

Minutes

Monday, August 11, 2008



Public Service Committee

5:09 p.m.
at the Carnegie Town Hall
235 West Tenth Street

Members Present: Vernon Brown, Kermit Stagers and Kenny Anderson Jr.

Members Absent: De Knudson

Staff Present: City Clerk, Debra A. Owen and Assistant City Clerk, Jamie L. Palmer

Guests: City Council Member Bob Litz, Joel Rosenthal and Kory Rawstern

1. Call To Order

- At the request of Committee Chair Anderson, Committee Member Brown chaired the meeting and called the meeting to order at 5:09 p.m.

2. Review and approval of Minutes dated 06/09/08

- A motion was made by Anderson and seconded by Stagers to approve said minutes. Brown called for a voice vote on the motion and all members voted yes. **Motion Passed.**

3. Election Ordinance Review

- Debra Owen stated that Council Member Brown asked her to make recommendations for changes to the Campaign Finance Ordinance.
 - To end the duplication of reports for Political Action Committees, the City Clerk's Office proposed to have all PAC's register with the secretary of states office when contributing to local election. Over 99% of PAC's which contribute to local elections are currently registered with the secretary of state. In 2008, the clerk's office retrieved the PAC's Statement of Organization information from the State's website and posted it on the City Election webpage.
 - Owen also proposed that PAC's file only one Financial Disclosure statement with the City on the Monday one week prior to the election. The year end Financial Disclosure Statement and post election statement can be retrieved from the Secretary of State's website and posted to the City's website.
 - Owen also proposed that the January and March financial disclosure report dates be deleted. The end of the month March report is only one week apart from the April report, which will still be required. Owen stated that the reporting periods are still Dec 31 of the year prior to an election, and February, and April for pre-election Financial Disclosure Reports. (She indicated that the 60 day post-election report is still required).
 - Mr. Rosenthal stated that if a PAC chooses to contribute to a local election, they are responsible to know the rules and to follow the rules. He thinks the proposal might not provide enough information. He would suggest that PAC's submit a letter of expenditure to the City within 72 hours of contributing to a candidate. Owen stated that his suggestion would be very difficult to actually enforce. Discussion followed. Rosenthal stated that disclosure prior to the election is important for transparency.
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- Brown asked the committee how they would like to proceed with this proposal of PAC's filing one Financial Disclosure statement with the City on the Monday one week prior to the election.
 - Anderson made a motion and Staggers seconded it to bring this ordinance change to the City Council. Brown called for a voice vote on the motion and all members voted yes. **Motion Passed.**

4. Open discussion

- Anderson would like to propose a new ordinance regarding City Events/Block Parties. He is currently researching to see if other similar cities have such an ordinance. He would like to bring forth a proposal for discussion at the next scheduled Public Services Committee Meeting. Palmer will add the request to the meeting of September 8, 2008. Anderson also expressed concern about his inability to access the Downtown Events Committee minutes. There are approximately 10 city employees on the committee and he questioned why they are not required to provide minutes to the City Clerk's Office.

5. Adjournment

- A motion was made by Anderson and seconded by Council Member Staggers to adjourn the meeting at 5:50 p.m. Brown called for a voice vote on the motion and all members voted yes. **Motion Passed.**

Jamie L. Palmer
Assistant City Clerk