

SPECIAL REVIEW & OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MINUTES

April 27, 2009

The Special Review & Oversight Committee meeting was held on April 27, 2009, at North Royalton City Hall, 13834 Ridge Road. The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m.

Present: Members: Chair Vince Gentile, Mike Farrell, Don Willey; Council: Larry Antoskiewicz, Dan Kasaris, Gary Petrusky, John Nickell; Other Attendees: Joanne DuMound, Joe Lubowicz, Will Roth, Bob Schuster, Ivan Hack, Jr.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Proposed Ordinance No. 09-54

Mr. Gentile announced that Mr. Antoskiewicz has some proposed amendments that he would like to discuss.

Mr. Antoskiewicz said he would like to add the word Energy to the committee name. Committee members discussed calling this committee Earth, Energy and Environment.

Mr. Antoskiewicz also discussed the third WHEREAS clause and said he would like to add the words “and improve our quality of life.”

Mr. Antoskiewicz said he would also like to add a number 9 to Rule VII(h) which will read “to improve water quality and quantity.” Mr. Petrusky said he is puzzled by the word quantity. Mr. Kasaris said a better way of saying this might be to split these up and make number 7(h)9 “improve water quality” and add a number VII(h)10 which would read “water conservation.”

Mr. Gentile recapped the proposed amendments noted above. Mr. Farrell said he would like to see the word “and” removed from the committee name and have the committee called Earth Energy Environment.

Mr. Antoskiewicz said he would also like to add language which states “this committee is not intended to create any unfunded mandates, and any costs associated with specific components must be approved through regular city processes.” He said the reason he would like this language included is because a lot of times recommendations that are made during meetings can be very expensive to incorporate and sometimes there is no funding available to support these recommendations. Mr. Antoskiewicz said that adding this language would be beneficial to Council as well as the residents. Mr. Nickell said he would like to see this re-worded.

Mr. Farrell said items that the committees discuss should be viewed from a cost effective standpoint. He said as an example he does not feel it would be cost effective to replace every vehicle the city owns with a fuel efficient vehicle. He said instead we might want to look at other ways to boost the efficiency of city vehicles where it does not cost the city any money. He said the challenge is to improve the city without increasing the tax burden to residents.

Mr. Gentile said that any recommendation that a committee makes is non-binding. He said a committee can recommend anything to Council, but it takes a majority of Council to agree with that recommendation and move forward with either the appropriation of funds or adoption of legislation. Mr. Kasaris said if there was ever an instance where we need to supplement the budget during the year, that would require six members of Council for approval.

Mr. Antoskiewicz said he would also like to be added as a sponsor of this ordinance.

Mr. Antoskiewicz said that the communities that currently have this type of committee have either residents or administration working together with Council. He said he is hoping that we will be able to prioritize topics based on what the administration’s interests are.

Mr. Gentile said the first meeting of this committee will be an organizational meeting where the committee will agree on topics and prioritize those topics. Mr. Farrell said we want to have achievable goals. Mr. Antoskiewicz said this committee is going to be a lot more in-depth and any topics discussed will take a lot more time than topics discussed in other committees. He said that is why he feels it will be helpful if this committee is comprised of more than just Council. Mr. Farrell said he feels that getting the community involved in this committee would be helpful. He asked how we open this committee up to the community. Mr. Kasaris said Council would have to amend the ordinance to allow residents to be appointed to this committee. Mr. Gentile said we would have to change the structure wherein Council would appoint potential residents and the Mayor would appoint potential residents then Council would approve those resident appointments. Mr. Gentile suggested that during the first few months of this committee Council members get this committee rolling on their own, then at the beginning of the year amend the legislation to include appointment of residents to this committee. Mr. Farrell suggested appointing three residents to this committee. Mr. Kasaris said the committee has to be comprised of an odd number of members. Mr. Gentile said when we get to that point with this committee, we will sit down with the Law Director to discuss this. He said when we have a resident committee, their recommendations are very powerful things. Mr. Farrell said we need to make sure we encourage residents to attend all committee meetings because he feels residents provide good information.

Mr. Antoskiewicz asked if we want to have this committee meeting follow the Streets Committee meeting as suggested or have it on a night when there are no other meetings scheduled. He said his concern is that the Streets Committee meeting may run over. Mr. Gentile said there is limited opportunity this year because of various organizations that use City Hall for their meetings. He said he suggested this meeting follow Streets because typically the Streets meetings do not last more than 45 minutes. Mr. Antoskiewicz suggested having this meeting follow the first ARB meeting each month which is the second Monday of the month. Mr. Kasaris said he feels this is a good idea, but said in October there is a Ward 3 and 4 Committee meeting on the second Monday of that month. Mr. Gentile said in October this meeting can follow the Streets Committee.

Moved by Mr. Willey, seconded by Mr. Farrell **to recommend to Council approval of the proposed amendments to 09-54.** Yeas: 3. Nays: 0. **Motion carried.**

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Mr. Farrell, seconded by Mr. Willey **to adjourn the meeting.** Yeas: 3. Nays: 0. **Motion carried.** Meeting adjourned at 6:37 p.m.