

RULES AND PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE

DATE: March 31, 2009

CALLED TO ORDER: 5:31 p.m.

ADJOURNED: 5:41 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

ATTENDING MEMBERS

Robert Lutz, Chairman
Bob Cockrum
Monroe Gray
Angela Mansfield
Marilyn Pfisterer
Lincoln Plowman
Joanne Sanders

ABSENT MEMBERS

Barbara Malone

AGENDA

PROPOSAL NO. 3, 2008 - seeks approval of a petition to establish the Town of Fayette, in Boone County, Indiana, which proposed town is within four miles of the corporate boundaries of the consolidated city, pursuant to IC 36-5-1-7(a)
"Tabled" Vote: 6-0

PROPOSAL NO. 142, 2008 - provides for the registration with the city controller of lobbyists and lobbying activity with respect to the City and County
"Do Pass As Amended" (Previously Amended Version) Vote: 4-3

RULES AND PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE

The Rules and Public Policy Committee of the City-County Council met on Tuesday, March 31, 2009. Chairman Robert Lutz called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m. with the following members present: Bob Cockrum, Monroe Gray, Marilyn Pfisterer, Lincoln Plowman and Joanne Sanders. Angela Mansfield arrived shortly thereafter. Barbara Malone was absent. General Counsel Robert Elrod represented Council staff.

Chairman Lutz asked each Committee member to introduce themselves and state which part of the county they represent. Chairman Lutz wished Councillor Plowman a Happy Anniversary.

PROPOSAL NO. 3, 2008 - seeks approval of a petition to establish the Town of Fayette, in Boone County, Indiana, which proposed town is within four miles of the corporate boundaries of the consolidated city, pursuant to IC 36-5-1-7(a)

Councillor Plowman moved, seconded by Councillor Sanders, to "Table" Proposal No. 3, 2008. The motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

Councillor Gray asked what the status of this proposal is, as it has been on the docket for a long time and continues to be postponed. Chairman Lutz stated that litigation is still ongoing regarding this matter, and they are simply tabling it so that it does not fall off the agenda. Mr. Elrod said that the last conversation he had with attorneys indicated that they are still finalizing parcels to be included in the petition. Instead of re-introducing the proposal, it makes sense to keep it on the table.

PROPOSAL NO. 142, 2008 - provides for the registration with the city controller of lobbyists and lobbying activity with respect to the City and County

Chairman Lutz said that the proposal was postponed at the last meeting in order to give Committee members time to digest the changes that were proposed with the amended substitute version.

Councillor Cockrum said that he has not had any contact from any individuals with concerns about the amended version.

Councillor Sanders said that she has concerns regarding exclusions which include paid advertising through several types of media, and some large organizations could easily purchase advertising blocks in these mediums in order to influence decisions. She said that she also raised some concerns about neighborhood associations, but was told that they fall under non-paid volunteers advocating on behalf of their neighborhoods and do

not need to be a separate exclusion. Chairman Lutz said that if they are non-paid, they would be exempt, but if a neighborhood organization hired a lobbyist or law firm, the lobbyist or law firm would have to register. Councillor Sanders said that she cannot think of many instances where the associations have actually hired outside help.

Councillor Sanders said in reference to Sec. 909-102, she has some concerns that there may be some individuals with felony backgrounds that they would not want lobbying within the community, but understands and supports the idea of giving people a second chance.

[Clerk's Note: Councillor Mansfield arrived at 5:39 p.m.]

Mr. Elrod asked if the chair wants to address the amendment he had discussed with him earlier. Chairman Lutz said that under the Ethics proposal adopted by the Council this year, they are required to file an economic interest statement by May 1st. There is only one full Council meeting in April, and the Ethics Committee was charged with creating an economic interest statement for Council members. If that is not done by May 1st, Councillors will have to file the same form that other employees file and then may have to file another one later this year. He said that he had thought about including that in this proposal in order to address it before May 1, but on second thought, does not feel it really fits into this proposal. He added that he is not comfortable drafting something at the last minute, as mistakes are often made when doing so.

Councillor Plowman moved, seconded by Councillor Pfisterer, to send Proposal No. 142, 2008 to the full Council with a "Do Pass As Previously Amended" recommendation. The motion carried by a vote of 4-3, with Councillors Gray, Mansfield and Sanders casting the negative votes.

There being no further business, and upon motion duly made, the meeting was adjourned at 5:41 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert Lutz, Chairman

RL/ag