motion carried

The following items were added to the agenda:

1. From Councilmember Wood; Presentation; Recognition of National Association of Women in Construction

#### TABLED ITEMS

1. BY THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
  - a. Authorizing Litigation Against the Mayor to Compel the Opening of Waverly and Red Cedar golf courses

#### SPECIAL CEREMONIES

- Special Ceremonies

1. Presentation; Mayor's Hometown Hero Award to Ryan Kowalk

Mayor Bernero stated that it was a privilege to meet Ryan Kowalk, an everyday citizen who tried to help save the life of two residents whose car fell into the Grand River. He stated that although Ryan rejects the label of hero, his actions were the best chance of survival for the victims of this accident. He spoke about the gratefulness of the survivor's family and acknowledged the efforts of the Lansing Police and Fire

Departments.

Ryan Kowalk thanked the Mayor and City Council for this honor and he recognized everyone involved in trying to help the victims.

Mayor Bernero stated that people like Ryan make the city proud.

Police Chief Alley stated that what Ryan did was a heroic act and that he appreciated his efforts.

Councilmember Hewitt acknowledged Ryan as a 1st Ward resident and stated that it takes a special person to act like Ryan did. He thanked him for his heroic act on behalf of the City Council.

Ryan thanked the City's CSI team for finding his wedding ring.

Council President Quinney acknowledged all of the first responders in attendance tonight.

2. Tribute; Recognizing March as National Women's History Month

City Clerk Swope read the following Resolution:

**RESOLUTION #2009-045**

BY COUNCILMEMBER CAROL WOOD  
RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LANSING

WHEREAS, in 1996, the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc. (NANBPWC), voted to adopt the National Women's History Project as one of its nationally recognized programs; and

WHEREAS, the NANBPWC encourages all local clubs to implement a program designed to recognize the contributions and accomplishments made by African American women; and

WHEREAS, every year, during the month of March, hundreds of thousands of events are held throughout the country to acknowledge and recognize the amazing accomplishments of women; and

WHEREAS, National Women's History Month provides an opportunity to educate the general public about the significant role of women in American history and contemporary society. Establishing this focal celebration has encouraged schools to introduce new curriculum and communities to recognize women who have been pivotal in their own communities; and

WHEREAS, this national celebration and recognition of women's historic achievements began in 1980, when a presidential proclamation declared the first week in March as National Women's History Week. In 1987, this national celebration was expanded by congressional resolution to an entire month by declaring March as National Women's History Month; and

WHEREAS, in Lansing, the theme for 2009 is "Women's History is Our History Too!" and local clubs will host a variety of Women's History activities to acknowledge the many accomplishments made by African American women throughout history;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Lansing City Council, hereby, wishes to recognize March as National Women's History Month.

By Councilmember Wood

**Motion Carried**

Councilmember Wood stated that she appreciated the efforts of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc. and thanked them for making Lansing's history better.

Mayor Bernero stated that he appreciated the outreach efforts of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc. and he himself is considered an unofficial member. He spoke about club's contributions to the City of Lansing and presented the members present with a crystal globe.

Gloria Davis stated that it is a pleasure to work with the city and that Mayor Bernero is a big supporter of her organization. She thanked the Mayor and City Council for recognizing the contributions of women in Lansing.

Betty Nixon thanked everyone for this honor.

Council President Quinney congratulated the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc. and thanked them for all that they do for women. He spoke about his aunt Lela Eaton, a founder of the Greater Lansing Area Club local chapter.

**3. Presentation; Recognition of National Association of Women in Construction**

Councilmember Wood spoke about the National Association of Women in Construction and stated that her sister Carleen Hallman was a founding member. She spoke about their scholarship program.

