

Government Operations Committee

Minutes

January 20, 2016

Councilors in Attendance: Plourde, Graham, Baldacci, Sprague, Nichols, Durgin

Staff in Attendance: Farrar, Goodwin, Hamilton, Riitano, Sandborn, Willette, Heitmann, Linscott

Others in Attendance: Martin Chartrand, Kim Meyerdeirks and several members of Transportation for All.

Committee Chair Plourde called the meeting to Order at 5:30

1. Accepting state law provisions for counting write-in votes at elections.
 - City Clerk Goodwin explained the revised process for counting write-in votes, which would incorporate state law provisions. It was moved by Baldacci, seconded by Sprague and unanimously voted to recommend approval of the Order to the full Council.
2. Authorization to apply for a \$10,000 grant from the Maine Community Foundation to support the on- going efforts of the Community Health Leadership Board (CHLB).
 - Public Health and Community Services Director Hamilton explained the nature and intent of the \$10,000 grant which would provide funding for the Community Health Leadership Board. It was moved by Graham, seconded by Baldacci and unanimously voted to recommend approval of the Order to the full Council.
3. Authorization to apply for a \$3,000 grant from FM Global Company to purchase computer tablets for the Fire Inspection Bureau.
 - Assistant Fire Chief Riitano explained that the purpose of the \$3,000 grant would be to purchase two computer tablets for the Fire Inspection Division. It was moved by Graham, seconded by Baldacci and unanimously voted to recommend approval of the Order to the full Council.
4. Authorization to apply for an \$8,416.32 State of Maine Recreational Trails grant to fund improvements on the Kenduskeag Stream Trail between Franklin Street and Harlow Street.
 - Parks and Recreation Director Willette explained that this \$ 8,416.32 grant would assist with needed improvements on to the Kenduskeag Stream Trail between Franklin Street and Harlow Street. It was moved by Baldacci, seconded by Sprague and voted unanimously to recommend approval of the Order to the full Council.
5. Executive Session: 1 MRSA 405 6 (c) -- Property Acquisition
 - It was moved by Baldacci, seconded by Durgin to enter into Executive Session (1 MRSA 405 6 c) to discuss property acquisition. It was moved by Baldacci, seconded by Durgin and voted to return to public session.

6. Committee action, if necessary, related to Agenda Item #5 above.
 - Committee Chair Plourde stated for the record that there would be an item on the Council agenda on January 25th, concerning the property acquisition that was the subject of the Executive Session.
7. Presentation from and discussion with representatives from Transportation for All regarding recommendations for public transit service improvements.
 - Assistant City Manager Farrar introduced the item and provided background for the Committee. Representatives with Transportation for All were in attendance to discuss several areas of interest with the Committee. Transportation for All leaders Martin Chartrand and Kim Meyerdeirks and various representatives spoke to the Committee about the following topics: Bus Ambassador Program, Additional System Operating Hours, Pickering Square Operational Issues, Bus Cleaning, General Signage, and Additional Passenger Waiting Shelters. They also spoke about recommendations that they have already brought forward that have been or in the process of being implemented. Committee members discussed their views on these items and indicated their appreciation for all the work that Transportation for All has done to support of the Transit System. Councilors indicated their willingness to work towards solutions in the areas brought forward, understanding that many of the issues required financial commitment that would need to be part of the city's budgeting process. Farrar indicated that staff would be willing to cost out funding requirements for the items, and that these could be brought forward for consideration as part of the FY 17 budget review process. This approach was acceptable to the Committee with the exception of Graham, who felt that improvements, specifically additional bus hours, should be dealt with now, not as part of the budget process. The Committee urged the group to stay involved and work with bus staff and the Council to help improve the bus system. Transportation for All thanked the Committee for their support and the discussion and indicated that they looked forward to continuing the dialog in an effort to help make improvements to the system.

With no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30pm