

SPECIAL REVIEW & OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MINUTES

April 21, 2009

The Special Review & Oversight Committee meeting was held on April 21, 2009, at North Royalton City Hall, 13834 Ridge Road. The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m.

Present: Members: Chair Vince Gentile, Mike Farrell, Don Willey; Council: Larry Antoskiewicz, Dan Kasaris, Gary Petrusky, John Nickell, Legislative Director Laura Haller; Administration: Mayor Robert Stefanik; Other Attendees: Pat Jones.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Proposed Ordinance No. 09-54

Mr. Willey said he is in favor of being environmentally responsible and putting in the extra effort to review the various issues. He did say, however, before we adopt an ordinance, he feels specific objectives and the issues this committee will tackle need to be put in place.

Mr. Gentile said Council committees cannot adopt policy or standard, they have to make recommendations to Council. He said it is ultimately up to Council to adopt legislation. He said this will be a committee where there are general topics that would qualify to be placed in this committee. Mr. Willey said he would like to see a better direction of where this committee is planning to go.

Mr. Nickell said this committee may allow us to deal with topics such as wind turbines which is currently being discussed in another committee. He said this would be a set time to focus on energy and environment.

Mr. Antoskiewicz feels we should take more time before developing this committee. He said Parma currently has an Environmental Standards Committee that meets quarterly, but he has not had time to review exactly what they do within that committee. Mr. Antoskiewicz said he would like to define exactly what we want to do with this committee.

Mr. Nickell said this committee could actually be called Earth, Environment and Energy.

Mr. Kasaris said the topics discussed in committees have some overlap. He said at the last Finance Committee meeting, the committee members discussed a topic that was handled in streets and there have been subjects that were originally in the Streets Committee that could have been discussed in Finance Committee. He feels that with the new committee, members might be able to discuss one topic per meeting which is something we cannot currently do in other committees because of the number of topics that are currently on the agenda. Mr. Kasaris said he is prepared to approve this committee at the Council meeting this evening as he feels the development of this committee is a great idea.

Mr. Antoskiewicz said he agrees that this is a great committee, but he feels that we need to investigate this a little further and see what other communities are doing within this type of committee. He also said that as far as the length of committee meetings, all committee meetings were shortened from 1 hour to ½ hour. Mr. Kasaris said that we schedule ½ hour for meetings, but sometimes the meetings run over that time.

Mr. Gentile said he spoke to Mr. Kelly who told him that Council has great latitude in forming and dissolving committees based on its current needs. Mr. Kelly agreed that everything in the proposed legislation is appropriate and that it is up to Council as to what will be discussed in this committee. Mr. Gentile said that at some point this committee may meet quarterly instead of monthly depending on what Council decides.

Mr. Farrell said he is in the recycling business and does not feel the city does enough in the recycling area. He said as far as discussions that take place in committee meetings, he does see overlap in topics and said it will probably always be there. He said he feels this committee should have been developed five years ago. Mr. Farrell said he feels North Royalton should be a "green" city and said he would like to limit our carbon footprint for future generations. He said this committee will allow us insight into being able to get going in this area. He feels we should move forward with this committee and fine tune it as we go.

Mr. Willey said he has no objections to this committee, but feels from an organizational standpoint we should have a plan in place to decide where we go from here. Mr. Willey asked who will be doing all of the research for this committee. He said he does not feel we should put added responsibility on our department heads. Mr. Gentile said he does not feel it is fair to have to define the purpose of this committee more than any other committee we currently have. Mr. Farrell feels that it is important to define why a committee is in place. He said he does not want to put anything down on paper that he does not feel we can accomplish. Mr. Farrell asked if Council ever discussed alternative fuel sources for city vehicles. Mr. Petrusky said this topic was brought up during discussions on oil and gas wells on city property. Mr. Farrell also said that the discussion on wind turbines is a topic that can be discussed in this committee. He said he realizes there are still items that need to be formed, but he said that in order to do this we need to get the committee going. Mr. Willey said he feels more thought has to go into this committee and there needs to be planned objectives. He said that just because Council's in the past have not had planned objectives, does not mean we cannot put better practices into our work. Mr. Willey stated that we should apply management principles and practices where we have a strategic plan.

Mr. Kasaris said when we amended the Rules and Ordinances Committee ordinance, we changed what the Rules and Ordinances Committee does. He said we took some items out of that committee, but we did not discuss any purposes or objectives of the committee. He said the legislation was brought before Council and it was voted on.

