

Ordinances & Administration Committee
 Tuesday, February 3, 2020 – 6:00 p.m.
 1st Fl. Council Conference Room - City Hall
 -Minutes-

Present: Chair, Councilor Sean Nolan; Vice Chair, Councilor Steven LeBlanc; Councilor O’Hara
Absent: None.

Also Present: Mayor Sefatia Theken; Councilor Holmgren; Councilor Gilman; Donna Leete; Shellfish Constable, Peter Seminara; Harbormaster T.J. Ciarametaro; Vanessa Krawczyk

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. Item #8 was taken out of order. There was a quorum of the City Council.

NOTE: Agenda was misnumbered. Minutes presented renumbered.

1. Memorandum from HR Director re: Mayoral Staff Reappointments

Chief Financial Officer

John Dunn

TTE 02/14/22

Mayor Sefatia Theken voiced her support for the reappointment of John Dunn, CFO highlighting his diligent work to ensure the city finances are stable; under his guidance the city has a better bond rating. She pointed out that Mr. Dunn and she work closely with the schools, and that he works with Kenny Costa, City Auditor, successfully. She asked that Mr. Dunn be reappointed for another term.

Councilor LeBlanc endorsed Mr. Dunn’s reappointment, saying his door is open, and if there is anything they need to know, he reaches out promptly. Councilor O’Hara pointed out that Mr. Dunn attends all the City Council meetings, and is always available to answer questions. Councilor Nolan offered that what he knows about bonds, bond ratings, the Magnolia Pier and betterments financing, he learned from Mr. Dunn whom he indicated goes the extra mile to ensure a clear understanding of the city’s fiscal picture.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor O’Hara, seconded by Councilor LeBlanc, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council reappoint John Dunn as the City of Gloucester Chief Financial Officer, TTE 02/14/22.

Community Development Director

Jill Cahill

TTE 02/14/22

Mayor Theken conveyed that Ms. Cahill has worked in the community with Pathways for Children and at the Statehouse prior to joining the city in 2017. She mentioned when Ms. Cahill came to the city there were many changes within the Administration, but she showed she was a team player; revamping many aspects of Community Development, programming in her department, helping new businesses come to the city, and creating better public accessibility. She works to collaborate with her colleagues, Mayor Theken highlighted, and noted that as the city moves forward together, Ms. Cahill is an important part of that effort. She asked that Ms. Cahill be reappointed.

Councilor LeBlanc mentioned that Ms. Cahill is the fourth Community Development Director he’s seen since he became a City Councilor. As with Mr. Dunn, he pointed out that she reaches out to the Council and has a friendly relationship with all the Councilors, voicing his endorsement of her reappointment. Councilor O’Hara offered his thanks to Ms. Cahill for her work. Councilor Nolan advised he has noticed a difference at the City Hall Annex through Ms. Cahill’s leadership, expressing he looked forward to working with her for some time to come.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor O’Hara, seconded by Councilor LeBlanc, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council reappoint Jill Cahill as the City of Gloucester Community Development Director, TTE 02/14/22.

2. Appointments:

Dogtown Preservation Commission

Cindy Dunn (Cont’d from 1/21/20)

TTE 02/14/23

Ms. Dunn conveyed that she didn't have the benefit of growing up in Gloucester but became acquainted with Dogtown as soon as she moved here 20 years ago quickly getting lost there and appreciating its beauty. She noted she is a lawyer with a knowledge of watershed protection, conservation deed restrictions as well as has accounting experience. She noted she was a member of the Dogtown Ad Hoc Committee for two and a half years revamping the 1980's management plan, to ensure Dogtown is protected now and in the future.

The Committee all expressed their endorsement of Ms. Dunn's appointment saying they looked forward to working with Ms. Dunn to preserve Dogtown for future generations.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor LeBlanc, seconded by Councilor O'Hara, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council appoint Cindy Dunn to the Dogtown Preservation Commission, TTE 02/14/23.

Economic Development & Industrial Corp. Timothy Wood (Cont'd to 3/16/20) TTE 02/14/23

Human Rights Commission Mauiza Alves (Cont'd to 3/2/20) TTE 02/14/23

Amanda Kesterson (from City Council Mtg. 1/14/20) TTE 02/14/21

Councilor Nolan announced there would be no action on Ms. Kesterson's appointment and is now removed from the O&A Agenda.

