

Zoning and Annexation Committee Meeting Minutes, March 23, 2015

The Zoning and Annexation Committee meeting, held in Council Chambers, was called to order at 6:35 p.m. Committee members present were: Cheryl Ramos, Chair, Darrin Lautenscheleger, and John Zucal. Alternate Rob Maurer was present. Also in attendance were: Sam Hitchcock (City Council President); Patty McKay (Council Clerk); Council members: Sandy Cox, Winnie Walker, Dan Lanzer; Marvin Fete (Law Director); Jim Zucal (Service Director); Greg Popham (Safety Director); Rod Miller (Park Superintendent), Dean Holland, Amiee May, and Lee Montgomery (AFGE LMR-VP Local 3448). The chair announced that the meeting would be recorded.

The Chair noted that there was one item of business to discuss tonight and any other matter to come before the committee. The Chair reminded everyone that this was a follow-up meeting from October 27, 2014 regarding the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE) letter from Lee Montgomery, LMR-VP Local 3448 to Mayor David Johnson regarding a resolution to support Federal bills H.R. 3997 and S.B. 2742 concerning the Social Security Administration and Vision 2025. The Chair stated, "To prepare for this meeting I have forwarded to all Council members, and the public is welcome to links for this material, preparatory material regarding these bills, Vision 2025, and response from Carmen Moreno, Regional Communication Director of SSA-Chicago regarding Vision 2025 stating that plan has not been finalized as of yet. HR 3997 and SB 2742 died in committee, at the Federal level, in the last Congress in both chambers. The purpose of the meeting tonight then is discuss how the City can support the continued operations of the SSA field office located in New Philadelphia to meet the needs of our residents and surrounding residents. I did talk with the Law Director who felt a resolution would be the most firm response. In view of that opinion, Council has received copies of a proposed Resolution 8-2015 in their packets."

Lee Montgomery, AFGE LMR-VP Local 3448, was invited by the Chair to speak. Ms. Montgomery explained that she was not a spokesperson for the Social Security Administration but was at the meeting to represent the AFGE Union, which is 250,000 members strong nationally. She stated that she was speaking for the Union and for the public. She explained that Vision 2025 will affect how the services at the offices are delivered. She said the Union was not against using on-line services but was concerned appointments at the office would be affected and that Federal jobs would be lost. She gave the example of changes in unemployment service delivery and how that change has impacted individuals applying for unemployment benefits. She stated that Vision 2025 was based on a business model and should have been based on a social service delivery model due to the complexity of applying for SS benefits, the need for trained professionals to assist people in applying for benefits, and that Social Security was a social service. She added that the SSA has backed-off on some changes this past year due to the AFGE union fighting the changes.

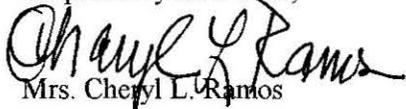
Comments from the Committee: Darrin Lautenschleger noted that the Resolution was fine and he was ready to make a motion at the appropriate time. John Zucal said he was ready to move forward. The Chair said she had thought if the Resolution was sent to appropriate authorizes with a cover letter from the Mayor, that it would have more teeth. Darrin and John felt that sending on the passed legislation would be the Council Clerk's responsibility, not the responsibility of the Mayor, and this would not be part of the legislation.

Sandy Cox commented that it was great to support the local SSA office and local jobs.

John Zucal made a motion that the Committee adopt Resolution 8-2015 and it be placed on the next regularly scheduled meeting agenda and read three times. Darrin Lautenscheleger seconded the motion. The motion passed with three yeas.

As there were no other matters to come before committee, John Zucal moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Mrs. Cheryl L. Ramos

Chair

Zoning and Annexation Committee

A copy of the audio recording of this meeting is available from the Clerk of Council.