



OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF
THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF LANSING
PROCEEDINGS OF JULY 20, 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 Allen, Hewitt, Jeffries, Kaltenbach, Quinney

ABSENT: Councilmembers Dunbar (Arrived at 7:03 p.m.), Robinson and Wood

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

APPROVAL OF PRINTED COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

By Councilmember Jeffries

To approve the printed Council Proceedings of July 13, 2009

Motion carried

SPECIAL CEREMONIES

- Special Ceremonies

Councilmember Dunbar arrived at the meeting at 7:03 p.m.

1. Tribute; Declaring Tuesday, July 21, 2009 Edelmira Lopez Day in honor of her dedication to the Lansing community

Councilmember Hewitt spoke about Edelmira Lopez' contributions to her community.

City Clerk Swope read the following Resolution:

RESOLUTION #2009-274

BY COUNCILMEMBER ERIC HEWITT
RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LANSING

WHEREAS, Edelmira "Delma" Lopez, her husband Eleuterio, and their first born son moved to Lansing, Michigan from Texas in 1946; and

WHEREAS, the family settled in north Lansing raising seven children, all of whom graduated from the Lansing School District, many continuing their education at both Lansing Community College and Michigan State University; and

WHEREAS, Delma served the Lansing community through various community boards, was an active member of the Lansing area Mexican Patriotic Committee, and worked with several Mayor's as an advisor and representative of Latino issues; and

WHEREAS, as a founding member of the Cristo Rey Church and Community Center, Delma served as the Board President for over twenty years; and

WHEREAS, Delma's dedication to the community provided inspiration to her family to become involved in the community, and as a result, the

Lopez family was deeply involved in the Cristo Rey Church and Community Center, organizing the annual fundraiser "Holiday in Mexico" and singing with the Church Choir; and

WHEREAS, Delma and Eleuterio were activists within the Latino community and worked diligently with Cesar Chavez and the United Farm Workers, occasionally traveling to Washington D.C. to testify in congressional hearings; and

WHEREAS, when Mr. Chavez visited Lansing, he enjoyed spending time with the Lopez family, eating homemade meals prepared by Delma; and

WHEREAS, Delma served on the Lansing Housing Commission as President for over 25 years and in 2004 received the YWCA's Diana Award for her service to the community; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Lansing City Council, hereby, declares Tuesday, July 21, 2009, Edelmira Lopez Day. We sincerely thank you for your contributions to the Lansing community and its residents.

By Councilmember Hewitt

Motion Carried

Edelmira Lopez thanked Councilmember Hewitt and the City Council for this honor and stated that she was quite surprised to receive this recognition.

Lorenzo Lopez stated that his mother was a pioneer and an example to all of Lansing. He spoke about his mother encouraging all to participate in democracy by voting and he spoke about family respect.

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 Jeffries; Special Ceremony - Mayoral Welcome of Teachers and Students from Lansing's Sister City, Asan, South Korea

The City Council returned to the order of:

SPECIAL CEREMONIES

2. Mayoral Presentation; Welcome of Teachers and Students from Lansing's Sister City, Asan, South Korea

Mayor Bernero spoke about Asan, South Korea and the Sister Cities program.

Barbara Roberts Mason thanked Mayor Bernero and the City Council for support of this program. She stated that the students present were exhausted from their trip.

Sergio Keck of the Lansing School District thanked the Mayor and the City Council for support of this program. He spoke about the many

aspects of the program.

Nancy R. spoke about the activities the visitors would partake in while here in Lansing.

Barbara Roberts Mason introduced the teachers of Asan, South Korea students present.

A teacher thanked everyone for the hospitality the group has received in Lansing and stated what a wonderful city Lansing has been and continues to be. She invited everyone to visit South Korea.

Barbara Roberts Mason stated that the program relies on donations and she spoke about the website where donations can be made.

Mayor Bernero recognized Martha Fujita and all of her work at Lansing Sister Cities.

Council President Quinney welcomed the visitors on behalf of the City Council and thanked them for helping to bridge cultural gaps.

COUNCILMEMBERS' COMMENTS AND CITY CLERK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Councilmember Allen announced the next Old Everett neighborhood meeting. She asked Mayor Bernero if the decibel levels at Common Ground have ever been measured and he stated that he is unaware if that has ever been done.

Council President Quinney thanked Mayor Bernero and the Public Service Department for paving Washington Avenue between St. Joseph St. and Kalamazoo St. He wished happy birthdays to Milton Jones and to his wife Desiree Quinney.

