



City of Olympia

City Hall
601 4th Avenue E
Olympia, WA 98501

Information: 360-753-8447

Meeting Minutes - Draft General Government Committee

Tuesday, July 17, 2012

5:30 PM

Room 207

1. Roll Call

Present: 2 - Chair Roe and Councilmember Cooper

Excused: 1 - Councilmember Rogers

2. Call to Order

Chair Roe called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

3. Approve Minutes

3.A 12-0122 Approval of June 19, 2012 General Government Committee Minutes

Councilmember Cooper moved, seconded by Chair Roe, to approve the minutes as submitted. Motion passed unanimously.

3.B 12-0178 Approval of July 10, 2012 General Government Committee Minutes

Councilmember Cooper moved, seconded by Chair Roe, to approve the minutes as submitted. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Committee Business

4.A 12-0091 Resolution Regarding the Move to Amend (Corporate Personhood/Citizens United) Effort

Representatives present from the Olympia Chapter of Move to Amend: Talitha Thalya, Molly Gibbs, Bert Lewis, and Karen Kraft

Move to Amend representatives shared information about the Move to Amend effort. They encouraged the General Government Committee to recommend that the Olympia City Council adopt a Resolution in support of the Move to Amend effort declaring that only persons have rights under the U.S. Constitution. Ms. Gibbs referenced an email of background information sent to the General Government Committee by Ms. Kraft.

Councilmember Cooper said he is interested in considering a Resolution of support for the effort. He asked if there are other policy issues the City should consider, such as campaign finance reform.

Ms. Gibbs mentioned that the U.S. Conference of Mayors recently passed a Resolution of support.

City Attorney Tom Morrill suggested that the Committee may wish look at different Resolutions, depending on whether the City goes beyond the election issue.

Mr. Lewis commented that the national association cautions groups to make it clear that they are not opposed to corporations, instead they are opposed to the assumption of human qualities and human rights by corporations.

Chair Roe suggested focusing on the election issue, with staff developing a Resolution for the committee to consider along the lines of Seattle's.

City Manager Steve Hall mentioned that this sort of issue is challenging for local governments because this is not an area of our expertise.

Committee members agreed that staff should develop for Committee consideration at its next meeting a Resolution along the lines of the Seattle resolution, with a focus on the election financing issue only.

Committee members agreed that if they schedule a walking tour with the Heritage Commission in August, they will meet in special session one-half hour in advance to review the draft Resolution; otherwise, they will review it at their September meeting.

The report was discussed and closed.

4.B 12-0358

Review of Council Guidelines and Protocols

Committee members reviewed the draft changes prepared by staff based on committee guidance at prior meetings. Cathie Butler, Communications Manager, mentioned that she noticed 2-3 typos and other non-substantive changes that are needed to the draft document.

Chair Roe said that a continued concern for her is knowing when items on the Council's upcoming agenda have been changed or are removed from the list. Councilmember Cooper said he would like to be notified when the upcoming date for a substantive agenda item has been changed. City Manager Steve Hall explained that often items are moved because all of the information may not yet be ready for Council consideration or to even out Council and staff workload over 2-3 meetings. Committee members agreed that those are valid reasons for scheduling changes. Councilmember Cooper suggested that the City Manager make the Council aware of date changes for significant items as part of his report at Council meetings.

Committee members agreed to forward their Council Guideline and protocol recommendations to the full Council for consideration at a facilitated mid-year retreat on Saturday, September 15. Chair Roe said that she would report this information at that night's Council meeting, along with a recommendation that staff prepare a list for Council consideration of 2-3 possible facilitators for the retreat, with one of them being Kendra Dahlen. City Manager Hall said that staff would make every effort to identify local facilitators and make a recommendation in a timely fashion at an upcoming Council meeting.

The report was discussed and closed.

5. Adjournment

There being no further business, Chair Roe adjourned the meeting at 6:35 p.m.