



Meeting Minutes

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Monday February 14, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.
City Hall in Conference A

Members Present: Councilor Katherine Cook; Councilor John Tabor; Councilor Vincent Lombardi

Staff Present: Karen Conard, City Manager
Suzanne Woodland, Deputy City Manager / Deputy City Attorney

Members of the public were able to participate by Zoom.

1. The meeting was opened at 10:02 a.m. by Councilor Cook with a welcome statement.
2. Roll call taken of those present and recorded above.
3. Committee Members and City management introduced themselves.

Motion by Councilor Lombardi, seconded by Councilor Tabor to suspend the rules to allow the committee to add to the agenda the election a Chair of the Committee. All in favor.

Motion by Councilor Lombardi, seconded by Councilor Tabor to appoint Councilor Cook as Chair of the Committee. All in favor.

4. Councilor Cook reviewed the charge and direction given from the City Council regarding the priorities of the Governance Committee to include: City Council Rules with special attention to Rules 41 and 43B relative to public dialogue; City Council Policies; Ethics Ordinance in Chapter 1; Land Use Board Appointments with specific attention to the Planning Board Appointments in Chapter 1; and potential changes to the Charter.
5. There was a discussion of the identified priorities and how to approach the work.
 - The City Manager and Deputy City Manager will work with the Committee to set up such public input meetings and other opportunities for public input as the Committee determines to be helpful along the way.

- The Deputy City Manager will secure from the Legal Department suggestions as to how to change the ordinance or otherwise accomplish the task of better staggering the terms for Planning Board members. The report back will not include potential Charter changes that might affect Land Use Board appointments as Charter changes will be a separate topic.
 - Committee members divided up work for the next meeting. Councilor Tabor will look at the Ordinance relative to Ethics given his past experience with this Ordinance. Councilor Lombardi will give attention to the City Council Rules and will be prepared to assist with regard to Land Use Board Appointments. Councilor Cook will review City Council policies giving special attention to those related to art and Art-Speak which is winding down as an organization. She will also look at City Council Rules 41 and 43B.
6. The Deputy City Manager previewed some of the ordinance changes that the City Manager/staff are likely to bring forward for consideration during the Council term, including an update to the Sewer Use Ordinance and a Stormwater Utility.
 7. There was no other business.
 8. Public comment was received from:
 - Doug Roberts – Mr. Roberts recommended strengthening City Council Rule 2 so as to require specificity in motions/actions to be taken at special meetings so the public would have an opportunity to comment. He also raised concerns about political action committees referencing the communication from the NH Attorney General’s Office regarding activities of Mark Brighton. He further suggested training for City Councilors regarding obligations under the Right-To-Know law to improve process.
 - Ken Goldman – Mr. Goldman asked about the status of outdoor dining/licensing. The City Manager responded with an update and advised as to how to provide comment.
 9. Schedule of next meetings: February 28, 2022; March 14, 2022; March 28, 2022; April 11, 2022; and April 25, 2022 with May 16, 2022 tentative. All meetings will be held at 10:00 a.m.
 10. **Motion** to adjourn made by Councilor Tabor, seconded by Councilor Lombardi. All concurred. Meeting ended at 10:59 AM.

Minutes prepared by

Suzanne M. Woodland, Deputy City Manager / Deputy City Attorney

Approved by Governance Committee on: March 28, 2022