City Clerk Swope stated that there is still time to request and receive absentee ballots. He reminded voters that the polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 4, 2009 for the City Primary Election. He announced that the public test of the election will take place this Friday at 2:00 p.m.

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 stated that cleanup efforts have begun at the former Discount Dave's site. He spoke about the recent Mobile Food Pantry event and spoke about the picnics he recently attended, including Beck Park where Girl Scouts were cleaning up the park. He announced the next City Hall on the Road, Blues on the Square, concert in the Park and the Westside Summerfest events. He stated that Lansing's Westside Neighborhood received a Michigan Mainstreet Designation.

Councilmember Allen asked Mayor Bernero about the possibility of a Food Bank program involving donations at local grocery stores. She stated that she was delighted with the Beck Park cleanup.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

- Public Comment on Legislative Matters:

Legislative Matters included no public hearings.

There were no speakers for Legislative Matters.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON CITY GOVERNMENT RELATED MATTERS:

Loretta Stanaway of 546 Armstrong Road spoke about various city matters.

Queen Darlene Rhodes of 1200 Parkview St. spoke about various city matters.

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

Bob Gray of 422 Dadson Dr. spoke about various city matters.

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

Jim Currin of 6000 Orchard Ct. spoke about various city matters.

Richard Clement of P.O. Box 26123 spoke about various city matters.

Daniel Henderson of 3011 W. Willow St. spoke about an upcoming religious event.

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

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

Dennis Burdick of 518 N. Verlinden St. spoke about the city's taxes and budget.

Paula Hubbert of 2205 Beal Ave. spoke about surveillance cameras.

Walter Brown of 1310 Knollwood Ave. spoke about surveillance cameras.

William Hubbell of 3916 Wedgewood Dr. spoke about city intersections and elections.

Catherine Mercer of 4530 Sycamore St., Holt, spoke about various city matters.

Michael Mercer of 4530 Sycamore St., Holt, spoke about various city matters.

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

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

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

Norris Gibson of 110 W. Willow St. spoke about various city matters.

Willy Williams of P.O. Box 11042 spoke about various city matters.

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. Rescind NEZ Certificate # N2002-469 Due to Non-Homeowner Occupancy, Cynthia Dennis

REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING

- ii. Rescind NEZ Certificate # N2001-019 Due to Non-Homeowner Occupancy, Jean-Philippe N. Peltier

REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING

- iii. Rescind NEZ Certificate # N2000-152 Due to Non-Homeowner Occupancy, R. Sorum/R. Barnes

REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING

- iv. Rescind NEZ Certificate # 98-083 Due to Nonpayment of Delinquent Property Tax, Timothy Gleason

REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING

- v. Rescind NEZ Certificate #N2007-0580 Due to Nonpayment of Delinquent Property Tax, K. Koerster/N. Patterson

REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING

- vi. Rescind NEZ Certificate #N2001-056 Due to Nonpayment of Delinquent Property Tax, Ira Jacobs

REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING

- vii. Rescind NEZ Certificate #N2001-061 Due to Nonpayment of Delinquent Property Tax, Ryan Lowe

REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING

- viii. ACT-7-08—Owens Street, West of Comfort Street, Vacate

REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING

- ix. Approving Acceptance of Multi-agency Recovery Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) for Grant Period Beginning July 2009 and Ending June 2013

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

• Communications and Petitions, and Other City Related Matters:

There were no communications.

MOTION OF EXCUSED ABSENCE

By Councilmember Allen

To excuse Councilmembers Robinson and Allen from tonight’s meeting

Motion Carried

REMARKS BY COUNCILMEMBERS

Councilmember Jeffries left the meeting.

Councilmember Dunbar addressed comments made by a speaker tonight regarding research she conducted on other municipalities’ council meetings. She spoke about the use of computers at City Council meetings by Councilmembers.

Councilmember Kaltenbach spoke about allocations for computers.

REMARKS BY THE MAYOR OR EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

Mayor Bernero addressed comments made by a speaker tonight regarding possibly bad produce at the recent Mobile Food Pantry and apologized to anyone who received bad food.

Councilmember Dunbar spoke about the South Lansing Community and Allen St. farmers markets.

ADJOURNED TIME 8:50 P.M.

CHRIS SWOPE, CITY CLERK