



LOWELL CITY COUNCIL
MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 4, 2022

TO: Mayor DeVore and the City Council

FROM: Michael T. Burns, City Manager

MS

RE: Friday Memo

Attached to the Friday memo are the following:

- Agenda for the Thursday February 10, 2022 City Council meeting
- February 2, 2022 FOX 17 article on proposed expansion of an electric battery facility in Holland
- February 2, 2022 Sanilac County News regarding request for City of Lexington to share the City of Sandusky's City Manager
- February 2, 2022 M-Live article on PBS podcast "This American Life" featuring incident with former Muskegon Police Officer who had KKK memorabilia

Earlier in the week, I briefed you regarding the odor issue at River City Cannabis. Monday, the business was cited. The Police Department attempted to serve them on Monday and no one was at the premises. Then on Tuesday they came to City Hall to receive their citation. I was very blunt with them regarding what would occur if the odor issue isn't resolved. They claim they will correct it. Thursday, I went to Snap Fitness to work out and the odor of marijuana in the facility was still very strong. I have been in communication with them and they say they are trying to correct the issue. Hopefully they actually do so.

Tuesday, I attended the all-day seminar with Lowell Light and Power. The morning portion was on the importance of public power. The second portion of the day consisted of the functions of the board. It was very similar to Lew Bender, but maybe with less swearing by the facilitator.

Wednesday, it appeared that we survived Deathstorm 2022. The DPW did a phenomenal job as always. Nate Fowler texted me thanking the DPW for their efforts. My kids on the other hand were not happy when they saw the plow trucks Wednesday night.

Thursday morning, I attended the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council meeting. Peter Haefner presented their audit and the annual report was also presented. After that meeting, Jessica Wood, Dave Austin and our financial adviser Warren Creamer met to discuss the USDA financing.

Last week, as I was at the Michigan Municipal Executives Conference, Dave Austin, Warren Creamer and I met with USDA to discuss the underwriting of the financing for Monroe and Washington. At the meeting, it was brought to our attention that we were above the minimum income level needed to be considered for USDA financing. The calculations we submitted basically indicated we needed to go seek private financing for the projects. Meaning, we could only seek a 20 to 25-year bond or maybe go through the State Revolving Fund and receive financing for 30 years. These would significantly increase payments. The interest rates are also higher than USDA. In addition to this, there is also some required title work needed pertaining to possible right of way easement requirements USDA dictates. The City must address this before we begin construction. Since these must be worked out before we bid the project, I was concerned we might not be able to complete any work on Monroe this year.

In our meeting, Dave addressed what was skewing our underwriting requirements. It was because many of our commercial customers along with our township wholesale agreement (for water) were included in residential median income levels. Taking these out of the equation (which is allowable) puts us back in line with USDA financing. So we are addressing this currently with USDA. The new issue is there is no possible way to complete all of Monroe in 2022. So we are going to set up our bid specifications to complete the southern half of Monroe in 2022. In 2023, we can work south on Monroe from Fremont to where we finished construction in 2022. We can also work north on Washington from Front towards Fremont in 2023.

Thursday afternoon, Andy Moore, Sue Ullery and I met with Charlie Jeffrey from Betten Baker regarding their request to the ZBA on February 22, 2022. They want to flip signage across the street from each other and the heights do not meet the current standards under the zoning ordinance. They were previously grandfathered since the ordinance was revised after the original signs were constructed. We allowed them an option to keep the current signs where they are without needing to go to the ZBA. We also informed them the other option is to lower the heights on the new signs. Additionally, we worked with them on signage issues for the new dealership. I believe the meeting was very productive.

Today, I had a DDA orientation meeting with Lori Chambers. Last week, I met with Nicole Lintemuth who is our new DDA member also. I also submitted an LCTV grant to seek funding to address the museum front steps as they are in need of being replaced.

This is all I have. Have a good weekend.



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CITY OF LOWELL
DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
REGULAR
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2022
12 NOON

1. CALL TO ORDER; ROLL CALL
2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA
3. APPROVAL MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING(S)
 - a) December 16, 2021
4. TREASURER'S REPORT
5. PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA
6. OLD BUSINESS
 - a) Valley Vista Engineering
 - b) Summer Concert Series
7. NEW BUSINESS
 - a) Handicap Accessibility Assistance
8. REPORTS AND MEMBER COMMENTS
9. ADJOURNMENT

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Holland moves forward with proposed LG expansion, would add 1,000+ jobs



Holland is moving forward with the proposed LG Energy Solution expansion which would add over 1,000 jobs to the area.



By: FOX 17

Posted at 9:58 PM, Feb 02, 2022 and last updated 10:34 PM, Feb 02, 2022

HOLLAND, Mich. — Holland is moving forward with the proposed **LG Energy Solution expansion**, which would add over 1,000 jobs to the area.

