

City Council Legislative Subcommittee Meeting

Eileen Dondero Foley Council Chambers

6:00 p.m.

Monday, January 23, 2017

Present: Nancy Colbert Puff, Acting City Manager; Jane Ferrini, Assistant City Attorney; Mayor Blalock, Assistant Mayor Splaine, Councilor Spear, Councilor Dwyer and Kelli L. Barnaby, City Clerk

Others Present: Martha Fuller Clark, State Senator; Laura Pantelakos, State Representative; Tamara Le, State Representative; Jacqueline Cali-Pitts, State Representative; Peter Somssich, State Representative; Pam Gordon, State Representative and Rebecca McBeath, State Representative

Staff Present: Dianna Fogarty, Human Resources Director; Brian Goetz, Deputy Public Works Director and Rosann Maurice-Lentz, City Assessor

I. Greeting:

Mayor Blalock said that this is the first meeting of the new session. He said this will be an overview of various bills.

Assistant City Attorney Ferrini said the City Council spoke on the submission of testimony.

II. Discussion of City policies on submission of testimony

Councilor Dwyer explained that we want to develop policy that allows us to make decisions between the meetings of the City Council. She said we need to develop a list of things that we want the Legislature to oppose.

Senator Clark said when you want to oppose something that it be put into positive language.

III. Discussion of submission of City testimony regarding:

Councilor Dwyer said we would oppose the retirement bills which would erode the system.

Assistant Mayor Splaine said the bills have been drafted and came forward with a statement that the City Council supported.

Representative Cali-Pitts said she has not read the bill on gender identification. She has read the conversion bill. Assistant Mayor Splaine spoke to the bills and said he feels that the letter we send should say the City Council supports the concept.

Senator Clark asked if the City will send in statements on the various bills. Assistant City Attorney Ferrini said that the City Council supports these concepts.

City Assessor Maurice Lenz spoke regarding the various bills affecting assessing. She stated the Valuation of utility property takes away the City's ability to value and puts it in the hands of the DRA. Assessor Maurice Lenz said the City should have the right to value its utilities.

Councilor Dwyer said the hearing is coming up on Wednesday. Assessor Maurice Lenz said it is hard to get their voices heard. Senator Clark asked that a letter be sent to the entire Legislative Delegation regarding this matter and the City's view point on it.

Assessor Maurice Lenz spoke against the Assessing Standards Board bill and said she does not support the removal of assessors from the Board. Representative Pantelakos said she does not feel that this would go through easily.

Assistant City Attorney Ferrini said in the event it comes out of Committee we could send the letter prepared by Assessor Maurice Lenz for the Legislators' information.

Deputy Public Works Director Goetz asked for continued support on the funding for SAG programs. Assistant City Attorney Ferrini said that testimony will be provided tomorrow.

Deputy Public Works Director Goetz said the City has no position on HB 431 regarding establishing a commission to study long term goals and requirement for drinking water in the seacoast area. He stated that there are some good things in the bill and he would work with other communities on it.

Human Resources Director Fogarty spoke against HB 369 regarding Retirement/Collective Bargaining said the bill would spread out the problem over time and will increase liability over \$400 million. She also expressed her opposition to HB 425 relative to Retirement/Collective Bargaining that will increase the employer's rate for retirement. Councilor Dwyer said these bills will put the City further behind. Human Resources Director Fogarty said she supports HB 413 regarding Retirement/Collective Bargaining she said NHMA is proposing 15% to be given to help communities. She also spoke regarding HB 542 which is an additional tax on retired employees and HB 543 does not allow an employee to come back and work for the same employer and HB 561 regarding part-time employment for retirees is an unfunded mandate.

Assistant City Attorney Ferrini said she had not planned on submitting written testimony on these bills.

Representative Cali-Pitts said that all testimony written letters by staff should be copied to the Delegation for their review.

City Clerk Barnaby will provide information from the New Hampshire City and Town Clerk's Association on the various voting bills outlining their positions upon received their spreadsheet report.

IV. Topics of LSR's and Bills of Interest

Assistant City Attorney Ferrini said that this is a list of bills we are watching and they're tracking the bills of interest. She stated that the Coalition communities does not support the constitutional funding amendment.

VIII. Schedule Next Meeting

Mayor Blalock said he will work on a date.

IX. Adjournment

At 6:55 p.m., Mayor Blalock adjourned the meeting.