

**LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
SEPTEMBER 19, 2013**

Call to Order

Councilor and Chair Feener called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. in the meeting room located on the lower level of City Hall.

Committee Members in Attendance

Councilor Feener and Councilor Cournoyer. Councilor Boyd was absent.

Others in Attendance

Mayor Merrifield, City Manager Dragon, Councilor Desrochers, Councilor Dzujna and Planning/Zoning Director Lewis.

Review Proposed Revisions for the following:

- 1. Create “Selectmen” positions for election monitoring** – Two Councilors are required to be at their Ward location for elections to monitor the election. Councilor Feener commented that he does not believe there is a need for selectmen positions as Councilors should simply consider this as part of their job.

Motion was made by Councilor Cournoyer and seconded by Councilor Feener that there is not a need to create selectmen positions for election monitoring. Motion passes.

- 2. Proposed Vending/Panhandling and other related ordinance** – Director Lewis commented there are criminal background checks available for vendors but they do not seem to be required. Councilor Feener stated vendors coming in from outside of the community for an event the City might want to do a background check. Director Lewis advised there is a local permit and a State licensing for those that go door to door. Comment was made for Community Day and other Recreational events for those local in the community to participate background checks would probably not be needed. Councilor Feener stated if they are established in the

community, a background check would not be necessary. The Committee decided to acquire more information and find out the State's procedures.

3. Code to prohibit camping on public property – Councilor Cournoyer asked why this wouldn't be covered under the City's Vagrant Law. Director Lewis stated he was not aware the City had a Vagrant Law but will check into it. The Committee suggested City Property should be defined. It was suggested a permit be required for camping on public property and Councilor Feener stated that would be a good thing. The Boy Scouts sometimes camp on city property but the charge for a permit would be waived for them. The Committee directed Director Lewis to go forward and look into a permitting process.

4. Property Maintenance Code for shop window/window treatments – Director Lewis stated this is a tough issue to handle. Councilor Feener suggested to go forward with this and find something that would work and could be enforced. City Manager Dragon commented we could be getting into a slippery slope. She suggested having conversations with the businesses. Also when there is an actual violation on something, meet with them and at that time discuss some of the other issues. Councilor Feener suggested this issue be visited again the end of the year and see if working with the property owners brings about change. The Committee also requested Manager Dragon talk to other communities to see how they handle window treatments. They will revisit this issue in mid January, 2014 if nothing has improved.

Issues that require input before drafting revisions:

1. Sex Offender Ordinance – Councilor Feener stated the ordinance needs to be in compliance and the residency limitation in the ordinance is not in compliance. The Committee suggested perhaps restrict activity without being tied to residency. Clean up what is in the ordinance and maybe have

so many feet around a building restricted. Expand the area they cannot enter into.

- 2. Revision of Ordinance 61** – Suggestion was made to remove School Board members and also to increase the number of signatures as it was felt 100 is too low. It was also stated that perhaps we should get rid of the entire Ordinance except for the public hearing part. It was then stated a public hearing can always be held. The Committee suggested Indemnification language should be reviewed and the School Board should indemnify themselves.

- 3. Curfew Ordinance** – The Committee felt the curfew should be left in and look into what is taking place with Chins to learn if we need to make any changes to make the ordinance more effective.

- 4. Discussion concerning escalating parking fines (Sanger Street)** – Manager Dragon advised that Sanger Street is a dispute between two neighbors. There is no parking on Sanger and it is a narrow, older street. It was suggested that maybe after the first ticket, the second incident the car should be towed away. Perhaps a towing ordinance should be looked into. Manager Dragon advised that Director Sullivan had worked with the two neighbors and an arrangement had been worked out between them. The Committee recommended this be sent to the Highway Safety Committee and consideration given to a No Parking/Tow Zone for Sanger.

Other Business

Manager Dragon stated at the Council Meeting Councilor Starkweather brought up the issue of Basketball Hoops in the roadway and she has asked the Police Chief what issues he has with enforcement. Manager Dragon also advised during the year 2015 the State is looking to establish a total of 6 treatment centers known as Therapeutic Cannabis which will be discussed at a later meeting.

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Chair Feener scheduled the next Legislative Committee Meeting for Thursday, October 17, 2013 at 5:00 p.m.

Motion to adjourn made by Councilor Cournoyer and seconded by Councilor Feener. All in favor, meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue E. May