



Meeting Minutes - Draft

General Government Committee

City Hall
601 4th Avenue E
Olympia, WA 98501

Information: 360.753.8244

Tuesday, December 18, 2018

5:00 PM

Room 207

Special Meeting

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Bateman called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: 3 - Chair Jessica Bateman, Committee member Renata Rollins and Committee member Cheryl Selby

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

The following people spoke: Keoki Kananoe, Tye Gundel, Robert Bruce, Colin Bartlett, Heather Chambers and Todd Cutts.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- 5.A** [18-1218](#) Approval of November 28, 2018 General Government Committee Meeting Minutes

The minutes were approved.

6. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

- 6.A** [18-1221](#)

Discussion of the Referral Concerning the City's Pedestrian Interference Ordinance

City Manager Steve Hall gave a brief history of the Pedestrian Interference ordinance. He noted the 2012 iteration of the ordinance helped balance the issue of blocked sidewalks and pedestrians not being able to pass. He noted walkways are public space for pedestrians to travel throughout the City, when sidewalks are blocked it turns public space into private space.

City Prosecutor Rocio Ferguson gave an overview of the crime of Pedestrian Interference, including definitions and statistics. She shared the charge is used

infrequently and is primarily used in relation to intentional obstruction of vehicular or pedestrian traffic. Police Lieutenant Sam Costello shared data from the last two years related to pedestrian interference arrests. He noted in 2018 there were total of 25 arrests related to Pedestrian Interference primarily related to vehicular obstruction and a total of five arrests in 2017 and 2018 specially for blocking the sidewalk. In each instance the person was asked to move multiple times prior to citation.

Committee members asked clarifying questions.

Committee member Rollins stated the Pedestrian Interference laws are a question of ethics and not data. She shared a Wikipedia page related to “ugly laws” of the mid-1700 - 1970’s. She stated the current ordinance is a descendant of these laws and is targeted to only a certain group of people.

Committee Member Rollins moved to forward a recommendation to the City Council to repeal section 2.C of Olympia Municipal Code 9.16.180, Pedestrian Interference. The motion failed without a seconder.

6.B [18-1211](#) Scoping 2019 Advisory Committee Work Plan Process

Strategic Communications Director Kellie Purce Braseth gave an overview of a recent meeting with the advisory committee liaisons where term limits and logistics of committee application screenings were discussed.

Chair Bateman noted the period of accepting advisory committee applications, November 1 - January 31, was long due to a lack of interest, but in recent years interest has increased. In order to create a longer period for application review, it is recommended to begin the application period in October and close it at the end of November.

Ms. Braseth shared topics to be discussed at the March meeting of the advisory committee chairs including social media and related public records, the use of City email, and a loop back process for when advisory committees communicate to the City Council. Chair Bateman noted the Municipal Research and Services Center (MRSC) has training regarding social media. Ms. Braseth noted she will be meeting with liaisons twice a year, in April and September, to check in.

Committee members asked clarifying questions.

The discussion was completed.

7. REPORTS AND UPDATES - None

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.