



## General Government and Planning Committee

June 11, 2024

### Summary and Motions

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Chair Worley called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m. Vice Mayor Wu and Committee Members J. Brown, Ellinger, Lynch, LeGris, Sheehan, Reynolds, and Plomin were in attendance. Council members Fogle, Monarrez, Gray, F. Brown, and Sevigny were present as non-voting members. Council member Baxter was absent.

#### I. May 7, 2024 General Government and Planning Committee Summary

Motion by Wu to approve the May 7, 2024, GGP Committee Summary. Seconded by Ellinger. Motion passed without dissent.

#### II. Public Input Subcommittee Partial Report-Out

Jennifer Sutton, Council Research Analyst presented on behalf of the item. The purpose of the Public Input Subcommittee is to review, update, and improve the public input process for the Council making it easier for residents to access information and engage with Council. The scope of work includes reviewing and modernizing the current public input process, review and update public input resident guidelines, research and select an engagement platform, create a marketing/education plan, and provide periodic updates to the GGP Committee.

Sutton shared updates on the new Public Information Officer position, public input technology, events, and an update to the Council Rules and Procedures. The Public Information Officer has managed the electronic sign-in process, social media campaigns, council comment newsletter, and creates resources for Council Offices.

A public input annual report shows that from April 2023 to April 2024, 371 unique individuals gave public comment while only 80% of those individuals signed in on time. Council Meeting attendance reflected 183 participants across 26 meetings; 18% of participants yielded their time. New technology includes Engage Lexington which was launched on April 22, 2024 with two projects: STRs and FY2025 Budget. The site has had over 3,000 visits, over 300 contributions, almost 500 registrants, and an engagement rate of 11%.

The subcommittee recommended amending the Council Rules and Procedures to modify the USB policy and clarify that public comment is a time for residents' spoken comment to Council.

A motion by Baxter to approve the proposed changes to the Council Rules and Procedures, seconded by Wu, passed unanimously.

A motion by Baxter to report this item at the 6/11/2024 work session, seconded by Reynolds, passed unanimously.

#### III. Short Term Rentals Policy Review

Wes Holbrook, Director of Revenue, and Jennifer Sutton, Council Research Analyst, presented on behalf of this item. The Short Term Rental (STR) ordinance was passed on July 11, 2023. There was a six month grace

period of STR operators to register existing units. In January 2024, Division of Revenue began identification, investigation, and enforcements of non-compliant operators. Granicus was selected through the RFP process to be the software solution that will support efforts to enforce the ordinance.

The Engage Lexington platform was launched on April 22, 2024. When it launched, there was a STR survey for Lexington residents to provide additional feedback on STRs. The survey on Engage Lexington for STR received 353 total responses. 71% of respondents were aware of an STR in their neighborhood, 29% of respondents were not aware. 56% of respondents had no complaints or issues with STRs in their neighborhood while 44% had complaints. The top 5 complaints were noise, parking, parties, public safety concerns, and trash. Sutton shared additional results from the survey.

There have been 625 licensed STRs through Revenue, 339 first notices of violation sent, 154 second notices, and 21 citations issued. Holbrook shared additional policy recommendations which included require approval from an owners' association as part of the application for attached units/condos, require that the use be commenced in a certain time period, establish spacing requirements for un-hosted STRs, review requirements for verification of hosted STRs, and examine license requirements for STRs that rent by room.

Next steps include presenting a revised ordinance to GGP, advance the revised ordinance to Council and to the Planning Commission. Then the ordinance will return to Council for review and adoption.

No action was taken on this item.

#### **IV. Items Referred to Committee**

A motion by Plomin to remove item #1: *Study of Consent Agenda Process for Council Meetings*, seconded by Baxter, passed unanimously.

A motion by Plomin to remove item #10: *Study of Conditional Use Permits and Related Zone Text Amendments in the Rural Service Area*, seconded by J. Brown, passed unanimously.

A motion by Plomin to remove item #12: *A Review of RLMB Recommendation Process to Planning Commission*, seconded by Baxter, passed unanimously.

#### **V. Adjournment**

The Committee adjourned at 2:18 pm.