DRAFT MINUTES
GENERAL COUNSEL COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 18, 2016

Present: Councilwoman and Chairwoman Mary Bartolotta, Councilman Daley, Councilman Nocera, Councilwoman Salafia, and Councilwoman Kleckowski. Staff: Deputy General Counsel Kori Wisneski.

Members of the Public: None

Call to Order:

Meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m.

Public Comment:

None to report.

Approval of Minutes:

Councilman Daley made a MOTION to approve the Minutes from the January 25, 2016 Special Meeting. The Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Salafia. The Motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

A. Discussion re: General Counsel Commission 2016 Meetings

The Commission discussed the 2016 meeting schedule, which had them meeting on the third Thursday of each month. At least two members were not aware of the change and a few had conflicts on that night. The members reviewed their schedules and determined that the best night for the meeting may be the first or second Thursday of each month. Councilwoman Bartolotta was going to inquire about the schedule for the Recreation and Community Service Commission meetings to determine what week worked best. She said she would get in touch with Attorney Wisneski once she knew more.

Attorney Wisneski explained that in order to amend the yearly schedule, she would have to file an amended schedule with the Town Clerk's Office at least thirty days in advance of the next regularly scheduled meeting. Councilwoman Bartolotta reiterated that she would check the City calendar and get in touch with Attorney Wisneski.

B. Ordinance – Complete Streets (262-61)

Attorney Wisneski explained that the Office of the General Counsel had worked with John Hall to put together this ordinance. It had been reviewed by the Public Works Commission and was forwarded to GCC for review.

Councilman Daley made a MOTION to approve the ordinance. The Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Salafia. The Motion passed unanimously.

C. Ordinance – Discussion of Building Committees (14-23)

Councilwoman Bartolotta had asked that this ordinance be placed on the agenda for discussion. Attorney Wisneski explained that General Counsel Brig Smith had been working on a revision of the ordinance in light of his recent legal opinion and concerns regarding the vagueness of the ordinance. Attorney Wisneski provided the commission with a revised draft for discussion purposes. Attorney Wisneski explained that the latest draft was proposing to change the monetary floor for establishing building committees from $500,000 to $750,000 to match the parameters of the Council's appropriation power/need for bond referendum. There was some discussion as to whether raising this number was appropriate. Councilwoman Kleckowski also had some concerns as to whether any changes would be retroactive. She wanted to make sure that the military museum had a building committee as that was already in the works.

The proposed ordinance also attempted to define the word "project" as well as what would not constitute a "project." Attorney Wisneski explained that in crafting this definition, Attorney Smith had used the definition of "Local Capital Improvement Projects," which he found in Section 7-536 of the General Statutes, as guidance. Much discussion ensued as to whether the definition was appropriate or whether it should be broader in scope. Councilwoman Bartolotta and Councilman Nocera seemed to suggest that things like road bonds should have a building committee. Councilman Daley explained from his historical knowledge that under this ordinance, committees were only established to oversee the construction of "buildings," not things like road bonds or the like. He questioned what a building committee would be able to offer on a project that included resurfacing of roads.

The proposed draft also included revisions to the membership portion of the ordinance. Members expressed some concern that the proposed draft was not specific enough as to what type of professional should be included on these committees.

The last revisions dealt with the powers and duties of these committees. All members were concerned with the changes and seemed to think more was lost than gained with these revisions. They felt that power was being taken away from the commissions, which they did not feel was proper or necessary.

Councilman Daley made some small suggested revisions, with which all councilmembers agreed. Attorney Wisneski stated that those changes would be reflected in the next revision.

Although Councilman Daley stated that he felt he could vote on the proposed revisions, other Councilmembers asked for more time to review the draft, which had only been provided to them at the beginning of the meeting. All agreed that the matter would be tabled and revisited at the next meeting.

Old Business

Other

A. **Vacancy Report**: Attorney Wisneski updated the Commission on vacancies per Director Morey – No action required.

B. **Legal Bills:** None to Report

Adjournment

MOTION to Adjourn by Councilman Daley. The Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Salafia. Motion was unanimous and meeting ended at 8:15 p.m.