Mr. Petrusky said the objective of this committee is to try to make the city green. Mr. Nickell said it can sometimes be expensive to go green, but feels there is also a payback.

Mr. Antoskiewicz said he would like to continue to discuss where we want to take this committee. Mr. Gentile said the reason he feels we should move ahead with this committee is because this committee will afford Council the opportunity to have a venue to discuss topics that might currently be in another committee with no follow through. Mr. Gentile said we can invite a specific group to each meeting and discuss issues relevant to that group during the meeting. Mr. Antoskiewicz asked Mr. Gentile how he feels comfortable voting on this when we are not sure what the objectives of this committee actually are. Mr. Gentile said he is pretty confident that the first meeting of this committee will be an organizational meeting. He said he does not feel we can sit down as this type of committee and discuss subjects without a formal meeting. Mr. Gentile said he has had a lot of interest for sponsorship on this legislation from most of Council which prompted him to talk to Mr. Kelly in the Law Department about possibly appointing more than three members to this committee. Mr. Kelly reviewed the ordinance and said that is not possible and he is only able to appoint 3 members. Mr. Gentile said this committee will meet on Monday evenings after Streets Committee with the exception of September when it will follow the Storm Water Committee, so it will not add another night to Council's schedule.

Mr. Antoskiewicz said that based on everything he has heard, he is still not comfortable with approving this committee. He said he feels this legislation was drafted after a phone call and a conversation without any prior discussion.

Mr. Willey said he sees this committee as a significant step in a different direction. He said if we get into issues such as recycling, electric vehicles, etc., he feels these meetings will not just be hour long meetings and he does not feel one night per month will be enough to deal with these issues. Mr. Gentile said anytime a committee meets, members never know quite how long the meeting will last. He said if a topic arises in this committee that committee members feel needs more discussion, it will stay in session as long as necessary. Mr. Nickell said he does not feel this committee will operate differently than any other committee we have.

Mr. Antoskiewicz said he is not going to vote to suspend the rules on this ordinance. He stated he wanted to let committee members know how he is planning to vote because he was unsure if anyone else is planning to vote this way which may cause this to have to stay in committee or be moved to another committee. Mr. Gentile said he does not believe this qualifies for another committee. He said this is clearly about a rule of Council and clearly fits in the Review and Oversight Committee. He said if this moves out of this committee this evening

and the rules are not waived, there is a possibility that there may be one or two more Council meetings before the end of this week to have the second and third reading so this can have consideration. Mr. Willey questioned why this needs to be done this week. Mr. Gentile said that there are five members of Council who want to make a recommendation to Council this evening and two Council members that want to hold this up. Mr. Gentile said to hold this up is unfair to the rest of Council. He said the only committee that this can go back into is the Review and Oversight Committee, which is the committee that is making the recommendation to Council. Mr. Gentile said that if five Council members want to vote on this, a special Council meeting can be called, with the proper notice, to go through the three readings.

Mr. Antoskiewicz said he still feels that this needs to be discussed further. He said he is all for the ideas and the concept, he is just unsure if he is in favor of adding another committee.

Mr. Antoskiewicz said the reason he wanted to let the committee know up front that he is voting not to suspend the rules is because Mr. Gentile was talking about making a motion to take this out of committee. Mr. Antoskiewicz said he just wanted to make sure Mr. Gentile still wanted to do that knowing that Mr. Antoskiewicz was voting not to suspend the rules. He said he realizes if he is the only one voting this way, it will go forward without his vote.

Mr. Petrusky said if Mr. Antoskiewicz and Mr. Willey vote no on this ordinance, it will go on Second Reading. Mr. Petrusky asked if there will be another Review and Oversight meeting if this goes on Second Reading. Mr. Gentile said there will be another meeting if Review and Oversight takes it back into committee. Mr. Petrusky asked what happens if Review and Oversight does not take it back into committee. Mrs. Haller said it will stay on the agenda for three readings. Mr. Gentile said that these three readings may take place this week.

Mr. Antoskiewicz said that we could have another Review and Oversight Committee before the next Council meeting or another meeting after the next Streets Committee meeting. Mr. Nickell said he is in no hurry to pass this. Mr. Gentile said he is not in any hurry either, but said if this comes out of committee, where does it go from here.

Moved by Mr. Farrell, seconded by Mr. Willey **to remove 09-54 from the Review and Oversight Committee and send to Council with a recommendation to Council to approve.** Yeas: 2. Nays:1. (Willey)

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Mr. Farrell, seconded by Mr. Willey **to adjourn the meeting.** Yeas: 3. Nays: 0. **Motion carried.** Meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.