



General Government Committee

March 5th, 2013

Summary and Motions

Chair Steve Kay called the meeting to order at 11:00am. Committee Members present were VM Linda Gorton, Chris Ford, Shevawn Akers, Julian Beard, Jenny Scutchfield, George Myers, Harry Clarke and Ed Lane. Kevin Stinnett attended as a non-voting member.

1. Approval of Summary

Motion by Akers to approve the summary. Seconded by Lane.

Motion by Gorton to amend the motion to add Diane Lawless and Julian Beard to the meeting attendees listing. Seconded by Ford. Motion passed without dissent.

Akers motion passed without dissent.

2. Amendment of Section 4.104 of the Council Rules

Glenda George from the Law Department came to the podium to present. She said that she made all of the changes that were requested at the last General Government Committee meeting.

Motion to approve the amendments to Section 4.104 of the Council Rules by Clarke. Seconded by Lane.

Gorton expressed concerns about transparency since the items listed under Legislative Review would not be part of the permanent record. She said that the reason they give items two readings is so they become a part of the official record. She said that the links from Legistar are not part of the official record. Gorton said that she may need to vote no.

Beard asked George if it was state law that ordinances have two readings. George said that the Susan Lamb, the Council Clerk, would have to answer that. Beard also expressed concern about change orders and said he was not ready to support the amendments.

Stinnett said that the process to amend Section 4.104 began four years ago to make things more efficient, but feels that these changes will merely add another item to the Work Session agenda under Legislative Review, making the process less efficient. He said that he believes that price

contracts and change orders need to stay on the docket. He said that he thinks this process will make things less transparent. Stinnett said that he would like to keep the process the way it is.

Beard asked Lamb about transparency. Lamb said that with the advent of Legistar, the work of the Council has become very transparent and noted that members of the public must access Legistar through an internet connection. She said that the Legistar system is very user friendly.

Ford asked about the items that would fall under the Legislative Review. He suggested putting them under one resolution like personnel actions. George said that if they are going to put them on the docket, it would be better to leave things as they are.

Akers asked why the Council has spent four years working on this when it appears that none of the Council supports it.

Lane said that he introduced the idea when the economy was more robust. He said there was also an issue with advertising. The whole idea was to save money, speed up the meetings and focus more time on the important issues before Council. He said that since then, the economy has slowed and there are not as many items coming forward for the docket.

Lane suggested removing sections b, c, and j.

Myers said that even with donations it is important to read them twice so that citizens have a trail to follow. He reminded Council Members about the helicopter that was donated to the LFUCG. He said that there were future costs associated with accepting it. Myers also mentioned that it helps to see which companies are being awarded contracts and donating items.

Motion by Beard to table the issue for a period not to exceed one year. Seconded by Gorton. Motion failed 3-5. Kay, Akers, Clarke, Lane and Ford voted nay.

Myers said that Work Sessions are for work and that it is important to allow constituents the opportunity to attend or watch the Council meetings on Thursday evenings.

Motion by Ford to amend Clarke's motion to strike under Legislative Review, sections b, c, and j. Seconded by Lane. Motion passed 6-2. Beard and Myers voted nay.

Motion by Myers to amend to strike sections a, e and i. Motion died for a lack of a second.

George reminded Committee members that the Urban County Council shall review and discuss each item listed on the Work Session agenda under Legislative Review and can refer it to a Council committee, refer it back to the administration for additional information, can place it on the docket, or can take no action.

Amended motion passed 5-3. Beard, Myers, and Gorton voted nay.

3. Website Linking Policy

Scott Shapiro came to the podium to present. He said that the CAO can now add or remove a link. Also, the changes will allow for-profit entities that are co-sponsoring an event to be linked from www.lexingtonky.gov.

Gorton asked about linking to for-profit entities. Shapiro said that Keith Horn and Myers both had concerns about this. The links can go right to an advertisement and Shapiro said that that type of link is not what he wants to see. Jerry Hancock from the Division of Parks and Recreation gets sponsorships by using links to the for-profit entities. Gorton said that she would like to see logos instead of links. Shapiro said that he would also like the logo instead of the link.

Myers asked about the section entitled "External Website Building." Myers said that if the policy passes, the LFUCG webmaster would no longer be able to build websites for others, like in the instance of the Friends of the Skatepark group. Shapiro said yes, the LFUCG would stop building those types of sites. However, he said they could still be linked. Although he disagreed with the building of external sites for entities that the LFUCG has an agreement with, Myers said that overall he thinks the policy is great.

Beard asked about logos. Shapiro said that the logos would be on event pages. If an entity sponsors an event with the LFUCG, the logo could be a link.

Shapiro said that he would work on the final point and get the policy completed. Kay confirmed that they could remove the issue from Committee.

Myers asked Shapiro again about the LFUCG creating web pages for entities. Myers said that we could get a good return on investment. Shapiro said that the issue may be beyond the scope of the CAO policy. Shapiro said that his question would be when the website would be built; before the money was raised or after?

Myers said that the entity would have to have a signed agreement with the LFUCG. Shapiro said that it was his understanding that there was not wide support on the Council for creating these websites.

Hamilton said that she will go back and take a look to see what has been done in the past. She said she is interested in finding out if there is middle ground.

4. CAO Policy #3 and Fleet Right Sizing Update

Jamshid Baradaran, the Director of Fleet Services, came to the podium and said that he was going to discuss CAO Policy #3 proposed additions/enhancements, the GPS System Implementation (Phase 1), the proposed fleet CIP Funding model, and operational cost reduction initiatives.

He presented a powerpoint presentation to illustrate the LFUCG fleet distribution per department. He said that a large percentage of the light fleet are in Public Safety (Police cruisers). Furthermore, refuse trucks make up the largest percentage of the LFUCG heavy fleet.

Baradaran presented the proposed changes to CAO Policy #3. He said that they are identifying vehicles and are trying to match those vehicles with the specific needs of divisions. He also mentioned alternative fuel usage.

Baradaran then presented an update on the GPS System Implementation and said that the evaluation of the system options has been completed. He said that they are currently evaluating the State's price contract to identify the most feasible option for implementation. The estimated program cost has been included in the Division's proposed FY2014 budget.

Baradaran said that he is proposing a 10-year transition plan reducing the current reliance on bond funds for fleet CIP to an internal revolving funding source. He has assumed a 5% cost escalation factor in his equation.

Baradaran presented a graph illustrating the impact of eliminating the 'home fleet' on Police Fleet operation expenses.

5. Items in Committee

Motion by Gorton to remove the resolution to amend 4.104 of the Council Rules from the items referred list. Seconded by Lane. Motion passed without dissent.

Motion by Lane to remove the website linking policy from the items referred list. Seconded by Ford. Motion passed without dissent.

CAO Policy #3 Vehicle Use and Assignment/Fleet Right Sizing, Lease agreements and PSA with Metro Employees Credit Union, and Quorum will be on the April agenda.

Motion by Gorton to adjourn. Seconded by Myers. Motion passed without dissent.

Submitted by Jenifer Benningfield, Council Administrative Specialist