

Ordinances & Administration Committee
Monday, August 20, 2018 – 6:00 p.m.
1st Fl. Council Conference Room – City Hall
-Minutes-

Present: Chair, Councilor Steven LeBlanc; Vice Chair, James O’Hara; Councilor Sean Nolan

Absent: None.

Also Present: Joanne M. Senos

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

1. New Appointments to Boards, Committees & Commissions:

Zoning Board of Appeals

Michele H. Harrison (Cont’d from 07/16/18)

TTE 02/14/21

Ms. Harrison advised the Committee that she has been practicing law for over thirty years, practiced before the Zoning Board and grew to appreciate the work that they do. She believed that her experience, knowledge of the Zoning Ordinance, the General Laws and serving on the Board would be a great way to give back to the City. She conveyed to the committee that there is a good composition of knowledgeable and experienced members on the Board. **Councilor LeBlanc**, saying that Ms. Harrison would be an asset to the Board, mentioned that from time to time applicants that appear before the ZBA need their hands held on how to navigate through the process. **Councilor O’Hara** thanked Ms. Harrison for her willingness to return to serve on a city board. **Councilor Nolan** agreed with Councilor LeBlanc that Ms. Harrison would be an asset to the Board with her background and her caring about affordable housing stock in the city. He said it was a great Board with a lot of responsibility.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor O’Hara, seconded by Councilor Nolan , the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted in 3 favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council appoint Michelle H. Harrison to the Zoning Board of Appeals, TTE 02/14/21.

2. CC2018-032 (LeBlanc): Amend GCO Ch. 25 “Vehicles for Hire” by ADDING new sections re: Police Inspections; Ineligibility for License; Pre-Screening; Denials; Change of Address; Criminal Records; Administrative Fee for Transfer of License

Councilor LeBlanc conveyed to the Committee that he spoke with the City Clerk before the meeting and is requesting that this matter be continued so that General Counsel could attend the next meeting to answer the Committee’s questions. They spoke about Uber, Lyft and an ambulance service that provides livery rides. He said that if we hold the standards to licensed taxi cab companies and livery services that they should be across the board throughout the entire city. He is aware of several individuals providing livery services that do not have approval and a license for said service from the city. **Councilor LeBlanc** stated for the record, that according to an article that appeared in the newspaper on July 5, 2018 “Ride-hailing fees a boon to city, towns”, Gloucester had 8,815 rides and received \$881 in fees, and Boston collected more than \$3.4 million in fees. He wanted to make sure that the fees are going into the right city coffer and requested this information be provided to the Committee from the Treasurer. **Councilor LeBlanc** requested that General Counsel provide a legal opinion for a local regulation on ride hailing companies and whether the regulations would be enforceable. **Councilor Nolan** requested that General Counsel look into a proposed ordinance for the amount of licenses given to a company and that they are required to have onsite parking for their vehicles. It has come to his attention that a local company parks their extra vehicles everywhere in the city, and it has become problematic. **Council Nolan** also requested that General Counsel look into the proposed ordinance amendment regarding the police inspection, and whether it should be fee based like the Fire Dept. for inspections, and the Sealer of Weights & Measures to calibrate the taxi meters.

This matter is continued to September 17, 2018

3. *Memorandum from Mayor re: recreational marijuana recommendations: That the Council vote to limit the number of marijuana retail establishments in Gloucester to three (3); and that the Council adopt an ordinance governing marijuana accessories as well as an ordinance authorizing Board of Health to inspect edible marijuana products to be drafted by General Counsel (Cont'd from 08/06/18)*

This matter is continued to September 17, 2018.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne M. Senos

City Clerk & Substitute Recorder

DOCUMENTS/ITEMS SUBMITTED AT MEETING: None.