

CITY COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEE
Ordinances & Administration
Monday, November 19, 2012 – 6:00 p.m.
1st Fl. Council Conference Rm. – City Hall
-Minutes-

Present: Chair, Councilor Sefatia Theken; Vice Chair, Councilor Robert Whynott; Councilor Steven LeBlanc, Jr.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Councilor Hardy; Tony Gross; Cate Banks; Sally Polzin; Holly Dougwillo; Duke Porter; Sue Shillue; Jane Morse; Tom LoGrande: Deputy Fire Chief Aiello

The meeting was called to order at 6:07 p.m.

1. *Memorandum from Harbormaster re: Fee increases recommended by Waterways Board*

Tony Gross, Chair of the Waterways Board explained that after input from the O&A Committee at their last regularly scheduled meeting, the Board met, agreed with the O&A recommendations and voted to amend their 10A float fee structure. He asked O&A to vote on the new structure. **Councilor Theken** expressed the appreciation of the Committee to the Board's changing the fees based on their input. The B&F Committee was noted has having agreed with the amended fee structure as well.

MOTION: On motion by Councilor Whynott, seconded by Councilor LeBlanc, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed recommend to the City Council that under Chapter 10, Waterways Board, Sec. 10-51 (e) Fees, that the Fees for 10A floats shall increase from \$50 per season to 50 cents per square foot up to a maximum of \$350.00; AND FURTHER TO ADVERTISE FOR PUBLIC HEARING.

2. *Adoption of MGL c. 32B, §21, §22 and §23 as relates to Health Care Reform (as referred back to O&A by the City Council)*

Councilor Theken has met with the PEC, the retired teachers; met with an ad hoc committee. This is not for the City Council to say what health insurance plan the City goes with, whether they should go with the GIC, or whatever plan is chosen for the City. It is whether the Council wishes to adopt MGL c. 32B, §21, §22 and §23 as relates to Health Care Reform and if they like the way the law stands. Present at these meetings were representatives from the Personnel Department; union representatives from the City and School Department and representatives of retired school teachers. She mentioned: Sally Polzin, Personnel Director; Holly Dougwillo, Personnel; Lynn Cabender, Gloucester Association of Educational Paraprofessionals; Aleesha Nunley, GMAA; Duke Porter, Retired Teacher, Councilor Theken and Sue Shillue of Cooke & Company. **Councilor Theken** thanked the Personnel Department for their assistance and all the information she needed. After a long decision making process, and much discussion, it comes down to working together and trusting one another for a common goal. They do have committees set up and trust them to work together. This matter had an extended timeframe because at the time it came forward to the Council, without in depth information it was "useless" to move it forward to the Council for a vote. Either way the Administration took no stand. There is a good team and process in place. A meeting of the ad hoc committee was productive. Some of the information wasn't available to be given. Some of the information was just wrong. She noted there were 223 remaining retired teachers that could not afford a big change. The high cost of insurance would devastate some of them. It adds up. It was also how the State represents the law. She stated she would not vote in favor of the adoption of the Health Care reform law. If the PEC determines they want the City to join the GIC, they can join; they don't need the Council's permission. If they stall out in the negotiations, she had no qualms of coming back and bringing forward the adoption of the MGL again. **Councilor Whynott** also would not support the MGL adoption. As they go through the annual insurance renewal, or to choose another provider, through the process there are committees and negotiation. When it comes down to the last step, the State law gives one person, the Mayor, too much power, in making the final decision. As a former City employee, while he is on Medicare now, this won't affect him. They need to take care of those employees with families.

Councilor LeBlanc would not support the adoption of the MGL, saying there is a good plan in place, and they should stick with it. **Councilor Hardy** stated until such time it makes sense to change, she won't be in favor of adoption of the state law; there is not enough to benefit in it to change at this time. **Councilor Theken** pointed out this was also about information they got from the State. She said she didn't want to hear there were [health insurance negotiation] issues in January; that if they can save money they should do it together. She encouraged vigorous negotiation with the insurance providers and said she would always be an advocate for the retirees.

MOTION: On motion by Councilor LeBlanc, seconded by Councilor Whynott, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 0 in favor, 3 opposed recommend to the City Council to ADOPT MGL c. 32B, §21 entitled, Manner of changing health insurance benefits; estimation of savings; approval of agreement; immediate implementation; time for review; distribution of savings; regulations; AND FURTHER TO ADVERTISE FOR PUBLIC HEARING.

Councilor Theken, Councilor Hardy, Sally Polzin, Personnel Director and Holly Dougwillo discussed the public hearing which would come forward in January and what would be expected at that time.

A motion was made, seconded and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:25 p.m.

**Respectfully submitted,
Dana C. Jorgensson
Clerk of Committees**

DOCUMENTS/ITEMS SUBMITTED AT MEETING: None.