



# City of Olympia

City Hall  
601 4th Avenue E  
Olympia, WA 98501

Information: 360-753-8447

## Meeting Minutes General Government Committee

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**Tuesday, September 18, 2012**

**5:00 PM**

**Room 207**

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### 1. ROLL CALL

**Present:** 3 - Chair Jeannine Roe, Committee Member Karen Rogers and Committee Member Jim Cooper

### 2. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Roe called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

Committee members agreed to change the order of the published agenda and discuss the retreat debrief after the draft Resolution.

### 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

#### 3.A [12-0364](#) Approval of July 17, 2012 General Government Committee Minutes

Councilmember Rogers moved, seconded by Councilmember Cooper, to approve the June 17 minutes as submitted. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** 3 - Chair Roe, Committee Member Rogers and Committee Member Cooper

### 4. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

#### 4.A [12-0566](#) Resolution Concerning Corporate Spending to Influence Elections (Citizens United)

Representatives present from the Olympia Chapter of Move to Amend: Molly Gibbs, Bert Lewis, Karen Kraft, Lyle Fogg, and Michelle Morris.

Chair Roe read the following portion of the proposed Resolution into the record and for the benefit of the Committee and audience:

“Now, therefore, the Olympia City Council does hereby Resolve, that:

Section 1. The City Council of the City of Olympia hereby supports actions the State Legislature and the United States Congress can take, including a constitutional amendment that will clearly provide that:

- (1) Corporations are not human beings and thus may be subject to limitations on their ability to influence elections.
- (2) Contributions and expenditures for political purposes are not Constitutionally-protected

speech, and, therefore, regulating political contributions and spending is not equivalent to limiting political speech.

(3) Congress and the States shall have the power to regulate, and to require public disclosure of the sources of such contributions and expenditures.”

Councilmember Cooper said that the Resolution seemed to meet the Committee’s intent to focus on the election campaigns aspects of the Citizens United decision.

Ms. Gibbs said that the Resolution does not address the overwhelming corporate power in our government and our society which is the underlying aspect of Move to Amend. She thanked the committee for their work, and said that she would probably not forward the Resolution to the national Move to Amend association as it did not address the national effort.

Councilmember Rogers noted that the draft does generally make the tie to corporations.

Councilmember Cooper urged Ms. Gibbs and other Move to Amend representatives to forward the Resolution, when adopted, to the national association since it addresses issues raised in Citizens United as they relate to corporate spending to influence campaigns. He said that he is proud that Olympia is considering taking this step.

Chair Roe thanked the representatives for their hard work on this topic.

**Councilmember Rogers moved, seconded by Councilmember Cooper, to send the resolution as drafted to the City Council with a recommendation for approval. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**4.E**      [12-0569](#)              Oral Report - Retreat Debrief

Committee Members Cooper and Rogers summarized their observations of the Council’s mid-year retreat. Chair Roe stated she was disappointed to miss the retreat due to ill health and since she had advocated for a mid-year retreat. She thanked Committee Members Cooper and Rogers for their update.

Committee members discussed pending and upcoming work plan items, including parliamentary training for advisory committees, a meeting with non-profit agencies who contract for space in city buildings, and status of their Council Guidelines recommendations.

Regarding Guidelines, Committee members agreed to recommend that Council consider the following procedural recommendations as a Consent Calendar item at an October meeting:

- Committee of Chairs description
- Retreat dates
- Meeting schedule - election week
- Forwarding committee recommendations
- Considering referrals within 90 days
- Special Recognition - 1 per meeting
- Preferred time for Executive Session

- Televised study sessions
- Councilmember questions to staff

The Committee will make a separate recommendation on City Manager evaluation process, including annual dates, after its October meeting.

The Committee will recommend that the Council have a substantive issues-based discussion about the following topics and associated guideline recommendations from General Government Committee before the 2013 retreat:

Shared Leadership Opportunities

- Appointment of committee members
- Selection of committee chairs
- Appointments to interlocal boards

Shared Policy and Council Business Responsibilities

- Council agenda scheduling, review and approval process
- Consent calendar - proposed by City Manager
- Councilmember reports at Council meetings

Chair Roe will report the Committee's recommendation at the next Council business meeting, October 2.

**The report was received.**

**4.B**      [12-0568](#)      Review List of Pending Work Plan Items and Referrals

Committee members agreed to the following tentative schedule:

Tuesday, October 16 - 5:30 p.m.

- A. Process and format for City Manager's performance review
- B. 2012 advisory committee work plan and committee recruitment process
- C. Report back on community event schedule and locations
- D. Oral Report - update on guideline recommendations

Tuesday, November 20 - 5:30 p.m.

- A. Review of jail administrative policy changes and six-month implementation status

Tuesday, December 18 - 5:00 p.m.

- A. Meet with representatives of non profit agencies in City buildings - the Family Support Center, Hands on Children's Museum, Olympia Farmer's Market, Senior Services for South Sound, The Washington Center for the Performing Arts
- B. Oral Report: year end review and wrap up

**The report was received.**

**4.C**      [12-0567](#)      Oral Report - Plan for Meeting with Non-Profit Agencies that Provide Services in City-Owned Buildings

Committee members agreed to invite the Board President and Executive Director from each

of the following agencies to meet with them on December 18:

- Family Support Center
- Hands on Children's Museum
- Olympia Farmer's Market
- Senior Services for South Sound
- The Washington Center for the Performing Arts

The purpose of the meeting is to check in on how the space relationship is going from their perspective, and to learn more about their operation and the services they provide.

**The report was received.**

**4.D**     [12-0123](#)     Discuss and provide Direction on Parliamentary Training

Committee members agreed to move forward with setting up the training requested by advisory committee chairs and to invite Councilmembers to attend, if they wish. They asked staff to check with advisory committee chairs on their day / time preference and to work with Chair Roe to set up the training at a time that works best for the committee chairs.

Chair Roe will report the Committee's intention at the next Council business meeting, October 2, and request Council goal money to cover the trainer expenses, expected to be no more than \$1,500.

**The report was received.**

**5.     ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Chair Roe adjourned the meeting at 6:45 p.m.