Reappointments:

Open Space & Recreation Committee Charles Crowley (Cont'd from 1/21/20) TTE 02/14/23

Mr. Crowley noted he's been on the Open Space & Recreation Committee for some time. He mentioned he is an artist, mountain biker and manages a 30,000+ acre ranch in Hawaii. He conveyed the OS&RC is down two members, both of whom had mentioned that the work of the Committee was underappreciated upon their resignation. He asked if there was anything the city could do to let those members know that wasn't the case it would be appreciated.

Councilor Nolan advised that he's worked closely with Mr. Crowley on a variety of projects, saying he has great experience and a knowledge base that he brings to the table for which he thanked him. He assured he would reach out to the newly resigned members of the OS&RC.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor O'Hara, seconded by Councilor LeBlanc, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council reappoint Charles Crowley to the Open Space & Recreation Committee, TTE 02/14/23.

Waterways Board Peter Yung (Cont'd from 1/21/20) TTE 02/14/23

Mr. Yung noted he lives on Arlington Street, is a recreational boater with a mooring on the river for some time, and a member of the Board of the Annisquam Yacht Club. He mentioned he worked in sales/marketing leadership roles in large national computer firms for 23 years and now has his own consulting firm writing business plans. He explained that he enjoys working with Harbormaster Ciarametaro highlighting the DOCKWA reservation system for transient boaters, the reconfiguration of the mooring fields, and the better process for the mooring lists as some of the recent successes of the Harbormaster. He expressed he enjoys working with the team of the Harbormaster's Department and the Board.

Councilor O'Hara conveyed that the O&A Committee appreciated all the work of the city's volunteers. **Councilor LeBlanc** noted that he is the Council's liaison to the Waterways Board and so knows Mr. Yung, saying that the Board members do a very good job. **Harbormaster Ciarametaro** advised Mr. Yung is a good liaison to his area of the city's waterways expressing support for his reappointment. **Councilor Nolan** lauded the turnaround of the Waterways Board.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor O'Hara, seconded by Councilor LeBlanc, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council reappoint Peter Yung to the Waterways Board, TTE 02/14/23.

3. *Memoranda from the Shellfish Constable re: request amendments to GCO Ch. 20 "Shellfish, Seaworms and Eels", Sec. 3 "Definitions"; Sec. 5 "Taking shellfish from contaminated areas"; "Sec. 7 "Closing of flats for shellfish taking"; Sec. 29 "Fees"; Sec. 30(a) "Limits (shellfish, commercial)"; Sec. 30(b) Limits (Shellfish, noncommercial)"*

Peter Seminara, Shellfish Constable, gave a narrative for proposed amendment to GCO Ch. 20 "Shellfish, Seaworms and Eels", as follows:

- Sec. 3 "Definitions" - The definitions section needs to include the words, "winkles and carnivorous snails including conchs, whelks and moon snails" in the municipal definition of shellfish. Carnivorous snails such as moon snails, conch and whelks as well as winkles such as periwinkles and dog winkles are shellfish by statutory definition (MGL Ch. 130, §1). These fall within the authority of the municipality to manage. They do encounter a lot of periwinkle harvesting on Wingersheek Beach and Jones River with no way to manage it currently because the ordinance chapter is ambiguous as to whether a permit is required to harvest winkles and carnivorous snails within the marshes, tidal flats and coastal waters of Gloucester and the allowable quantity people may harvest per day. Marine Fisheries agree that this falls within the municipality's purview. The impact to conch, whelks and moon snails, they are affected by red tide, it was pointed out.
- Sec. 5 "Taking shellfish from contaminated areas" by adding "(c) No person shall take shellfish from areas classified as conditionally approved while in the closed status as defined by the state Division of Marine Fisheries due to rain, red tide, pollution or severe weather events." The local ordinance only has prohibited and restricted areas. There are different levels of closures – approved, conditionally approved, restricted, conditionally restricted, and prohibited which are mainly based on rainfall. Gloucester's flats are nearly all "conditionally approved." Two flats are approved and the rest are prohibited. There isn't an ordinance that says you can't take shellfish from areas that area closed. The status can change (based on rain or if a sewer line breaks, but the classification stays forever. The department's recorded message is adjusted accordingly and signs are posted. Currently if people are in a polluted area that is closed they've had to enforce it under MGL because there's no ordinance that specifically addresses this issue.
- Sec. 7 "Closing of flats for Shellfish Taking" by adding a new last sentence, "No person shall take shellfish from areas closed during those times, tides or days that shellfish harvest is prohibited due to a municipal management plan." Gloucester has numerous shellfish areas that are closed on certain days set forth by the city's management plan. The state recognizes them to be open seven days a week of which Jones River was an example. Harvesting is only on certain specific days per city ordinance, but no ordinance exists to allow for enforcement of harvesting not in those times.
- Sec. 29 "Fees" - to include the words, "Military Veteran Non-Resident Non-Commercial Shellfish and Seaworms: \$50. This is pursuant to MGL Ch. 130, §52 which was amended at the state level a year ago and he read that amendment. This does apply to the city, and should be included in the ordinance.
- Sec. 30(a) "Limits (shellfish, commercial)". At the Shellfish Advisory Commission meeting of 11/26/19, by a vote of the Commission, it was agreed to raise the daily allowable harvest of shellfish from 200 lbs. per tide to 300 lbs. per tide. He asked that the weight limit number "200" be struck from Sec. 30(a) "Limits (shellfish, commercial)" and add the weight limit number, "300", except for sea clams where the non-commercial limit applies.
- Sec. 30(b) "Limits-Noncommercial" to include: "No person shall have in his or her possession surf clams less than five (5) inches in the longest diameter of the shell to the amount of more than 5 (5) percent of any batch." It was noted this is per 332 CMR 6.08(3)(c). There is no ordinance in the city that sets a size limit on surf clams but the state does, it was noted.

