



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS  
CLERK OF COMMITTEES

October 29, 2015

REPORT OF THE LEGISLATIVE MATTERS COMMITTEE

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Mary Jo Rossetti	Chair	Present	
Mark Niedergang	Vice Chair	Present	
Katjana Ballantyne	Ward Seven Alderman	Present	
Matthew McLaughlin	Ward One Alderman	Present	
William A. White Jr.	Alderman At Large	Present	

Others present: Bill Roche - Personnel, Candice Cooper - Personnel, David Shapiro - Law, Angela Allen - Purchasing, Rob King - Capital Projects, Ed Bean - Finance, Charles Sillari - Clerk of Committees

The meeting took place in the Committee Room and was called to order at 6:00 PM by Alderman Rossetti and adjourned at 6:50 PM.

Document List:

- Code of Ordinance Excerpts (with 196626)
- Written Contracts (with 199553, 199726, 199727)

**1. Approval of the September 3, 2015 Minutes**

**RESULT: ACCEPTED**

**2. Approval of the September 30, 2015 Minutes**

**RESULT: ACCEPTED**

**3. Approval of the October 1, 2015 Minutes**

**RESULT: ACCEPTED**

**4. Approval of the October 15, 2015 Minutes**

**RESULT: ACCEPTED**

**197297: That the Administration involve this Board's Committee on Youth Services in the search and selection of a new Recreation Superintendent.**

**RESULT:**

**WORK COMPLETED**

**197626: That the City Solicitor appear before this Board's Committee on Confirmation of Appointments to discuss the hiring of a Director of Recreation and Youth.**

Mr. Roche distributed relevant sections of the city's Code of Ordinances and Alderman Ballantyne inquired about the hiring process for the Recreation Director's position. Mr. Roche explained the process used in hiring a police chief for the city.

Alderman McLaughlin's motion *that the Director of Recreation and Youth and the Mayor's Aide, be invited to the next meeting of the Legislative Matters Committee*, was approved.

**RESULT:**

**KEPT IN COMMITTEE**

**199553: Requesting revisions to the City Charter and Ordinances to adjust the threshold for written contracts to align with MA General Law.**

Ms. Allen discussed the laws governing procurement and pointed out the changes between the state's requirements and the city's. Ms. Allen spoke about how a purchase order can be considered a contract and she discussed ways to make the purchasing process less onerous by aligning local legislation with state law. Mr. Bean noted that the city would be able to get things done more quickly while also attracting more businesses to work with. The change would impact approximately 100 contracts.

**RESULT:**

**KEPT IN COMMITTEE**

**199726: Requesting amendments to Ordinance 2-369 to align the threshold for written contracts with MA General Law.**

See 199553

**RESULT:**

**KEPT IN COMMITTEE**

**199727: Requesting an amendment to the City Charter to align with a related proposed revision to the City Ordinances and with MA General Law regarding written contracts.**

See 199553

**RESULT:**

**KEPT IN COMMITTEE**

**199721: That the Supervisor of Inspectional Services and the Director of Engineering appear before the Legislative Matters Committee, at its next meeting, to discuss the failure of paving contractors to register with the city.**

Mr. King discussed the current policy, noting that paving contractors are not required to be registered, however, they are required to pull permits.

Alderman Niedergang spoke about bonding requirements and the need for contractors to be current with revisions to the city's ordinances. Alderman White favors implementing a registration policy to ensure that contractors are aware of the city's impervious surfaces policy prior to performing any work. Mr. King informed the members that the permitting process takes care of that concern. Mr. King asked how contractors should be registered and explained that why drain layers are a life safety issue.

Alderman White would like a list of contractors maintained. Residents may hire contractors who are not on the list.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>WORK COMPLETED</b>
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**197795: That this Board explore an ordinance to allow restaurants with outdoor seating the option to be dog friendly.**

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>KEPT IN COMMITTEE</b>
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