The city is allowing the company to be inside what's called a Renaissance Zone. This zone means lower taxes over the next 20 years.

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There is still a lot more steps that they need to go through. However, the city passing this new zoning unanimously is a significant step forward for the project.

LG Energy Solution representatives publicly addressed the Holland City Council for the first time Wednesday night.

“Our headquarters is a big company, and our revenue is about \$11 billion,” said Bonchul Koo, president of LG Chem Michigan Inc.

“By passing this ren zone, we can utilize our resources more and expand our factory,” Koo explained.

For LG to keep this special zoning, they must keep up with promises made to the city and the state, such as hiring 1,200 people. This could be a challenge, as many businesses are struggling to hire people.

Koo noted LG is also experiencing a similar problem, but the company is working on strategies to make sure they can fill those jobs immediately.

“Actually, we need more people. So, that 1,200, we need to commit that,” Koo stated. “We are hiring people, and fulfilling 1,200 jobs, that’s not a big problem.

Holland City Manager Keith Van Beek says LG will go through yearly audits to ensure that the company is keeping up with its promises. “Ultimately, the Renaissance Zone is approved at the state level, and the reporting and the auditing for the information are done annually and is needed to be made by the company to

the state,” Van Beek said. “That is the process to make sure promises or items involved with the rezoning if we get this and they provide this. The state has a system in place to monitor that.”

LG's latest expansion, which will add another million square feet to its existing facility on 146th Avenue in Holland, will focus on building batteries for electric vehicles.

They already have an existing partnership with General Motors, which also just recently announced a **\$7 billion investment** in the state to build electric vehicles and batteries.

With the draw to Holland, the state is also providing incentives for this project, including \$10 million to support affordable housing in the area.

The project isn't set in stone just yet. The state now must sign off on the zoning and will be looking at that later this month.

If all goes through, those jobs would be coming to the area by 2025.

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CURATION BY



4-year-old dies after shooting himself in backseat of car

Sandusky nixes shared manager idea

Lexington wanted to hire Faber part time

FEBRUARY 02, 2022

BY HANNAH BRYAN 810-452-2684 • HBRYAN@MIHOMEPAPER.COM

LEXINGTON — Lexington officials will have to look elsewhere as they struggle to find a new village manager.

The Sandusky City Council has turned down Lexington's suggestion to share their city manager, Dave Faber.

During last week's Lexington council meeting, village President Kristen Kaatz informed the council that she had begun preliminary discussions with Sandusky about a shared village manager arrangement.

Kaatz first suggested this idea during the personnel committee meeting on Jan. 21.

In the arrangement, the Sandusky city manager, Dave Faber, would be the part time manager of Lexington while helping prepare assistant village manager Allie Sutton to eventually take over as fulltime manager. Sutton had been assisting the interim village manager, retired lawyer Amos Williams, however Williams services are no longer available. Williams was hired after the previous manager, Holly Tatman, resigned last summer to take a job in Marine City.

In the committee meeting, Kaatz explained that Sutton does not yet have the experience level needed to take over as full-time manager.

During the council meeting, Kaatz asked for one more week to discuss the

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Lexington council member Ed Jarosz said that he hoped that Faber would function as a supporter or advisor to Sutton and not serve as the actual manager.

Kaatz explained that the village would need someone to actually manage and that Faber would mentor Sutton while doing the job of manager.

Jarosz asked, "What makes this guy from Sandusky qualified to come down here?"

Kaatz explained that Faber is one of the most successful managers in the state. Jaroz agreed that Faber was good at his job.

Council member Peter Muoio brought up the idea of Sutton taking over as manager now, noting that all of the council members have had a job at some point where they weren't fully prepared.

Speaking directly to Sutton, Jarosz said that if Sutton thinks this plan will lead to her eventually becoming manager, she is naïve.

Kaatz said that she and council member Mike Fulton are the only ones who have asked Sutton if she wants the job yet. Kaatz said that Sutton does not want the village manager job at this time.

Jarosz said, "The only thing I'm not in favor of is bringing the guy down here and putting him in the office."

The council agreed to wait a week in order to allow Sandusky time to respond to their suggestion.

The Sandusky council met Jan. 24 and decided that they do not want to further investigate the possibility of sharing a manager with Lexington.

Mayor Lukshaitis had asked council's opinion about Lexington's request for Faber to help them out for around 25 hours a week. Lexington would reimburse Sandusky for

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When asked for a comment, Faber told the News, “My board felt that there are lots of projects happening in Sandusky and my time is needed in Sandusky.”