Councilor LeBlanc noting he was a commercial clammer for years, and still holds a recreational clamming license expressed appreciation for a hands-on Shellfish Warden. He expressed concern for the increase of the weight limit from 200 to 300 lbs. for commercial clammers saying it was his intent to amend that number. **Mr. Seminara** explained that people don't check state statute, they check local ordinance in the city's Shellfish Packet when they get their permit. He pointed out Ipswich went to 300 lbs. daily limit until October then move to a 180 lb. weight limit. Essex's limit is 250 lbs. He indicated that their flats are closed on Sundays and have 180 commercial clammers. Gloucester, he pointed out, has 76 commercial clammers, with about 40 full time of which 15 who clam as their sole source of income. He noted that Essex has double the amount of flats that Gloucester does, and don't have the prohibited areas that the city does. The city gets two tides three months of the year, he explained. He suggested that the impact on Gloucester is 15 to 18 of the commercial harvesters were capable of physically pull off 300 lbs. a tide three months of the year. The average take when Jones River was opened was about 200 lb., he added. While 300 lbs. is a big number, he questioned how much of a year the clammers could realistically dig that many clams on a daily basis as they're restricted to two tides in the summer. He reiterated commercial clammers are

restricted to two tides in the middle of the summer. For those that it is a sole source of income it will be a boon, Mr. Seminara conveyed.

Mr. Seminara briefly discussed that people who are harvesting these shellfish are taking juveniles, breed stock and seed and there's no way to manage that at this time. He noted that in two hours they've seen people take buckets full of periwinkles out of Jones River in the summertime.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor LeBlanc, seconded by Councilor O'Hara, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council Amend GCO Ch. 20 "Shellfish, Seaworms and Eels", Sec. 3 "Definitions" by STRIKING ":" (period) and ADDING after the words "sea scallop" as follows: "winkles and carnivorous snails including conchs, whelks and moon snails."

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor O'Hara, seconded by Councilor LeBlanc, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council Amend GCO Ch. 20 "Shellfish, Seaworms and Eels", Sec. 5 "Taking shellfish from contaminated areas" by ADDING subsection "(c)" as follows: "(c) No person shall take shellfish from areas classified as conditionally approved while in the closed status as defined by the state Division of Marine Fisheries due to rain, red tide, pollution or severe weather events."

Councilor LeBlanc offered an endorsement of amending Sec. 7 saying that the city has a management plan which is why the city is able to keep renewing their clam flats. Mr. Seminara pointed out when they had red tide for 41 days, after which most of the Annisquam River took a double seeding meaning in two years there'll be half a billion clams to harvest.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor LeBlanc, seconded by Councilor O'Hara, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council Amend GCO Ch. 20 "Shellfish, Seaworms and Eels", Sec. 7 "Closing of flats for Shellfish Taking" by ADDING a last sentence to the section as follows: "No person shall take shellfish from areas closed during those times, tides or days that shellfish harvest is prohibited due to a municipal management plan."

