



General Government and Planning Committee

August 15, 2023

Summary and Motions

Chair Worley called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Vice Mayor Wu and Committee Members J. Brown, Ellinger, Lynch, LeGris, Sheehan, Baxter, Reynolds, Plomin were in attendance. Council Members Fogle, Lynch, Gray, and Sevigny were also present as non-voting members.

I. May 9, 2023 GGP Committee Summary

Motion by C. Ellinger to approve the May 9, 2023 GGP Committee Summary. Seconded by W. Baxter. Motion passed without dissent.

II. Tenants on Boards and Commissions

This presentation was provided by Council Member Lynch. 6 Boards and Commissions were researched as a part of this initiative with the goal of adding tenant seats to Boards and Commissions to bring tenant voices to the table in a meaningful way.

Commissioner Lanter has been working on a process similar to this - a board for tenants and a board for landlords. Tiffany Masden spoke on behalf of the Commissioner's Office and shared that these boards are not yet official but have goals to review and advise Housing Advocacy and Community Development programs and services to provide feedback on issues affecting all types of tenants and housing providers. These groups are currently meeting quarterly and staffed by the Commissioner's office.

These discussions have prompted the start of a Boards and Commissions review that will focus on: Council involvement with Boards and Commissions, process, and equity and representation.

This item will become an annual update in the GGP Committee.

No action was taken on this item.

III. Public Input Subcommittee Partial Report-Out

Council Member LeGris introduced this item and Council Administrator Maynard who presented. The purpose of this subcommittee was to review and modernize the public input process and make it easier to engage with Council. Overview of included changes; addressed typos, updated formatting, procedure clarifications, new electronic sign-in, yielding of time, and public comment restrictions.

The public comment guideline revisions include; how to sign in to speak, addresses handouts for Council and approaching the dais, prohibiting USB devices, and a change in yielding time - there is now a 9 minute maximum for yielded time.

The public participation revisions provide clarification on rules of order and decorum in the Council Chambers and that public comment is a time for the Mayor and Council to listen to residents, as opposed to engaging in dialogue, problem solving or reacting to comments.

Next steps for this initiative will require new engagement technology, education and outreach, a public input website, consideration of additional public input options, and additional security measures.

A motion by LeGris to approve as amended the Public Input Partial Report-Out, seconded by Liz Sheehan, the motion passed without dissent.

A motion by Sheehan to amend 3.106 Public Comment process #2 from "must" to "should sign in" and "there are two iPads" to "there are digital sign-in sheets", seconded by LeGris, the motion passed without dissent.

A motion by Worley to approve as amended the Council Rules and Procedures chapter III sections 3.106, 3.107, and 3.108, seconded by Ellinger, the motion passed without dissent.

IV. Council Rules and Procedures Report-Out

CM Baxter introduced this item and presenter, Council Administrator, Stacey Maynard. The purpose of this subcommittee was to review and update the Council Rules and Procedures, appendix A of the Code of Ordinances. It was noted that social media was discussed but will be updated pending a new subcommittee review. If approved, the updated Council Rules and Procedures will go into effect January 1, 2024.

Maynard gave an overview of the subcommittee's scope of work which included; reviewing and updating the Rules to match current practices, establishing best practices, incorporating recent audit findings related to pro-card purchases and NDF expenditures, and creating a process for taking and vacating office. An overview of the proposed Council Rules and Procedures changes include; removing gendered language, updating format and style for consistency, added clarification to vague areas, reorganized document for better flow, revised processes based on recommendations, and added a table of contents.

LeGris asked about the proposed NDF process - Baxter stated it is up to the Council office that sponsored the NDF to decide whether or not to collect unused funds if not entirely used by the organization. Council Members would like agreements to be sent electronically to NDF recipients to cut down on processing time and not interfere with 10-day deadline to return signed agreements. J. Brown asked to strike the addition of the rule that NDF recipients can only receive funds once per year. Gray asked if something related to "cash rewards" could be added to the Rules. It was asked to clarify in the rules that budget lines are halved in election years. Plomin voiced concern over the seating chart and would like to see it be seniority based.

Worley would like to bring this item back up as the first item at the September meeting.

No action was taken on this item.

V. Adjournment

Motion by Worley to adjourn at 3:05 p.m. Seconded by Plomin. Motion passed without dissent.