

APPROVED MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

August 2, 2023
Conference Room #119
5:30 P.M.

Present: Commissioners: Mayor Pro-Tem Robert Coughlin, Ron Draayer, Maurice Groce, Clarkston Morgan, Jessica Ann Tyson, and Mayor Stephen Kepley.

Staff present: Finance Director Emeritus Tom Chase, Executive Assistant Stephanie Fox, Deputy City Administrator Shay Gallagher, Economic Development Planner Golder, Finance Director Keyla Garcia, DPW Director Chad Griffin, City Clerk Dan Kasunic, Police Chief Bryan Litwin, Fire Chief Brent Looman, Deputy Parks Director Spencer McKellar, Deputy Police Chief Stephanie Morningstar, Parks & Recreation Director Val Romeo, Fire Department Administrative Assistant Nancy Shane, City Attorney Jeff Sluggett, Police Sergeant Tim Wierenga, and Sabo Representative Maryann Sabo.

POLICE DEPARTMENT:

A. STATIONARY LICENSE PLATE READER PRESENTATION.

Police Chief Litwin noted the cost for this project along with the annual cost the city would incur if the commission decided to approve the expenditure.

Amy Cornel from Flock Safety provided a power point presentation explaining the benefits of the software, noting specifically that it does not have facial recognition or does traffic enforcement, but does have real time notification to units on “hits” of plates that are of note. She noted that both City of Wyoming and Kent County use the program currently. There was brief conversation regarding the number of cameras and where they may be installed, along with questions on damages and upgrades. Police Chief Litwin spoke on implementing a policy pertaining to the use of this project. If this is approved by the commission, it will take about three to four months to implement this project.

PLANNING DEPARTMENT:

A. DISCUSSION ON DISTRIBUTION OF PROPOSED MASTER PLAN AMENDMENT.

Economic Development Planner Golder provided a brief history of the building located at 1800-1900 44th Street and informed the committee the size of the building along with undeveloped space on the back side of the structure.

It is proposed to use the building as a climate-controlled self-storage; however, the current zoning of C-2 does not have self-storage as a permitted use. The next step in the process is if the commission would want to have a public hearing at Planning Commission on a proposed Master Plan amendment to rezone to Light Industrial (L-1) which is a permitted use. Then the City Commission has the

option to consider the amendment after the Planning Commission decision is rendered. City Attorney Sluggett stated two options, not to set a hearing date or authorize the Planning Commission to submit the proposed Master Plan to the legislative body for review and comment. The process of adopting a Master Plan shall not proceed further unless the legislative body approves the distribution of the proposed Master Plan.

After a discussion with a focus on a potential change to industrial and what may happen if the storage company closed. None of the Committee members were in favor of approving public hearing to amend the Master Plan.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Some of the City Commissioners spoke of National Night Out and the discussions they had with residents pertaining to speeding in their neighborhoods. They discussed how the city could find ways to reduce speeds in residential areas. Sergeant Wierenga and Deputy Police Chief Morningstar provided some insight in speeds around Kentwood. The committee members requested the Police Department to propose purchasing several speed signs with the option of a license plate reader to see if these would help to reduce speeds.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 P.M.

Dan Kasunic
City Clerk

Robert Coughlin
Mayor Pro-Tem