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor O'Hara, seconded by Councilor LeBlanc, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council Amend GCO Ch. 20 "Shellfish, Seaworms and Eels", Sec. 29 "Fees" by ADDING: "(12) Military Veteran Non-Resident Non-Commercial Shellfish and Seaworms: \$50"

Councilor LeBlanc asked to amend main motion as proposed to strike "300" and add "250" lbs. He expressed concern saying his preference was to increase the amount to 250 lbs. for commercial clambers and to take it slowly, see how it works. If successful then he suggested they could consider raising the catch limit to 300 lbs. The amendment was seconded by Councilor O'Hara. Mr. Seminara expressed his agreement that they can always add on, saying once the clams are taken they can't be put back. The Committee voted unanimously their agreement to Councilor LeBlanc's amendment.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor LeBlanc, seconded by Councilor O'Hara, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council Amend GCO Ch. 20 "Shellfish, Seaworms and Eels", Sec. 30 "Limits" subsection (a) "Shellfish, commercial" by STRIKING the number, "200" and ADDING the number, "250".

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor O'Hara, seconded by Councilor LeBlanc, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council Amend GCO Ch. 20 "Shellfish, Seaworms and Eels", Sec. 30 "Limits" subsection (b) "Shellfish noncommercial" by STRIKING the word "two" and ADDING the word "five".

These matters will be advertised for public hearing.

4. *Memorandum from the Harbormaster re: request amendment to GCO Ch. 10 "Waterways Administration" Sec. 87 "Harbormaster Patrol details"*

Harbormaster T.J. Ciarametaro reviewed the changes to GCO Ch. 10 “Waterways Administration” Sec. 87 “Harbormaster Patrol details as submitted to change the language completely in subsection (b) and (c) as to fees and rates which he reviewed with the Committee (memo with amendment of fees and rates on file). About a two ago there was no mechanism to conduct Harbormaster Patrol details and he hurriedly submitted an ordinance amendment which the Council endorsed. However, he was reminded by the Human Resources Director this summer that there was a need to revisit the details ordinance. There is a good amount of work done with the Police Department, and indicated that Gloucester is comparable to Salem’s Harbormaster’s Office in the way in which they conduct their business. The language submitted is similar to that of the ordinance they use for Salem’s Police Boat details like for the hour range. There is some supervisor language proposed now, as he doesn’t have full staff in the winter. The Assistant Harbormaster has done some shifts which the union has signed off on, but he can’t be paid less than his hourly rate than he makes now which is why there is supervisor language contained in the ordinance. National Grid is doing water side work laying cables for the train bridge, the MBTA, they want to try to keep this uniform across the city, similar to the Police Department.

Councilor Nolan noted when the ordinance amendment was proposed originally there was no detail work but now there is. This is a way to get appropriate compensation for the utilization of the Harbormaster’s Office assets for ongoing on-the-water projects. Vendors pay for the details, and he saw the need, the Harbormaster pointed out, and it was time to refine the ordinance, and it is presented now as it should have looked like from the start.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor LeBlanc, seconded by Councilor O’Hara, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council Amend GCO Ch. 10 “Waterways Administration” Sec. 87 “Harbormaster Patrol details” by STRIKING subsections (b) and (c) and ADDING as follows:

“(b) The Harbormaster shall charge a fee of \$105 per hour for the use of a vessel and two Assistant Harbormasters during daytime hours (6:00 AM-8:00 PM) and a fee of \$145/hr. for nighttime hours (8:00 PM-6:00 AM). In the event that supervisors are required, the Harbormaster shall charge a fee of \$125/hr. during daylight hours and \$175/hr. for nighttime hours.

(c) Hourly rates are as follows:

(1) A flat fee of \$40/hr. per Assistant Harbormaster plus \$25/hr. for use of each vessel needed during daylight hours with a minimum shift of 4 hours. If the detail exceeds 4 hours it shall be a minimum of 8 hours and if the detail exceeds 8 hours it shall be an hourly charge until 8:00 PM.

(2) A flat fee of \$60/hr. per Assistant Harbormaster plus \$25/hr. for use of each vessel needed during nighttime hours with a minimum shift of 4 hours. If the detail exceeds 4 hours it shall be a minimum of 8 hours and if the detail exceeds 8 hours it shall be an hourly charge until 6:00 AM.

