



General Government & Social Services

April 5th, 2016

Summary and Motions

Chair Lamb called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. All Committee Members were in attendance. Councilmembers Stinnett and Kay were also in attendance.

I. Approval of Committee Summary

A motion was made by Scutchfield to approve the March 1, 2016 General Government & Social Services Committee Summary, seconded by Akers. The motion passed without dissent.

II. Security Cameras in Parks

F. Brown introduced Monica Conrad, Director of Parks and Recreation, to present on this item. Conrad discussed the present use of security cameras by Parks and Recreation. Conrad stated there are currently 49 cameras installed in city parks.

Lt. Mike Wright, a representative from Police, reviewed the advantages and disadvantages associated with installing security cameras in parks. He stated that cameras typically result in decreased property crime, but violent crime rates are unaffected. Wright stated that the existence of cameras typically results in a perception of increased safety. Disadvantages of installing security cameras include a false sense of security if cameras are not monitored live, costs, privacy issues, and heightened suspicion of more crime.

Conrad stated she recommends the development of a taskforce to evaluate the installation of security cameras in parks.

F. Brown stated that he is in favor of taped cameras, rather than live monitoring, to address safety concerns. He discussed the possibility of a pilot program, and asked if there was discussion with the University of Kentucky about their campus cameras. Chief Barnard provided information regarding UK's live-monitored cameras, as well as other cameras throughout the community. He stated that the installation of cameras can be challenging with respect to expectations of privacy, and that community input in the process is important.

F. Brown stated that he is in favor of the development of a taskforce to address this issue.

J. Brown asked if the Police Department is in favor of security camera installation in Lexington's parks. Chief Barnard stated that cameras have value in providing evidence. CM J. Brown stated that he is in favor of recorded cameras rather than live monitoring, and provided recommendations for taskforce members.

Henson asked if the taskforce would recommend camera locations, and create criteria for locations. Chief Barnard provided recommendations, and stated that priorities could be

established for Police presence in parks. Henson stated her support for the creation of a taskforce.

Bledsoe stated her concern for privacy issues related to filming children in parks. She stated her desire to see other options for enhanced safety to be explored, including additional Police patrols.

Akers stated that community input is required to determine the best security solutions for each park. She provided the example of vandalism and crime in parks, and stated that cameras may be of value for evidence. She stated that the taskforce should focus on parks with higher incidence of crime.

Evans discussed concerns with public surveillance, and stated that there must be an identified threat to justify the installation of cameras. She agreed that community input is important in the process and discussed privacy issues.

Henson noted the work of the Safe Parks Taskforce and stated she could send their findings to the Council. Henson noted examples of providing activities in parks to create safe places.

Lamb asked questions related to other cities that were researched, and also asked for input from Law regarding creating a taskforce versus a subcommittee. Lamb noted placing cameras in parks still leaves large areas that would be unmonitored. Keith Horn with the Department of Law provided clarification.

Evans asked for additional clarification regarding taskforces v. subcommittees, and Keith Horn responded that a subcommittee's charge and membership must be made clear.

F. Brown stated that he recommended the installation of a subcommittee and pilot projects within one or two parks. He stated concern for the development of a taskforce, and asked that the item be left in committee until additional information is available. He stated that input should be obtained from Neighborhood Associations.

Lamb asked that the item be brought back to the Committee in July.

III. Council Rules & Procedures

Kay introduced the item, and discussed the history of the topic. He stated that the proposed changes would streamline the Council meeting process, and reviewed the categories that would be included in legislative review.

Gibbs stated that he is in favor of the resolution, and asked for clarification from the Department of Law regarding adding personnel items to the list of categories for legislative review.

F. Brown asked if a Charter amendment would be required to move forward with this item. Glenda George with the Department of Law stated that a Charter amendment is not required to move forward with this item, and proposed consent agenda items would not require two readings.

Evans requested clarification about consent agendas; Glenda George provided explanation regarding consent agenda requirements and approval procedures.

Lamb noted her concern that the Council Clerk's office has not provided input regarding this issue, and that representatives from the Mayor's office have not spoken regarding this item. Lamb stated that the current process provides a level of transparency to citizens, and the proposed Resolution would shift authority for a number of items from the Council to the Administration.

Moloney echoed Lamb's concerns about transparency and stated he does not support the proposal.

J. Brown requested a Council workshop for this item to provide additional explanation, and he stated his concerns for transparency as well as the workload for the Council Clerk's office.

Evans noted that there is a long-term interest in these changes which warrants further discussion.

Lamb stated that resolutions do not require publishing, so reading titles during meetings provides transparency. She stated that this would be a change in meeting format.

Moloney restated his concern that the proposed changes will result in a decrease in transparency.

Kay stated that the proposal does not change the authority of the Council and that the same level of transparency would remain. Kay asked that the item be left in Committee with input from the Council Clerk at a future meeting, as well as additional input from Law.

Henson stated the readings during Council Meeting are meant as a transparency for the public and she does not feel they are ready to take action on this item.

Bledsoe asked for further clarification and Lamb stated that state statute requires anything in the form of an ordinance or resolution must be read aloud.

Lamb stated that this issue would be reconsidered by the Committee in June or July.

IV. Boards, Agencies & Commissions – Membership, Vacancies, Etc.

Scutchfield introduced the item, and reviewed the information provided in the packet. She asked for Committee input regarding the information included in the quarterly report.

Lamb asked if this information will be provided online, and asked for an update regarding software for tracking membership and vacancies. Commissioner Reed stated that staff are working on that issue, and will be providing an update at a future committee meeting

Scutchfield requested that updated Board and Committee information be available on a quarterly basis.

A motion was made by Scutchfield to remove Boards, Agencies & Commissions from Committee, seconded by Henson. The motion passed without dissent.

V. Location & Broadcasting of Council Meetings

Scutchfield stated that meetings open to all Council Members should be held in Council Chamber so the meetings can be broadcasted.

Bledsoe asked for clarification regarding this item, and provided the example of the quarterly Committee of the Whole meetings. CM Scutchfield stated that Council must develop criteria for broadcasting meetings.

Lamb stated that we must ensure that GTV3 can cover all of the meetings being proposed. CAO Hamilton stated that GTV3 has confirmed that all meetings of the Council can be broadcast.

Henson stated that this topic should be an agenda item for the Committee of the Whole.

Akers stated that items requiring quorum and Council action should be in Chamber and broadcast, while workshops and similar meetings do not necessarily require broadcasting.

Kay agreed that this item should be considered by the Committee of the Whole, and asked if the upcoming Budget Committee of the Whole meeting should be held in Council Chamber and broadcast. Lamb noted that public notice is provided for all Council meetings.

Scutchfield stated that meetings should be held in Chamber and televised if possible.

A motion was made by Scutchfield to move the item to the Committee of the Whole, seconded by Evans. The motion passed without dissent.

VI. Items in Committee

A motion was made by Scutchfield to adjourn, seconded by Akers. The motion passed without dissent.