

LEGISLATIVE #

120470

City of Gainesville

*City Hall
200 East University Avenue
Gainesville, Florida 32601*



Minutes - Draft

Thursday, September 27, 2012

1:30 PM

City Hall, Ground Floor, Room 16

Public Safety Committee

*Commissioner Yvonne Hinson-Rawls, Chair
Commissioner Lauren Poe, Member
Commissioner Todd Chase, Member*

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CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted as submitted.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

120371. Approval of August 28, 2012 Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes (B)

The minutes from the August 28, 2012 meeting were approved as written.

RECOMMENDATION

The Public Safety Committee approve the minutes of the August 28, 2012 meeting as submitted.

DISCUSSION OF PENDING REFERRALS

120206. Roam Towing and the Appeals Process (B)

Assistant City Attorney Lee Libby gave a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the items in the ordinance proposed for updating. Some of the proposed changes are consistent with the Vehicles For Hire ordinance that requires annual updates on company vehicles and drivers, plus yearly inspections. Currently, tow trucks are only inspected once at the time of their original permitting. City staff believes the City needs to be diligent with regulating tow companies because they are allowed to take possession of personal property.

Also included in the proposed ordinance are changes that would allow for the use of the newly created Magistrate position to review violations against the tow companies. Police Chief Jones would prefer to have another party hear appeals from tow companies since GPD officers cite towing companies for violation. He then has to decide to uphold or deny the officer's decision. He would prefer that the appeals process be outside of GPD. Commissioner Chase believes that the appeals process should be made to a group or committee before shutting a business down.

Another change in the ordinance is prohibiting a company that is suspended from transferring their existing contracts to a relative under a new business name. Business owner Stan Forron stated he thought before a company is suspended for violations, they should be given another a chance to fix the problem. Commissioner Chase feels that the relative portion in the ordinance is unnecessary; that we would be making a law for one family who lost their livelihood. Commissioner Poe said he had not heard any alternatives presented such that the relative wording should be eliminated. He feels the ordinance should be enforceable, but fair. He recommended keeping this item in Committee and research alternatives by giving staff direction and come back next month. Commissioner Chase agreed that the Committee should give the Commission a better product for consideration.

Assistant City Manager Paul Folkers suggested that with the concerns of the Committee and the tow companies that staff and the tow companies work together on the draft ordinance and come back to the Committee with just the issues they cannot come to an agreement on. Commissioner Chase added that he would like for Mr. Folkers to talk to business owners who work with the towing companies for their input.

The Committee agreed to keep this item in Committee while staff works with the tow companies on the proposed changes to the ordinance.

RECOMMENDATION

The Public Safety Committee approve the proposed amendments to Chapter 14.5, of the Code of Ordinances.

Discussed

080460. Develop and Continue Programs to Reduce the Causes of Crime - CCOM Strategic Initiative (NB)

Strategic initiatives have been referred to Standing Committees and the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA), to promote efficient and effective communication streams between elected officials, city staff and Gainesville residents concerning the implementation of the City's Strategic Plan. This item is a request for the Public Safety Committee to receive an update on the progress of Strategic Initiative 1.1: Develop and Continue Programs to Reduce the Causes of Crime.

Due to time limitations, this item was postponed until the next meeting date.

RECOMMENDATION

The Public Safety Committee receive an update on the progress of Strategic Initiative 1.1 from Police Chief Tony Jones.

MEMBER COMMENT

None.

CITIZEN COMMENT

None.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next scheduled meeting is Thursday, October 25, 2012 at 1:30 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:20 P.M.