(3) A flat fee of \$50/hr. per Supervisor plus \$25 per hour for use of each vessel needed during daylight hours with a minimum shift of 4 hours. If the detail exceeds 4 hours it shall be a minimum of 8 hours and if the detail exceeds 8 hours it shall be an hourly charge until 8:00 PM.

(4) A flat fee of \$75/hr. per Supervisory plus \$25/hr. for use of each vessel needed during nighttime hours with a minimum shift of 4 hours. If the detail exceeds 4 hours it shall be a minimum of 8 hours and if the detail exceeds 8 hours it shall be an hourly charge until 6:00 AM.”


This matter will be advertised for public hearing.

5. *CC2019-039 (LeBlanc): request review of GCO Ch. 21, “Streets, Sidewalks and Other Public Places” Art. V, “West Gloucester Firing Range” and whether certain sections of Art. V be amended (Cont’d from 12/02/19)*

Councilor Nolan explained that he met with Chief Conley, and they’ll have a neighborhood meeting in West Gloucester in a few weeks and asked to continue the matter to March 2.

This matter is continued to March 2, 2020.

6. *CC2019-034 (LeBlanc/Nolan): request O&A and Traffic Commission review the parking at all times of motor vehicles and RV’s on Western Avenue from the County Way Landing to the Avis R. Murray Tennis Courts (Cont’d from 12/02/19)*

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Harbormaster T.J. Ciarametaro reviewed the changes to GCO Ch. 10 “Waterways Administration” Sec. 87 “Harbormaster Patrol details as submitted to change the language completely in subsection (b) and (c) as to fees and rates which he reviewed with the Committee (memo with amendment of fees and rates on file). About a two ago there was no mechanism to conduct Harbormaster Patrol details and he hurriedly submitted an ordinance amendment which the Council endorsed. However, he was reminded by the Human Resources Director this summer that there was a need to revisit the details ordinance. There is a good amount of work done with the Police Department, and indicated that Gloucester is comparable to Salem’s Harbormaster’s Office in the way in which they conduct their business. The language submitted is similar to that of the ordinance they use for Salem’s Police Boat details like for the hour range. There is some supervisor language proposed now, as he doesn’t have full staff in the winter. The Assistant Harbormaster has done some shifts which the union has signed off on, but he can’t be paid less than his hourly rate than he makes now which is why there is supervisor language contained in the ordinance. National Grid is doing water side work laying cables for the train bridge, the MBTA, they want to try to keep this uniform across the city, similar to the Police Department.

Councilor Nolan noted when the ordinance amendment was proposed originally there was no detail work but now there is. This is a way to get appropriate compensation for the utilization of the Harbormaster’s Office assets for ongoing on-the-water projects. Vendors pay for the details, and he saw the need, the Harbormaster pointed out, and it was time to refine the ordinance, and it is presented now as it should have looked like from the start.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor LeBlanc, seconded by Councilor O’Hara, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council Amend GCO Ch. 10 “Waterways Administration” Sec. 87 “Harbormaster Patrol details” by STRIKING subsections (b) and (c) and ADDING as follows:

“(b) The Harbormaster shall charge a fee of \$105 per hour for the use of a vessel and two Assistant Harbormasters during daytime hours (6:00 AM-8:00 PM) and a fee of \$145/hr. for nighttime hours (8:00 PM-6:00 AM). In the event that supervisors are required, the Harbormaster shall charge a fee of \$125/hr. during daylight hours and \$175/hr. for nighttime hours.

(c) Hourly rates are as follows:

(1) A flat fee of \$40/hr. per Assistant Harbormaster plus \$25/hr. for use of each vessel needed during daylight hours with a minimum shift of 4 hours. If the detail exceeds 4 hours it shall be a minimum of 8 hours and if the detail exceeds 8 hours it shall be an hourly charge until 8:00 PM.

(2) A flat fee of \$60/hr. per Assistant Harbormaster plus \$25/hr. for use of each vessel needed during nighttime hours with a minimum shift of 4 hours. If the detail exceeds 4 hours it shall be a minimum of 8 hours and if the detail exceeds 8 hours it shall be an hourly charge until 6:00 AM.

(3) A flat fee of \$50/hr. per Supervisor plus \$25 per hour for use of each vessel needed during daylight hours with a minimum shift of 4 hours. If the detail exceeds 4 hours it shall be a minimum of 8 hours and if the detail exceeds 8 hours it shall be an hourly charge until 8:00 PM.

