

NOTICE: This is NOT the official version of the Committee Report as APPROVED by the Board of Aldermen. While reasonable efforts have been made to assure that this is the Committee Report that was presented at a meeting of the Board of Aldermen, you should check the Minutes of that meeting in order to confirm its approval, rejection or amendment. Do not rely on the accuracy of this information without first checking with the City Clerk.

March 13, 2007

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE
ON LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

The Committee on Legislative Matters convened on March 13, 2007 with Chairman Thomas Taylor presiding and Committee Members Aldermen Rebekah Gewirtz, William Roche and Dennis Sullivan also present and voting. Also present were Aldermen Bruce Desmond, Maryann Heuston, Sean O'Donovan and William White, City Solicitor John Gannon, DPW Commissioner Stan Koty, Highway Supt. Mike Buckley, George Landers from ISD and Tom Bent.

The committee heard from Mr. Koty and Mr. Buckley regarding the amendment to the trash ordinance, (item 182401). The existing ordinance has been received better than expected and enforcement is being conducted where required. Mr. Koty believes that the amendment will tighten up the existing ordinance. Mr. Buckley stated that he asked the City Solicitor to determine if the city's Elder Services Department might be able to provide assistance to the elderly who might be unable to take their trash out.

Alderman White briefly explained his proposed ordinance, (item 182673), dealing with the setting of special election dates stating that the current ordinance does not set the dates, rather it gives that authority to the Board of Aldermen. Mr. Gannon stated that such action might require a charter change and he told the members that he would research the issue and provide an opinion to the committee by the next meeting on March 20th. There was some discussion as to why this ordinance is even needed. Alderman Roche stated his feelings that the Board has always done due diligence in filling vacant seats as soon as possible so that no segment of the electorate goes un-represented. In this particular case, said Alderman Roche, nobody was un-represented because the vacancy was an at-large seat.

Mr. Lambert spoke about the Administration's proposal to create a Municipal Athletic Facilities Commission, (item 182817), and explained that this is an effort to move control of the facilities away from those individuals having a direct involvement with sports in the city. The Commission would be an independent body charged with operating the facilities as a business to schedule dates and collect revenues. All funds collected would be placed into a revolving fund and would be used to cover expenses not taken care of by DCR. Chairman Taylor stated his opinion that the facilities should be managed by the Recreation Department.

Mr. Gannon spoke about a proposed amendment relative to the composition of the Planning Board, (item 182509), explaining that it would provide the Planning Board with the ability to have the city's initiatives acted on in a timely manner. Currently, there are 5 members and the proposal would add 2 permanent members and 2 alternate members, for a total of 9 members. Alderman Roche stated that if members can't attend meetings, they should be asked to leave the board. Alderman Roche further stated that on the Zoning Board, the associate members are not allowed to vote when a member is absent. Alderman White asked Mr. Lambert to provide a list of Planning Board meetings where a quorum wasn't present.

The committee discussed matters before it and took action on the following item:

182401: Communication from Mayor - Requesting approval of an amendment to Ordinance 2006-12 re: Household trash and rubbish collection.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be approved

VOTE: Unanimous, 4 - 0 in favor

Alderman Thomas F. Taylor, Chairman
Committee on Legislative Matters

COMMITTEE REPORT

Report of the Committee on Legislative Matters,
March 13, 2007

In Board of Aldermen

Clerk