Mayor Bernero read the following proclamation:

WHEREAS: It is a pleasure to join in the celebration of Women in Construction Week to recognize the many accomplishments of women in the construction trades, and the support they have provided to the Lansing community; and

WHEREAS: The National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC), Lansing, MI, Chapter No. 177 was established in February of 1972 and has for 38 years distinguished itself as the voice of women in construction in the Greater Lansing area; and

WHEREAS: The work done by the NAWIC – Lansing Chapter No. 177 has benefited the City of Lansing through community development and educational programs. Through the Block Kids Building Program they have worked diligently to promote careers in the construction industry to elementary school children, with the MAGIC camps for girls focuses on middle school students, and Construction Career Days and CAD/Design Drafting competitions that include both middle school and high school students. With the Carleen Hallman Scholarship, they have given opportunities for college students to advance their knowledge of construction careers; and

WHEREAS: The Lansing Chapter No. 177 of NAWIC has unceasingly promoted the employment and advancement of women in the construction industry. The construction community, under the NAWIC Leadership, has been a driving force in fostering community development through renovation and beautification projects; promotion of skilled trades careers; and a positive vision of the future; and

WHEREAS: The Association has sought to achieve successful results for the City of Lansing and surrounding areas in a cooperative spirit with other organizations.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Virg Bernero, Mayor of the City of Lansing, by the power vested in me proclaimed March 1, 2009 through March 7, 2009 as

**“Women in Construction Week”**

in Lansing. Residents are encouraged to join me and thank the NAWIC, Lansing Chapter No. 177, for their continued support in helping to build Lansing's future. We wish them continued success in the future.

Chapter President Melanie Meyers spoke about the scholarship program in the name of Councilmember Wood's sister Carleen Hallman.

**COUNCILMEMBERS' COMMENTS  
AND CITY CLERK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Council President Quinney spoke about a bonding retreat that he and several councilmembers took this past weekend.

Councilmember Hewitt spoke about a friends and family event at a 7th Day Adventist church. He announced the next Eastside Neighborhood Organization meeting, the Eastside Souper event and the next 1st Contact meeting for residents of the 1st Ward. He stated that he was to have his head shaved as part of a cancer awareness event presented by St. Baldrick's.

Council President Quinney asked Councilmember Hewitt how much it would cost for him to donate money to the St. Baldrick's event in order to be the person who would shave Councilmember Hewitt's head. He commended Councilmember Hewitt for his participation in this event.

Councilmember Hewitt stated that it would cost \$50 to have his head shaved.

Councilmember Wood announced the next Genesee Neighborhood Association meeting and the Friends of Lansing's Historic Cemeteries meeting and stated that Gladys Gilson recently passed away. She spoke about an upcoming PBS special celebrating Michigan women featuring Lucille Belen. She announced an April 4, 2009 event at the Lansing Center regarding community resources available to citizens during these tough economic times.

Councilmember Allen announced a Mill Pond Village residents' meeting.

Councilmember Dunbar announced a new neighborhood meeting that will be held at Cristo Rey Church and a Walking and Biking Task Force meeting. She spoke about the wonderful facilitator that was present at the bonding retreat that she and several councilmembers participated in this past weekend.

**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 a recent Lansing pastors' event. He stated that Jackson National Life was bringing 150 new jobs to Lansing and he thanked the Economic Development Corporation and his cabinet for bringing these jobs to town. He spoke about the 2009 Road Repair Program and asked citizens to report potholes.

**PUBLIC COMMENT  
ON CITY GOVERNMENT RELATED MATTERS:**

Bob Gray of 422 Dadson Dr. spoke about Edgewood Blvd.

Bonnie Eastman of 1901 Vermont Ave. spoke about the Riverfront Apartments.

Jonelle Johnston of 3309 Westwood Ave. spoke about the Shady Oaks Development.

Russell Terry of 121 E. Mt. Hope Ave. spoke about various city matters.

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

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

Ammahad-Shekarakki of 902 Willow St. spoke about Malcolm X.

Robert Dulebohn of 3510 W. Saginaw St. spoke about Waverly Gold Course.

Harold King of 1563 N. High St. spoke about various city matters.

Kathi Raffone of 1221 Muskegon 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.

Rod Shangle of 3203 Westwood Ave. spoke about golf in the city.