(4) A flat fee of \$57/hr. per Supervisory plus \$25/hr. for use of each vessel needed during nighttime hours with a minimum shift of 4 hours. If the detail exceeds 4 hours it shall be a minimum of 8 hours and if the detail exceeds 8 hours it shall be an hourly charge until 6:00 AM.”

This matter will be advertised for public hearing.

5. *CC2019-039 (LeBlanc): request review of GCO Ch. 21, “Streets, Sidewalks and Other Public Places” Art. V, “West Gloucester Firing Range” and whether certain sections of Art. V be amended (Cont’d from 12/02/19)*

Councilor Nolan explained that he met with Chief Conley, and they’ll have a neighborhood meeting in West Gloucester in a few weeks and asked to continue the matter to March 2.

This matter is continued to March 2, 2020.

6. *CC2019-034 (LeBlanc/Nolan): request O&A and Traffic Commission review the parking at all times of motor vehicles and RV’s on Western Avenue from the County Way Landing to the Avis R. Murray Tennis Courts (Cont’d from 12/02/19)*

Councilor LeBlanc conveyed that they are still working on this at the Traffic Commission. He conveyed he's reached out to other communities similar to Gloucester and asked for some language how they manage their parking on their waterfront areas hoping by the next meeting they would have that information. He asked that this matter be continued to the second meeting in March.

This matter is continued to March 16, 2020.

7. **CC2019-032 (Gilman/Holmgren): request City Council adopt MGL Ch. 90, 17C re: establishing a speed limit of 25 mph on any roadway inside a thickly settled or business district in the city or town on any way that is not a state highway (Cont'd from 01/21/20)**

Councilor Gilman asked that this matter be continued to March 2. **Councilor Holmgren** asked that her name be removed from this Council Order to which the Chair voiced his agreement to her request.

This matter is continued to March 2, 2020.

8. **CC2020-001 (LeBlanc): request review of GCO Ch. 2 "Administration," Div. 8 "Human Rights Commission"**

Councilor LeBlanc reviewed that there has been a Human Rights Commission ordinance amendment and after review of the ordinance over the past several months, there are several matters that the Council should take another look at. He pointed out that the Human Rights Commission is an advisory Commission to the Mayor. He expressed concern that some of the delegation of powers seems excessive. He noted that he had reached out to the city's Human Resources Director, Donna Leete, having had a conversation with her today, and asked that since this is her specialty he asked that the Committee to advise O&A on whether this ordinance needs amendment once again to strengthen it.

Donna Leete, Human Resources Director, noted that the revised Human Rights Commission ordinance amendment was voted by the Council in February 2019. She reported that there were some significant revisions it and reviewed as follows: The duties and responsibilities in the original ordinance prior to the Council vote to revise it were quite board, including doing actual remediation and dispute resolution. The Council's vote to revise that was correct. The Commission would serve more as a referral agency to get the services out in the community rather than doing the direct dispute resolution. **Ms. Leete** expressed she felt very comfortable with that saying that the Mayor did as well. What has been experienced since recruiting for the Commission and still in that mode, there were four people out of seven have been appointed. They need to look at how they're staffing the Commission so that the Commissioners understand this is strictly an advisory Commission to the Mayor. There is good language in the ordinance, she pointed out, as it stands now for the annual report, reporting and accountability for corrective action. She expressed she is still comfortable with the ordinance as it stands as long as the appointees to the Commission understand it is strictly an advisory commission. She mentioned that when she worked on this ordinance she did it in conjunction with Councilor Gilman in the amendments conferred regularly on it. She indicated that the Commission could be strengthened with a dedicated Councilor liaison for which there is no language reference in the ordinance. She highlighted that to amend the ordinance would take several months. She noted after speaking with Councilor LeBlanc, if there was any potential to staff this Commission to oversee it, it would be appropriate. The staffing component would be beneficial, she advised, and would like to take those recommendations if the Committee agrees and would talk to the Mayor about it. Having worked with Councilor Gilman she expressed that she would appreciate her assistance in this review to which the Committee indicated it would assent to.

This matter is continued to March 2, 2020.

A motion was made, seconded and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dana C. Jorgenson

Clerk of Committees

DOCUMENTS/ITEMS SUBMITTED AT MEETING: None.