

Ordinances & Administration Committee
Monday, October 17, 2016 – 6:00 p.m.
1st Fl. Council Committee Room – City Hall
-Minutes-

Present: Chair, Councilor Steve LeBlanc; Vice Chair, Councilor Jamie O’Hara; Councilor Sean Nolan
Absent: None.

Also Present: Councilor Gilman (entered meeting at 6:02 p.m.); Joanne Senos

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

1. *Appointments & Reappointments: None.*
2. *CC2016-036 (Cox) Amend GCO Sec. 22-191 “Established” and Sec. 22-288 “Off-Street parking areas” re: Proctor Street Parking Lot (Map 15, Lot 109) (Cont’d from 09/19/16)*

NOTE: This matter was to appear on the O&A 10/03/16 agenda, but due to the need for a lot plan now on file from the Public Works Department, the matter was moved to this meeting

Dana Jorgensson, Clerk of Committees, advised that Councilor Cox could not be in attendance due to a Ward meeting. At Councilor Cox’s behest, she reviewed that the Proctor Street Parking Lot was purchased by the city some years ago but due to an oversight, the parking lot had never been added officially into the Code of Ordinances. She noted that the matter was taken up at a Traffic Commission meeting at which the Commission recommended that for a lot of 20 parking spaces two spaces should be reserved for handicapped parking. She said that these proposed actions by the Committee will rectify that situation. **Joanne Senos**, City Clerk recommended that the map and lot number should be included in the motion to amend the ordinance in order to delineate it from the immediately adjacent Trinity Congregational Church parking lot.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor O’Hara, seconded by Councilor Nolan, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council Amend GCO Sec. 22-191 “Established” (Off Street Parking Areas) by DELETING “eight” and adding “nine.”

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor O’Hara, seconded by Councilor Nolan, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council Amend GCO Sec. 22-288 “Off Street Parking Areas” by ADDING “Proctor Street Parking Lot at #7 Proctor Street,” Map 15, Lot 109, and a description of the lot as 18 parking spaces and 2 handicapped parking spaces for a total of 20 parking spaces.

These matters will be advertised for public hearing.

3. *CC2016-037 (LeBlanc) Request Traffic Commission conduct traffic & speed study of Beach Court & make written recommendation as to whether to amend GCO for safe traffic flow patterns & parking (Cont’d from 09/19/16 -- TBC 10/31/16)*
4. *CC2016-044 (Gilman) Request to Amend GCO Sec. 22-284 “Service or loading zones” re: Holly Street (TBC 10/31/16)*
5. *CC2016-045 (Cox) Amend GCO Sec. 22-269 “Stop intersections” & Sec. 22-267 “One-way streets-Generally” re: Center Street (TBC 10/31/16)*
6. *Review of actions by O&A Committee of October 3, 2016 pursuant to the dissolution of the Ad Hoc Dog Committee*

Councilor LeBlanc explained that after the vote of the dissolution of the Ad Hoc Dog Committee, he reached out to fellow O&A Committee members, spoke with General Counsel and the City Clerk, and it was agreed that the

O&A Committee can reestablish by its vote the Ad Hoc Dog Committee for a limited period of time with a specific purpose. He proposed such a reestablishment of the Ad Hoc Dog Committee for a possible 30 or 60 day time limit.

Councilor O'Hara explained that the Ad Hoc Committee had worked very hard but found that other entities have jurisdiction over areas in the city that keep dogs from being off leash where there is available open water for instance. He conveyed the Ad Hoc Committee tried to make a step forward, but there were opinions of other city boards, committees and commissions as well as city departments that needed involvement and such involvement takes time to get through their processes. **Councilor LeBlanc** commended the Ad Hoc Committee's laying so much groundwork to date which should help move the reestablished Ad Hoc Dog Committee in the limited timeframe. **Councilor O'Hara** expressed his thanks for the opportunity to reestablish the Ad Hoc Dog Committee and to work to improve the conditions of the city for all its residents. He said the Ad Hoc Dog Committee clearly understands that not everyone enjoys dogs. He suggested the Ad Hoc Committee could make progress that both sides of the issue can live with.

Councilor Nolan said values the members of the Ad Hoc Dog Committee's opinion. He suggested a 120 day timeframe to give the Ad Hoc Dog Committee enough time to come up with comprehensive recommendations. He expressed that the Ad Hoc Dog Committee have conveyed a lot of educational material on dog matters to the O&A Committee which has been advantageous. **Councilor LeBlanc** noted that there is a proposal for a new Animal Advisory Committee on the O&A Committee agenda this evening. **Councilor Nolan** pointed out that the proposed new advisory committee will take time to go through the Council process and to flesh out a newly established committee through Mayoral appointments to get such a committee up and running.

Ms. Senos reminded the Councilors that that they will need to limit the timeframe of the reestablished Ad Hoc Dog Committee and to be sure to establish its purpose. **Councilor LeBlanc** reported that in speaking with General Counsel he was advised that the Ad Hoc Dog Committee really shouldn't go longer than 60 days.

