DRAFT MINUTES
GENERAL COUNSEL COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING OF OCTOBER 14, 2014

Present: Councilwoman and Chairwoman Mary Bartolotta, Councilman Daley, Councilman Giuliano, Councilman Chisem, and Councilwoman Kleckowski. Staff: Director Morey and Attorney Wisneski. Members of the Public Present: Bruce Driska, Fire Chief Kronenberger, Councilman Bauer, Geen Thazhampallath.

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Call to Order:

Meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m.

Public Comment:

No one from the public spoke.

Approval of Minutes:

Councilman Giuliano made a MOTION to approve the Minutes from September 24, 2014 Special Meeting. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Chisem. The Motion was approved unanimously.

New Business:

1. **Vetting of Bruce Driska for Position of Deputy Director of Planning, Conservation, & Development:**

Councilman Daley made a MOTION to move Mr. Driska's nomination forward to the full Council for a vote in November. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Giuliano. The Motion was approved unanimously.

2. **Ordinance: Chapter 74, Residency Requirements, Section 74-30.**

There was some discussion regarding which positions are being removed and added. Attorney Wisneski informed the Commission that under Connecticut law we can only require exempt, high-level officials to reside in Middletown as a condition of employment. Historically, this ordinance was limited to department heads and their deputies. As several of the positions are now unionized positions, those positions are being removed from the ordinance. Additionally, the Director of HR is no longer a department head, so it is being removed. Director of Human Relations was recently removed from the union and is a department head so that position is being added.

Councilman Daley made a MOTION to approve this ordinance. The Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Kleckowski. The Motion was approved unanimously.

3. Ordinance: Chapter 74, Waiver of Residency Requirements, Section 74-31.

There was some discussion about the propriety of adding the section regarding Fire Chief Kronenberger. Councilman Giuliano had some concerns that the proposed ordinance was not giving Chief Kronenberger the same right that every other individual under Section 74-30 had to request a waiver if needed. He did not understand the need to include subsection (d) at this time. The Council can choose to deny a waiver if one is so requested at the appropriate time.

Councilman Daley made a MOTION to move this ordinance forward to the council. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Giuliano. The Motion failed unanimously.

4. Ordinance: Chapter 78, Bidding Threshold – Purchasing Ordinance.

Attorney Wisneski explained that the ordinance is seeking to piggy-back off of the state statute with respect to the bidding threshold. The threshold would be changing from $7,500 to $25,000, which is the state's current threshold. The ordinance, as proposed, references the relevant state statute and will require less revisions in the future, thus saving on re-printing, etc.

Councilman Daley made a MOTION to approve this ordinance. The Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Kleckowski. The Motion was approved unanimously.

5. Ordinance: Chapter 285, Parking Lots and Meters, Section 285-17.

Director Thazampallath explained the proposed changes regarding new rate changes and parking passes.

Councilman Daley made a MOTION to approve this ordinance. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Chisem. The Motion was approved unanimously.

6. Ordinance: Chapter 47, Parking Fund Calculations, Section 47-38.

Much discussion ensued about the proper language and policy for the parking fund calculation. Ultimately, it was determined that this ordinance needed to go back to the department's commission level and would be considered again at the next meeting.

Councilman Daley made a MOTION to table this ordinance to the next meeting. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Giuliano. The Motion was approved unanimously.

7. Ordinance: Chapter 285, Parking Immobilization, Section 285-4.

Director Thazampallath explained the proposed changes.

Councilman Daley made a MOTION to approve this ordinance. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Chisem. The Motion was approved unanimously.

8. Ordinance: Chapter 262, Highway Naming Committee, Section 262-15.

Councilman Daley thought that the ordinance needed to be clearer with respect to what happened when a developer was seeking to add a name to the list of approved names or name a street something that was not already on the approved list. Councilman Bauer, who was present, agreed to revise the ordinance and take it back to the Public Works Commission for approval.

Councilman Daley made a MOTION to refer this ordinance to the Public Works Commission. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Giuliano. The Motion was approved unanimously.

9. Ordinance: Chapter 23, Treasurer Duties, Sections 23-21 and 23-8.

Councilman Daley asked the purpose of the new provisions. Councilman Bauer, who was proposing these changes, explained that during the Charter Revision meetings there was much discussion about whether the Treasurer position should be eliminated. Arguments were made that the Treasurer position has a vital role in overseeing the City's Finances and ultimately it was decided that the Treasurer position would remain. Councilman Bauer explained that in light of these discussions he wanted to make sure that the Treasurer had the opportunity to aid in overseeing the City's finances and believed that these changes would accomplish that goal.

Councilman Daley made a MOTION to approve this ordinance. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Giuliano. The Motion was approved unanimously.

Other:

1. Vacancy Report – No questions.

2. Legal Bills – No questions.

Adjournment:

MOTION to Adjourn by Councilman Daley, seconded by Councilwoman Kleckowski. Motion was unanimous and meeting ended at 8:40 p.m.