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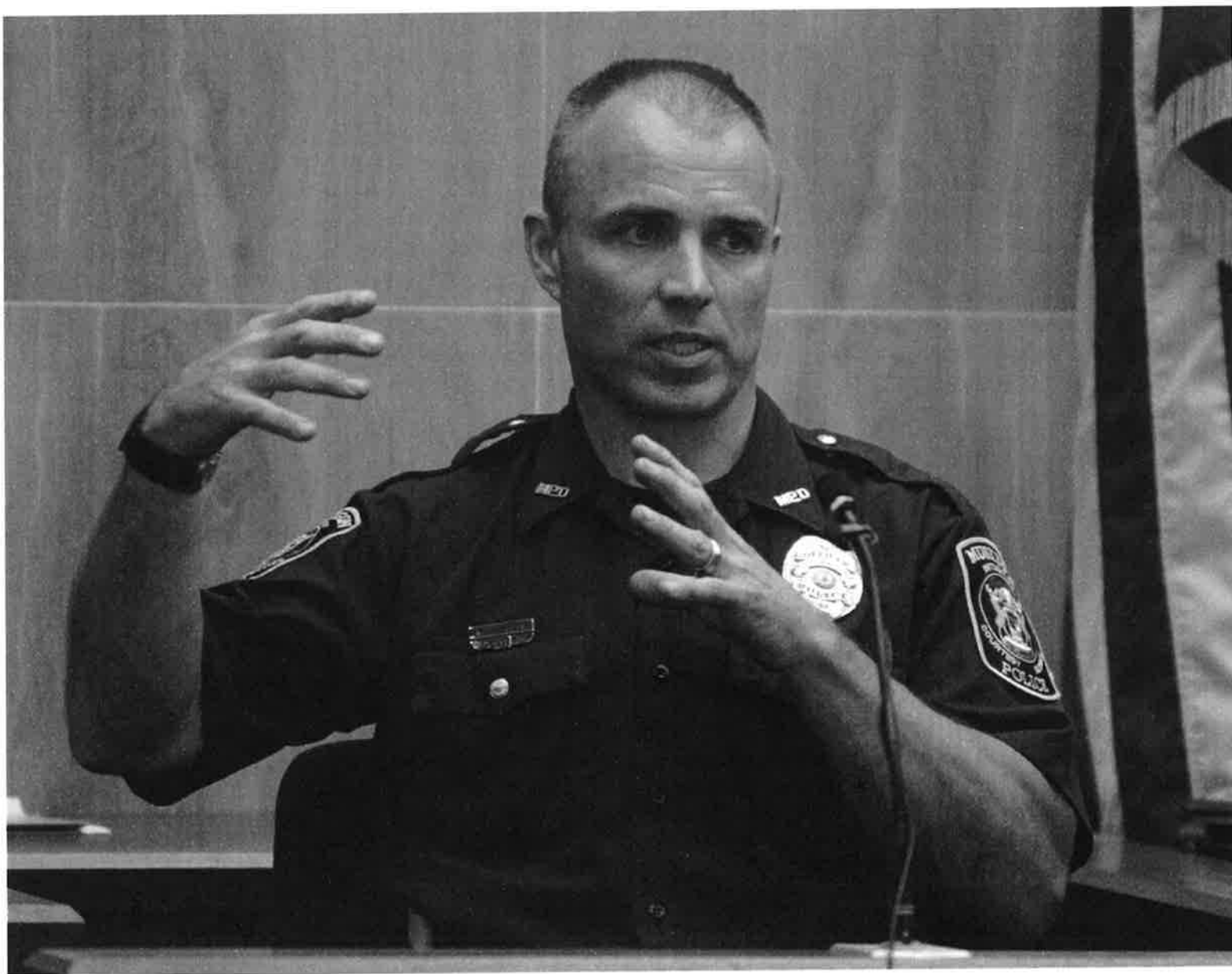


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Muskegon

'This American Life' explores case of former Muskegon police officer who had KKK memorabilia

Updated: Feb. 02, 2022, 11:38 a.m. | Published: Feb. 02, 2022, 11:00 a.m.



A two-part series by the "This American Life" public radio program explores the case of former Muskegon Police Officer Charles "Chuck" Anderson, shown here in a file photo, who was fired after a Black couple from Muskegon, potential homebuyers, reported on social media they found racist material in Anderson's Holton home that was for sale.

  169 shares

By [Lynn Moore | lmoore8@mlive.com](#)

MUSKEGON COUNTY, MI – The case of a Muskegon police officer fired after Confederate flags and KKK memorabilia were found in his home was the subject of a two-part series by the “This American Life” radio program that examines the difficulty of rooting racism out of police forces.