**LEGISLATIVE MATTERS**

**RESOLUTIONS**

**RESOLUTION #2009-046**

BY THE COMMITTEE ON GENERAL SERVICES  
RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LANSING

WHEREAS, the Family Advocate and Support Team Incorporated has requested a resolution of recognition as a Local Nonprofit Organization operating in the City of Lansing for the purpose of obtaining a charitable gaming license pursuant to MCL 432.103 (9); and

WHEREAS, the City Attorney has reported that, based on a review of the documentation submitted, the applicant qualifies as a Local Nonprofit Organization;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Lansing City Council, hereby, recognizes the Family Advocate and Support Team Incorporated as a Local Nonprofit Organization operating in the City of Lansing for the purpose of obtaining a charitable gaming license.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the City Clerk is requested to provide a copy of this resolution to Chris Maxie of the Family Advocate and Support Team of 224 West Street, Lansing, MI 48915.

By Councilmember Kaltenbach

Motion Carried

**RESOLUTION #2009-047**

BY THE COMMITTEE ON GENERAL SERVICES  
RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LANSING

WHEREAS, Curtis Pierce sought to eliminate a Special Assessment of \$771.50 on Trash and Debris and all associated penalties and interest on the property tax bill of 1918 John Street, Lansing, Michigan 48906,

along with a request to receive a monetary amount of \$1,728.50 for items taken; and

WHEREAS, the Committee on General Services met on Monday, February 23, 2009 to review the claim;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council, hereby, denies the claim filed by Curtis Pierce on a Special Assessment of \$771.50 for Trash and Debris and all associated penalties and interest on the property tax bill of 1918 John Street, Lansing, Michigan 48906, along with a request to receive a monetary amount of \$1,728.50 for items taken;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that no further action is required by the City Attorney for processing this claim.

By Councilmember Kaltenbach

Motion Carried

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

By Councilmember Jeffries that all items be considered as being read in full and that President Quinney 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. Notice of Intent to Issue Bonds for Capital Improvement Projects
  - ii. Issuance of Bonds for Phase V, Segment1 of the CSO Program

REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

- iii. Resolution of Intent – Michigan Ave. Corridor Improvement Authority

REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

- iv. Transfer of Funds; 911 Communication Center, Operations

REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS AND THE INTERNAL AUDITOR

- Communications and Petitions, and Other City Related Matters:
  - a. Resolutions from the Ingham County Board of Commissioners making appointments to the Ingham County/City of Lansing Community Corrections Advisory Board and requesting confirmation of:
    - i. Resolution #09-026: Thomas Halsted as the Adult Probation Representative, term ending September 17, 2009

REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

- ii. Resolution #09-037; Neal Johnson as the Business Community Representative, term ending September 17, 2010 and Monica Jahner as the General Public Representative, term ending September 17, 2011

REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

- b. Letter from the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union 352 in support of the Appointment of Margaret Bossenbery to the Board of Water and Light Board of Trustees for a 2nd Ward Term to Expire June 30, 2010

REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

**MOTION OF EXCUSED ABSENCE**

By Councilmember Dunbar

To excuse Councilmember Robinson from tonight's proceedings

Motion Carried

**REMARKS BY COUNCILMEMBERS**

Councilmember Jeffries stated that issues related to Edgewood Blvd. would be taken up at the next Committee of the Whole meeting. He asked Jerry Ambrose, Executive Assistant to Mayor Bernero, to give an update on Z-10-2008.

Councilmember Dunbar spoke about the proposed changes to the sidewalk snow removal Ordinance.

Councilmember Kaltenbach asked Jerry Ambrose to make sure that the 150 new Jackson National Life employees would live in Lansing.

Councilmember Allen asked Jerry Ambrose if the new Jackson National Life employees would occupy the company's former building on the city's south side and he stated that they would.

Councilmember Wood stated that the 150 new Jackson National Life employees were a part of the 425 agreement with the city. She asked Jerry Ambrose about issues related to Haag Rd. and Miller Rd.

**REMARKS BY THE MAYOR  
OR EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT**

Jerry Ambrose, Executive Assistant to Mayor Bernero, spoke about the need to expedite the Notice of Intent to Issue Bonds for Capital Improvement Projects and the Issuance of Bonds for Phase V, Segment 1 of the CSO Program referred to the Committee of the Whole earlier in tonight's meeting. He spoke about the Mayor's automobile coalition.

**ADJOURNED TIME 8:51 P.M.**

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**CHRIS SWOPE, CITY CLERK**