



General Government & Social Services

June 6, 2017

Summary and Motions

Chair Lamb called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. Committee members Moloney, F. Brown, Henson, J. Brown, Evans, Farmer, Kay, Stinnett and Smith were present. Council Members Plomin and Scutchfield were also in attendance as non-voting members.

I. Approval of Committee Summary

A motion was made by VM Kay to approve the May 2, 2017 General Government & Social Services Committee Summary, seconded by CM Farmer. The motion passed without dissent.

II. Veterans Affairs

CM J. Brown introduced the item and explained how it came to committee. He said Lexington is one of the lowest-ranked cities as far as providing benefits to veterans. He said that we immediately teamed up with veteran organizations to improve that status; find ways to improve the services we offer; and find out what else we can do to improve those benefits. He introduced Heather French Henry who started the presentation. She reviewed the women's veterans program in Kentucky. She also discussed the women veterans' database. Allen Boone with The ADANTA Group; Reverend Jim Thurman with Kentucky State Command Council; and Patrick Sinclair with VA Hospital also presented. They discussed the Lady Veterans Connect program; the VRUCK organization; and what Lexington can do to improve our Veterans benefits. Sinclair restated that according to Forbes magazine, Lexington was ranked number 10 on the list of worst cities to offer Veterans benefits. He challenged the city of Lexington to form a commission on Veterans Affairs to advance that ranking. CM J. Brown concluded the presentation by thanking all those who participated in the discussions.

CM Moloney expressed thanks to Veterans Organizations for the presentation and encouraged moving forward to improve veterans' benefits. He expressed concern that we do not have a homeless center specifically for veterans.

CM Henson said she has a great appreciation for veterans. She said she would like to see us ranked higher and asked where we are with the Commission and what we can be doing better. CM J. Brown said forming the Commission is our next step. He said that through the Commission, we can host Veterans conferences here and we can explore additional opportunities for the Week of Valor. He said discussions will continue so we can determine Commission details.

Mike Sparks, former chair of Joint Executive Council Veterans Organizations (JECVO) and a member of Kentucky Disabled American Veterans. He said the Disabled American Veterans conference will be Friday June 30 and Saturday, July 1 at Embassy Suites on Newtown Pike. He encouraged Council to attend.

Rick Curtis, employee of Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government (LFUCG) and retired veteran, spoke about the database of over 250 veteran LFUCG employees to keep them informed. He said he stays in contact with them and disseminates information so they know what is going on in the veterans' community. He thanked the veterans for their service.

Chair Lamb said she is hopeful that veteran events will continue to grow. She said she would like to know what questions were asked in the survey to determine the ranking so we know exactly what we need to improve on. Sinclair said they were weighted questions and were based on the number of veterans in the community; he said he can provide the questions

CM J. Brown asked Commissioner Bastin to speak on the parade. He said they have been working with Reverend Thurman to make sure the parade takes place this year. He said they are looking forward to working with all of the sponsors and celebrating our veterans.

No further action or discussion on this item.

III. Minority Business Resolution

CM Henson introduced the item. She said this resolution was created in 1991 so she felt it was worth reviewing. She said that the current resolution and an edited version by the Law Department are included in the packet. She introduced Sherita Miller who discussed the Minority Business Enterprise program review. Miller discussed the current resolution and reviewed the amendments.

CM J. Brown commented on the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) study on Fayette County Public Schools (FCPS). He asked what information is going to be different in a disparity study versus the DBE study. Miller said it will show availability in minority and women-owned businesses in a certain radius. She said it will show availability in Fayette County and surrounding area to bid and work on construction projects or other professional services. He asked if it would be common practice to partner with University of Kentucky and FCPS to do a disparity study and share that information. Miller said this would not be common practice as they are conducting the disparity study on their own. CM J. Brown asked if it was realistic to set individual goals, such as black-owned businesses, women-owned businesses, or disabled veteran businesses. Miller said yes; right now there is a minority and women combined goal of 10% and the veterans' goal is separate at 3%. Todd Slatin, Director of Purchasing, said the state sets goals and it varies based on the type of construction project. He said they have a pool of contractors and they know what types of businesses can do which type of work. He said the number of minority-owned businesses or women-owned businesses out of that pool of contractors that can do the work is how they figure the percentage.

CM Henson thanked Miller, Slatin and Law department. She said she originally felt like this should be a requirement, but has since realized it is not that simple. She said she believes a disparity study will be good for our city so we know how many of these businesses are out there. Henson asked if sub-contractors that are minority-owned are figured in the data. Miller said yes.

Slatin gave a brief overview of the MBE, DBE, WBE systems and the software capabilities. He said tracking the sub-contractors is the difficult part to providing a percentage and how we relate to the goal each year. He said typically a purchase order is issued to a business which is known to be minority, women or veteran-owned so it is pretty easy to track. He said it gets complicated when you have a large project and may have millions of dollars in sub-contracts. He said you have to make sure that the people they have said will do the work are actually the ones doing the work and are paid for it.

A motion was made by CM Henson to move the Minority Business Resolution item to full Council, seconded by CM J. Brown. The motion passed without dissent.

IV. Creation of a Transitional/Training Process For Personnel Changes

Glenda George presented the item. She reviewed the background for the temporary employee / overlap policy. She discussed the Louisville policy compared to the state policy and went on to discuss the LFUCG policy. Lastly, she reviewed the steps necessary for a successful transition.

CM J Brown asked if this was in line with Louisville's policy. George said yes. J. Brown asked if there were criteria as far as the type of position (administrative or other). George said it would be any position that the Commissioner, Director or Supervisor feels would need an overlap period.

Chair Lamb asked if Human Resources could learn when there is a specific position in government where there is only one position and only one person who does it. She stressed that there needs to be education for all employees so they know this is out there.

A motion was made by VM Kay to move the Creation of a Transitional/Training Process for Personnel Changes item to full Council, seconded by CM Farmer. The motion passed without dissent.

V. Items in Committee

A motion was made by CM Henson to remove the Minority Business Resolution item from Committee, seconded by CM Farmer. The motion passed without dissent.

A motion was made by CM Farmer to remove the Creation of a Transitional/Training Process For Personnel Changes item from Committee, seconded by CM Henson. The motion passed without dissent.

A motion was made by CM Farmer to adjourn, seconded by CM Henson. The motion passed without dissent.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:16 p.m.

K.T. 6.16.17