



***Waltham City Council
Ordinances and Rules Committee
Minutes
Monday October 4, 2021
Hoover Committee Room
610 Main Street
Waltham, MA 02452***

Chairman McLaughlin called the meeting to order at 8:12 pm.

Attendance

Present:

George A. Darcy III

Caren Dunn

John J. McLaughlin

Cathyann Harris

Randall J. LeBlanc

Absent: none

Councillor LeBlanc moved approval of minutes from the September 20, 2021 meeting. The motion was approved on a voice vote.

New Matters:

General Ordinance Plastic Bags

Councillor Harris moved to lay the matter on the table. The motion was approved on a voice vote.

General Ordinance Plastic Bag fines

Councillor Harris moved to lay the matter on the table. The motion was approved on a voice vote.

Compensation Ordinance changes regarding Chief Building Inspector, Director of Inspectional Services, and Director of Maintenance/Clerk of the Works

Councillor Dunn moved to lay the matter on the table. The motion was approved on a voice vote.

City Ordinance amendment of Section 2-184, 2-185, 2-186, 2-187 Department of Maintenance and Director of Maintenance/Clerk of the Works (Recommitted)

Councillor LeBlanc spoke in favor of the amendment. Councillor LeBlanc said inspections can get very busy and it makes sense to break off this role. Building Inspector Forte spoke in favor of the amendment saying that these are two separate disciplines that should be in separate departments. Wires Inspector Kelly talked about the wires maintenance staff moving to the new department. Councillor Harris spoke about this being a big change. Mr. Forte said the change will allow the Building Inspector to focus on Zoning and other inspectional issue. Mr. Forte said he disagreed with the pay reduction for the Inspector of Buildings. Mr. Forte also said he thought that the Inspector of Buildings needs to report to the Mayor. Councillor Dunn asked questions about the new departmental organizational charts. Councillor LeBlanc and Mr. Forte talked about preventative maintenance. Councillor LeBlanc moved to lay the matter on the table. The motion was approved on a voice vote.

City Ordinance, Chapter 20, establishing an Inspectional Services Department

Councillor Harris moved to take the matter from the table. The motion was approved on a voice vote. Mr. Forte said that this change will allow the Building Inspector to focus on code and zoning enforcement. Councillor Harris asked about increase efficiencies. Mr. Kelly spoke about being able to issue permits faster and about implementing an electronic permitting system. Councillor Harris moved to lay the matter on the table. The motion was approved on a voice vote.

Review of traffic analysis for Adult Use Marijuana Special Permits

Councillor Harris moved to take the matter from the table. The motion was approved on a voice vote. The Mayor said she had made a request of the Traffic Engineer and Traffic Commission on this matter. Councillor Harris reviewed the draft scope of work with Traffic Engineer Garvin. Mr. Garvin reviewed the scope and how the analysis would be performed. Councillor Darcy said he wanted the potential build out of the Polaroid site to be included. Councillor McLaughlin asked about the timing of the analysis.

Mayor respectfully requests that the duties of the City Planner be modified to include true planning duties

Councillor Harris moved to take the matter from the table. The motion was approved on a voice vote. The Mayor spoke about the new principal planner being hired in the Planning Department. The Mayor also spoke about the Planning Department getting involved in reviewing special permits and zoning amendments. Councillor Darcy spoke in favor of the proposal. Councillor Harris moved to lay the matter on the table. The motion was approved on a voice vote.

Special Permit 130 Lexington Street

Councillor Harris moved to take the matter from the table. The motion was approved on a voice vote. Attorney Keefe reviewed responses that have been filed with the Committee. Councillor LeBlanc said he likes the changes to the traffic configuration. Councillor Dunn expressed concern about the vehicle movement in the parking lot. The motion to send the matter to the Law Department was approved on a voice vote. Councillor LeBlanc moved to lay the matter on the table. The motion was approved on a voice vote.

Councillor Darcy moved to adjourn at 10:32 pm. The motion was approved on a voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph W. Vizard, Assistant City Clerk