Cindy Dunn, 7 Rose Lane, Ad Hoc Committee member, asked if O&A had a purpose in mind and what was the conveyance for the Ad Hoc Dog Committee's recommendations to move forward to Council. **Councilor LeBlanc** advised that the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Dog Committee are to be reported to the O&A Committee first and then it is up to the Committee to submit a Council Order through the Council to possibly be acted upon. He noted the Ad Hoc Committee previously focused on beach access for dogs and suggested they should focus on the city in general as they might not get a beach specifically and suggested ways in which the Ad Hoc Dog Committee might want to approach their research for places for off leash dog access citywide.

Ms. Senos reminded the Committee that they had voted on amendments to the dog park rules and that would go forward to public hearing on Oct. 25 at that City Council meeting. The action to open Niles and Cressy Beach for off leash dogs was rendered moot.

Valerie Nelson, 7 Sunset Point Road, Ad Hoc Committee member, noted that in the early summer the Ad Hoc Committee decided to press for city beaches to be opened to dogs and their owners, but that they had a comprehensive city-wide plan in mind. She suggested 90 days would be adequate for them to be able to explore those issues they had originally intended to get into. Barrels at the beach are just one issue, she noted, and spoke briefly on several others. She urged more time.

Councilor Gilman suggested she'd like to keep litter and dog waste as separate issues. She advised that in speaking to the Mayor, she wanted to work with Patti Amaral (member of Open Space & Recreation Committee, Cemeteries Advisory Committee and former Clean City Commission member) and others on these specific matters, and keep them completely separate from the dog ordinance issues.

Councilor LeBlanc asked the objective for the reestablished Ad Hoc Dog Committee be for finding new off-leash areas in the city. He said he had no issue with 90 days as the timeframe, but suggested that 60 days was likely a better choice. Thirty days more can be added through an O&A Committee action if need be, **Councilor Nolan** suggested to which **Councilor LeBlanc** agreed.

Councilor Gilman asked if there is a way for this Ad Hoc Dog Committee process should be linked with the Ward Councilors, or was that premature. **Councilor LeBlanc** said when there are recommendations suggesting Council action, the O&A Committee will then reach out to the Ward Councilors.

The O&A Committee then determined that the reestablished Ad Hoc Dog Committee will make their report at the Dec. 5 meeting of O&A.

It was further noted for the record that in the City Council agenda of October 11 it reflected a matter on the Council's Consent Agenda under, "COMMUNICATIONS/INVITATIONS," Item "2. Presentation at the October 31, 2016 O&A meeting by the former member(s) of the Ad Hoc Dog Committee (Info Only)." With a vote to reestablish the Ad Hoc Dog Committee, the need for a report before the O&A Committee on Oct. 31 was moot, and that the report of Dec. 5 will take precedent.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor O’Hara, seconded by Councilor Nolan, the Ordinances & Advisory Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to reinstate the Ad Hoc Dog Committee from October 17, 2016 and to dissolve as of the close of business, December 12, 2016. The purpose of the reinstatement of the Ad Hoc Dog Committee is to re-examine all five wards of the city to determine a legal, off-leash area for dogs and their owners.

7. CC2016-046 (LeBlanc) Amend GCO Chapter 2, Article V “Boards, Commissions, Councils and Committees” by ADDING new subsection “Division 17. The Animal Advisory Committee”

Councilor LeBlanc said this Council Order would establish a committee in the Code of Ordinances whereby the Mayor will be the appointing authority making it like any other city board, committee or commission. He indicated there will be a staff member as an ex-officio member to help guide the Committee, and a Councilor appointed ex officio as well. He pointed out there are not just dogs in the city, but certainly dog issues can be something the new committee can take up -- the coyote population; dogs; chickens; horses; goats; turkeys -- domestic and wild animals within the city limits. This new advisory committee will be able to lend a hand in advising policy in conjunction with the Administration. If something isn’t working that is already established, this committee will be able to take that issue, research it and make recommendations. He mentioned certain criteria for the Code of Ordinances amendment have to be established, and noted the Stage Fort Park Advisory Committee as an example of a good framework. He suggested that there should be a representative from each of the city’s five wards, two At Large members. As for city staff, he suggested there might be a representative from the Police Department, or the Health Department, or the DPW as ex-officio/advisory to the new committee. He said O&A can work this through over the next several weeks try to frame it out and possibly vote at the next regularly scheduled O&A meeting. He conveyed this will be good for the city, the Council, as well as the department heads who will have this committee available to do the research and make recommendations. He said this committee should be been established a long time ago.

Councilor O’Hara expressed his agreement, noting with the city growing, people are being impacted and that this is something worthwhile.

This matter is continued to October 31, 2016.

Councilor LeBlanc asked about the Beach Traffic Ad Hoc Committee. **Councilor O’Hara** said that Ad Hoc Committee needs to meet with a representative of the Police Department and it is likely that Acting Chief McCarthy will join them at their next meeting. He indicated there are some excellent ideas being framed by the Beach Traffic Ad Hoc Committee that the Mayor should be interested in hearing. He advised the Ad Hoc Committee met with DPW representatives and with Bob Ryan of CATA and the Traffic Commission as well. **Councilor LeBlanc** suggested that Councilor O’Hara invite Chris Sicuranza, Director of Communication and Constituent Services attend the meeting with the Acting Police Chief.

This matter will appear on the November 14 agenda.

A motion was made, seconded and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dana C. Jorgenson
Clerk of Committees

DOCUMENTS/ITEMS SUBMITTED AT MEETING: None.