The public radio program aired the first part, titled [“A Couple Walks Into a House”](#) on Jan. 21, and the second part, [“A City Walks Into an Investigation”](#) on Jan. 28.

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It explores the case of former Muskegon Police Officer Charles “Chuck” Anderson who was fired after a Black couple from Muskegon, potential homebuyers, reported on social media they found racist material in Anderson’s Holton home that was for sale.

In September 2019, five weeks after their Facebook post about the discovery, city officials concluded that Anderson had lost the public’s trust and was fired. Technically, he signed a separation agreement and walked away with his pension and health insurance.

Related: [Cop fired for KKK, Confederate flag 'memorabilia' signs separation agreement](#)



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The “This American Life” programs include interviews with the couple, Rob and Reyna Mathis; Muskegon City Manager Frank Peterson; Muskegon Police Chief Jeffrey Lewis; and Anderson’s wife, Rachel Anderson.

Radio producer Ben Calhoun explored how the Mathises were negatively impacted by the case, other complaints regarding Anderson’s interaction with Black citizens and the difficulty in rooting out racist officers.

Muskegon couple describes finding KKK memorabilia du...



Among new information Calhoun uncovered was the fact Lewis conducted his own investigation – apart from the formal one conducted by the police department’s internal affairs team – that found, in the chief’s words, Anderson “seemed to have a lot of problems with African Americans throughout his career.”

In coming to that conclusion, Lewis referenced earlier concerns about Anderson and recounted a cell phone video of Anderson he had seen online about a year earlier. In it, Lewis said Anderson is seen, seemingly unprovoked, shoving an elderly woman to the ground in an act Lewis found “just inappropriate...just wrong.”

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He also considered the concerns about Anderson that other officers had confided in the chief and an incident where Anderson told a female business owner to “shut up,” he told “This American Life.”

In addition, Lewis said he reviewed the case of Anderson’s fatal shooting of Julius Johnson, an unarmed Black man, who investigators determined was getting the best of Anderson in a physical fight after fleeing from a traffic stop. Anderson was cleared of any wrongdoing in that 2009 incident.

Lewis questioned Anderson’s claim that the Confederate flags in his home were part of an extensive “Dukes of Hazzard” television show collection, telling Calhoun that Anderson never produced requested photos of the collection and so “That bucket didn’t hold water.”

“I said I cannot in good conscience bring him back here and put him on the streets of this town,” Lewis told Calhoun.

Calhoun questions if the Mathises would have had an easier time if Lewis had gone public with his own concerns at the time. Instead, the city released the more than 400-page investigative report that didn’t find any pattern of problems with Black citizens that Lewis said he’d uncovered.

During the radio broadcast, the Mathises recounted their hesitancy in reporting what they had seen in Anderson’s home and the backlash they received after they did.

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They said they were looking for a home with plenty of land to host their children and grandchildren and initially were excited about the potential of Anderson's home. They said they thought it odd there were items with Confederate flags in the garage and home, but Rob Mathis told Calhoun he was undone when he saw a framed application to join the KKK in one of the bedrooms.

They also had seen Anderson's Muskegon Police uniform and realized a police officer owned the home, the couple said.

The Mathises said they eventually decided to post on Facebook what they had seen out of concern that Black citizens could run into trouble with Anderson if they encountered him on the streets. The comments on that post "exploded," Calhoun said, leading to the city's decision to place Anderson on leave and conduct the investigation.

The Mathises discuss the backlash they received, including receiving threats and having racial slurs hurled at them. They said friends of their 12-year-old daughter told her their parents wouldn't let them talk to her.

And they said they sent their daughter away to live with an aunt after they saw a photo on social media of their daughter playing in their front yard with the message "we know where you live." Extra troubling was the fact their home was 500 feet from the road set back in some woods, Calhoun pointed out.

The radio program explores other complaints against Anderson, including one in which he ended up pepper-spraying "elderly" people at a backyard birthday party when he responded to a noise complaint. There was another incident involving the Mathises themselves, who said they didn't realize their run-in was with Anderson, in which Reyna Mathis initially was charged with assaulting Anderson.

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Anderson has never spoken with the media about the case, and the producer of the "This American Life" programs didn't have luck reaching him either. However, he did interview Anderson's wife, Rachel, about their interest in collecting historic and vintage items.

Rachel Anderson said she was the one who found the KKK application in an antique shop and thought "it was so cool" and would look good in their house. When Calhoun pressed her on how that might be offensive and "scary" to some people, Rachel Anderson said that didn't change her opinion.

"The way things are now, everybody is offended over something, and who knows what that might be?" she said.

Read MLive coverage of the Charles Anderson case:

[Fired Muskegon officer's personnel file reflects shooting incidents, high praise](#)