

Hudson Common Council Legal Committee
Minutes of meeting – February 24, 2016 at 6:15 PM - City Hall

Present: Michael O'Hara - Chair
Alderman Garriga
Alderman Moore
Counsel: Ken Dow

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A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 6:20 PM.

The first order of business was the development and agreement on a plan to review the documents associated with the proposed procedures for the City's fund balance and reserves. Treasurer Campbell has reported in previous meetings on the problems caused by a lack of a written document describing what the treasurer's actions should be when confronted with an unexpected change in the status of these funds. Chairman O'Hara reported the materials sent to him by Treasurer Campbell had been forwarded on to Counsel Dow as support for the agreed-to written document to be delivered and voted upon at the next committee meeting.

The second order of business was a question remaining from the previous meeting (November 2015) on how to convey the finished local law regarding the "Lodging Tax" to our NY Assembly and Senate representatives for introduction approval in Albany. Former Council President Moore reported the resolution had been passed by the council in September 2016, but due to an oversight had not been transferred to the Senate and Assembly members. Chairman O'Hara agreed to confirm the proper procedure and strategy for the movement at a meeting scheduled with Assembly member Barrett on 2/25.

The third order of business was another question remaining from the previous meeting, on how best to write a law creating a "vacancy tax". Counsel Dow has reviewed the text of the law in the other NYS communities which have a regulation on vacant rental properties and reported there didn't appear to be any way to directly impose a fee or penalty on the basis of specific unrented units of a multi-tenant property. Chairman O'Hara suggested it might be possible to work on the basis of the property tax imposed on the (entirely) vacant property and Counsel Dow agreed to research further.

The fourth order of business was a request from Mayor Hamilton to make a change in the zoning code language so as to allow for hotels in zone R-S-C. It was proposed by Alderman Garriga that local law language be drafted by counsel for presentation at a special meeting. The motion was seconded by Alderman Moore and was approved unanimously.

There being no other business before the Committee, on proper motion and second, the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael O'Hara, Chair