

A **REGULAR MEETING** of the Ordinance Subcommittee of the City Council was held on Monday, February 5, 2024. Present at City Hall were Councilors Anne Ruwet, Paul Cavagnero, Molly Spino, Corporation Counsel Michael Magistrali, and Police Chief William Baldwin. Public Works Director Ray Drew joined via Zoom.

Chairman Ruwet called the meeting to order at 5:52 p.m.

Discussion

Councilor Ruwet explained that she would like the Subcommittee to remove any Ordinances that are no longer applicable. Councilor Spino and Cavagnero agreed to review Ordinances, to be edited or possibly removed.

Chief Baldwin told the Subcommittee that the new Ordinances passed last year have helped the Police Department, especially the tractor-trailer one. He mentioned they will be coming to the Subcommittee to have fines reviewed and updated to be more on par with other cities. Chief Baldwin also shared that they are considering giving elected Constables the ability to ticket. They would be working with the Police Department to help enforce Ordinances. Chief Baldwin said that this would help take some of the duties off the Police Department, as they are already understaffed. Atty. Magistrali said he would research and work with Chief Baldwin to get a proposal together concerning elected Constables for the next Ordinance meeting.

Public Works Director Ray Drew has a few different Ordinances for the Subcommittee to look at. The first one is Chapter 6 – Bids and Contracts, he explained that they are not getting a lot of responses to bids, local companies get preference, and the language doesn't work if you are using State or Federal monies. Mr. Drew said that there are very few local businesses that bid on larger contracts, he also said that local businesses that have bids are offered to match the lowest bid before a contract is awarded. Councilor Ruwet asked how many businesses have benefited from this Ordinance. Councilor Cavagnero asked for some examples before deciding. Mr. Drew said that he would contact the purchasing agent and bring some examples back.

Chapter 9 – Civil Preparedness Agency, Mr. Drew asked if this was covered under Emergency Management. Chief Baldwin said that this still exists in Emergency Management. Atty. Magistrali said that they could review this Ordinance and update it accordingly.

Chapter 26 – Flood and Erosion Control Board, Councilor Ruwet asked if we still had this, Assistant City Clerk Heather Abraham said we did, and that the Board consisted of Planning and Zoning members. Councilor Ruwet asked if this could be part of the Planning and Zoning Ordinance, Atty. Magistrali said he could talk to the Land Use Office to see if it does need to be separate.

Chapter 30 – Human Relations Commission, Councilor Ruwet asked if we still had this Commission, and Ms. Abraham told her that we did not. Councilor Ruwet asked Atty. Magistrali to research this to see if it is something that the States Human Rights and Opportunities if this took the place of the City Ordinance.

Chapter 90 – Buildings, moving of, Councilor Ruwet said that they would need to get the input of Kevin Gilette the Building Official to see if this is now covered under the Building Permits that they issue. Mr. Drew said that the Building Department issues permits regarding moving and demolishing buildings under their policies, so does this Ordinance still need to be in place? Atty. Magistrali said he would talk to Mr. Gilette to see if this is covered by their policies.

Chapter 88 – Building, demolishing of, Councilor Ruwet asked if this is something that needs to be in the Ordinance, Atty. Magistrali said before eliminating it to talk to the Historical Commission.

Chapter 152 – Parking Lots, Mr. Drew explained that the Facilities Manager is in control of the City buildings and sites, so this wouldn't be to eliminate the Ordinance but to make sure it's updated.

Business by Members

Councilor Ruwet said the next meeting will be March 4, 2024, at 5:30 p.m.

Atty. Magistrali mentioned a few Ordinances that could be looked at by the Committee, including the Fair Rent Commission, the Inland Wetlands regulations, and the Blight Ordinance.

Adjournment

On a motion by Councilor Spino, seconded by Councilor Cavagnero, the Ordinance Subcommittee voted unanimously to adjourn at 6:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Heather Abraham, Asst. City Clerk

ATTEST:


CAROL L. ANDERSON, CITY CLERK