

LEGAL AND LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE
December 8, 2009
3:20 P.M.

Councilman Murphy, Chairman, called the meeting of the Legal and Legislative Committee to order with Councilmen Benson, McGary, Berz, Robinson, Ladd, Rico, and Gilbert present. Councilwoman Scott was absent due to illness. City Attorney Michael McMahan and Shirley Crownover, Assistant Clerk to the Council, were also present.

Others present included Solomon Hatch, Larry Zehnder, Susan Dubose, Beverly Cosley, Chief Williams, Steve Leach, Greg Haynes, Gary Hilbert, Dennis Malone, Dan Johnson, Paul Page, Beverly Johnson, Richard Beeland, Lee Norris, Chief Parker, Jerry Stewart, Cathie Fulgham, Daisy Madison, Richard Hutsell, Dave Crockett and Barry Bennett.

Before the meeting commenced, Councilman Benson introduced a new colleague, Dave Crockett. Mr. Crockett stated that he was glad to be here and to work for the Council rather than with them!! Councilman Benson noted that Councilman Crockett wanted to meet with each of the Councilmembers individually.

Chairman Murphy began discussion with **Ordinance (e)** on tonight's agenda that amends the City Code to extend the time in which to file a notice of protest concerning the accuracy of water quality fees imposed in 2009 from December 31, 2009 to March 1, 2010. Councilwoman Berz asked if this came out of the Blue Ribbon Committee? Attorney McMahan responded "yes and no". Councilman Benson noted that this Committee would meet again this Thursday at 10:00 a.m., with Attorney McMahan noting that in accordance with the Sunshine Law, this had been advertised. Councilman McGary stated that he had had people ask if they could come and comment, and he was told "yes".

Chief Parker spoke to **Resolution (b)** on next week's agenda that authorizes the Fire Chief to apply for a Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency in an amount up to \$3,068,600, which if approved, will require the City to employ these firefighters for year three. The Chief explained that this is a Grant for staffing firefighters; that we will be committing to 30 people whose salary and benefits will be paid for two years, and we will have to keep them for one additional year. Chairman Murphy verified that the Federal Emergency Management Agency will be picking up the tab for two years, with Councilman McGary noting that our commitment would be \$1.5 million.

Councilman Benson wanted to go back to 5(a) Final Reading on tonight's agenda. Chairman Murphy noted confusion last week when Randy Burns had to run around to get copies. He noted that a copy had been provided with new additions highlighted; that this passed first reading last week and will be voted on again tonight; that there will have to be a motion to substitute because what went out in the packets was not correct. Councilman Benson asked the sustenance of the changes? Chairman Murphy stated that it is the version we have now—that the old suffixes were the same as prefixes; that the new says we shall not get rid of prefixes. One other issue that was worked on was a solution to streets that might be spelled Green and Greene; that 911 says no new prefixes; that Councilman McGary had moved to remove this second issue. He stated that this would take a number of streets off the table to be renamed. It also makes it clear that unless it is an emergency, we will just take this up once a year.

Councilwoman Berz verified that non-problematic prefixes are okay and that there will be no new prefixes. She wanted to know what happens with suffixes. Chairman Murphy responded that nothing happened. She asked if any more consideration had been given to making 911 be a little more diligent in asking questions? Chairman Murphy responded that all the Council can do is set policy—that we can't manage 911. Councilwoman Berz noted that behavior could change. Chairman Murphy stated there would still be streets getting renamed—that this was the best we could do.

Mr. Leach asked that everyone be sensitive to the fact that changes might need to be made other than emergencies—that he was not quite sure if utilities fell under the "eminent danger" category; that issues may "bubble" up, and this needed to be broad enough to include other than eminent danger situations.

On motion of Councilwoman Berz, seconded by Councilwoman Ladd, the minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.