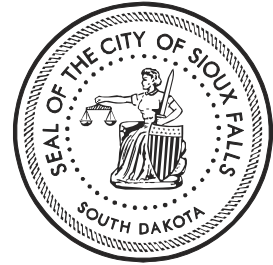


Minutes

Monday, February 11, 2008

Public Service Committee

5: 00 p.m. at Carnegie Town Hall
235 West Tenth Street



Members Present: De Knudson, Kermit Staggers, and Bob Jamison

Staff Present: Assistant City Clerk, Tamara M. Jorgensen

Guests: Health Department: Judy Buseman, Director and LuAnn Ford,
Environmental Manager; HELP! Line Center: Carol Muller, Executive
Director; and Jabez Brunz, candidate for City Council.

1. Call To Order

- Council Member Knudson called the meeting to order at 5:10 p.m.

2. Review and approval of Minutes dated 09/17/07.

- A motion was made by Council Member Staggers and seconded by Council Member Jamison to amend the meeting minutes of 09/17/07 by removing "and Kermit" (italicized and underlined) from the third sentence indicated below. A voice vote was taken and all members present voted yes.

Original:

"State laws were reviewed regarding PAC contributions and limits. At the prior meeting, both De Knudson and Bob Jamison were in favor of limitations on PAC's. De favored a \$5K or \$10K limit on PAC's for city races and Bob favored a \$1K limit on PAC's. The committee decided to move forward with the \$1K PAC limit recommendation to the rest of the City Council for review and discussion."

3. Review and approval of Minutes dated 01/14/08.

- A motion was made by Council Member Jamison and seconded by Council Member Staggers to approve said minutes. A voice vote was taken, all members present voted yes.

4. Child Care Regulations

A. Carol Muller, Executive Director of the 211HelpLine and Judy Buseman, Director of Health for the City of Sioux Falls.

- Judy Buseman brought examples of research on other ordinances regarding child care regulations and, in reference to issues and complaints that have been received, summarized their needs as follows:
 - Making recommendations on 'tightening up' on language in the existing ordinances in reference to: supervision and discipline.
 - From an education standpoint: daycare and childcare providers were looking for tweaking of the language to help support them in their work;

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- Administrative level: Need for educational requirements? There is broad language in the existing ordinances and there may need to be more specific guidelines for educational requirements.
- One direction that is being reviewed is the number of children being supervised, the number of supervisors, and the ages of the children. There is a broad range of standards which vary by state.
- Council Member Knudson asked the members to review the ordinances currently available and make recommendations for improvement.
- Discussion was held regarding ratios between children and the number of daycare providers per household.
- Discussion was held regarding how the states were ranked in: health, safety, well being of children, frequency and type of monitoring, requirement of background checks, provider education, provider training, parent/provider communication and education, quality of learning environment, availability of learning activity and literacy opportunities, group size limitations and health and safety requirements. South Dakota was ranked 52nd in this study because the state requires regulations begin when a provider has 13 children. The next lowest rankings were: Virginia, Ohio, and Louisiana (and their regulations begin when a provider has 7 children).
- Quote from a Sioux Falls parent: "Report licensing businesses in order to protect the health and safety of the public is a governmental responsibility. Childcare is a business – children need protection. Licensing or registration encourages quality".
- Discussion was held regarding the requirements for registering a day care and the need to include more stipulations.
- The Health Department will work with the Ms. Muller to bring forward recommendations at the Public Services Committee scheduled for Monday, March 10, 2008, after the Informational Meeting adjourns.

5. Open Discussion

6. Adjournment at 6:15 p.m.

- A motion was made by Council Member Jamison and seconded by Council Member Staggers to adjourn the meeting. A voice vote was taken, all members present voted yes.

Tamara M. Jorgensen
Assistant City Clerk