



Rules Committee

Monday, December 6, 2021 @ 5:00 PM

Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center, James C. Lytle City Council Chambers, Room 2800

**COMMITTEE MEMBER
PRESENT:**

Councilmembers Bobby Burns, Peter Braithwaite, Jonathan Nieuwsma, Devon Reid, Eleanor Revelle, Melissa Wynne, and Mayor Daniel Biss

**COMMITTEE MEMBER
ABSENT:**

Councilmembers Cicely Fleming and Thomas Suffredin

STAFF PRESENT:

Kelley Gandurski, Interim City Manager and Alexandra Ruggie, Assistant City Attorney

(I) CALL TO ORDER - COUNCILMEMBER REID

Chair Reid declared a quorum and called the meeting to order at 5:05 pm.

(II) PUBLIC COMMENT

Ray Friedman says the City needs an ordinance that requires public participation with discussion.

Mike Vasilko agrees with R6. He supports suspending the City Manager search and strongly agrees with R8 and with R10.

Doreen Price is in support with other speakers.

(III) RULES COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

R1. Approval of the Rules Committee Meeting Minutes

Staff recommends approval of the minutes for the Rules Committee meeting of September 7, 2021, October 4, 2021, and October 18, 2021.

Councilmember Revelle moved to amend minutes on September 7: page 6, last paragraph under R5 - Councilmember Reid to serve a four-month term, not six (October through January).

Moved by Councilmember Nieuwsma
Seconded by Councilmember Wynne

Ayes: Councilmembers Braithwaite, Wynne, Nieuwsma, Burns, Revelle, Reid, and Mayor Daniel Biss

Approved 7-0 on a recorded vote

(IV) ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

R2. **Ordinance 110-O-21, Amending Title 2 of City Code and Codifying the Finance and Budget Committee**

Staff recommends City Council adoption of Ordinance 110-O-21, Amending Title 2 of the City Code and Codifying the Finance and Budget Committee.

Councilmember Kelly removed this item from consent to ask if the Finance and Budget Committee will be serving as liaison to the pension boards (both fire and police).

Councilmember Wynne does not support putting another layer between the fire and police pension boards and the standing committee of the Council.

Councilmember Nieuwsma moves to amend 2-19-3 to make term limits explicit and consistent with the other ordinances.

Councilmember Revelle seconds the motion.

Ayes: Councilmembers Braithwaite, Wynne, Nieuwsma, Burns, Revelle, Reid, and Mayor Daniel Biss

Approved 7-0

Councilmember Reid pointed out the inconsistency of choosing a chair for the committee
Mayor Biss moves to strike 2-17-5 from the Ordinance.

Councilmember Wynne seconds the motion.

Ayes: Councilmembers Braithwaite, Wynne, Nieuwsma, Burns, Revelle, Reid, and Mayor Daniel Biss

Approved 7-0

R3. **Adoption of Ordinance 117-O-21 "Amending Title 2, Chapter 12 of the Evanston City Code "Equity and Empowerment Commission"**

The Equity and Empowerment Commission recommends the adoption of ordinance 117-O-21 "Amending Title 2, Chapter 12, "Equity and Empowerment Commission".

This committee can have up to nine members total, up to two of whom can include Councilmembers.

Moved by Councilmember Nieuwsma
Seconded by Councilmember Wynne

Ayes: Councilmembers Braithwaite, Wynne, Nieuwsma, Burns, Revelle, Reid, and Mayor Daniel Biss

Approved 7-0

R4. **Ordinance 112-O-21, Amending Section 1-7-2 of the City Code, "General Duties of the Clerk" to add Processing of Temporary Disability Vehicle Placards and Vital Records**

Staff recommends adoption of Ordinance 112-O-21, Amending Section 1-7-2 of the City Code, "General Duties of the City Clerk" to add Processing of Temporary Disability Vehicle Placards and Vital Records

This referral by Mayor Biss will be aligning the Evanston City Clerk's code with the practices of the City Clerk's office. Councilmember Reid requested that the Law Department review 1-7-2.

Moved by Councilmember Wynne
Seconded by Councilmember Nieuwsma

Ayes: Councilmembers Braithwaite, Wynne, Nieuwsma, Burns, Revelle, Reid, and Mayor Daniel Biss

Approved 7-0

(V) **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

R5. **Discussion Regarding Amending City Code 1-6-4 to Require the Mayor to Announce Mayoral Veto at the City Council Meeting Immediately Following the Veto**

Discussion regarding amending City Code 1-6-4 to require the Mayor to announce Mayoral veto at the next regular City Council meeting following said veto.

Mayor Biss is in support of clarifying. Councilmember Burns supports the amendment to ensure that the public and community are clearly made aware. Staff will come back to next meeting with language on this city code.

Moved by Councilmember Burns
Seconded by Mayor Biss

R6. **Discussion Regarding Elected Officials Compensation**

Councilmember Reid recommends discussion regarding elected officials compensation.

Councilmember Reid recommends discussion regarding elected officials compensation. Removed from the agenda by Councilmember Reid in the interest of time.

Moved by Councilmember Burns
Seconded by Mayor Biss

R7. **Discussion Regarding the Appointment of Corporation Counsel by the City Council**

Councilmember Reid Recommends the Rules Committee Discuss a Resolution for a Referendum to Allow for the City's Corporation Counsel to be Selected by the City Council.

Removed from consent by Councilmember Reid. Councilmember Kelly would like the chair to consider moving this to next meeting considering it is a lengthy topic.

R8. **Discussion Regarding the Creation of a Ward Redistricting Committee**

Councilmember Wynne would like to see a committee be formed of councilmembers first, then opened up to other members.

Councilmember Reid requests the Rules Committee discuss the creation of a Ward Redistricting Committee which should in part be citizen participation.

Councilmembers Burns, Wynne, Reid and Nieuwsma volunteered to be on a Rules sub-committee.

Mayor Biss urged that we be willing to look at a broad variety of options, number of wards, size of Council, multi-member wards. Carefully redrawing ward maps based on census data.

R9. **Discussion Regarding Creating a Committee to Monitor FOIA/OMA Compliance**

Councilmember Reid recommends the Rules Committee create a committee to oversee the City's compliance with the Freedom of Information Act and the Open Meetings Act.

Councilmembers Wynne, Revelle, and Fleming do not support a committee since the City Council already has this responsibility. Mayor Biss says the City already has a process for this and that we should not create another internal group to police ourselves.

Councilmember Reid asked that staff produce a FOIA report to help aid in the discussion at the next meeting.

R10. **Discussion Regarding the Realignment of Boards, Committees and Commissions**

Councilmember Burns recommends the Rules Committee to discuss the realignment of boards, committees and commissions.

Councilmember Nieuwsma asked if we should align our BCCs with the work of the Council and doesn't need to align with strategic plan. We could have an annual work plan.

Councilmember Revelle does not want to add more layers to the committee process.

Councilmember Burns said that since we rely heavily on committees to align with Council goals.

Moved by Councilmember Burns
Seconded by Councilmember Kelly

(VI) **ADJOURNMENT**

Councilmember Reid called meeting to adjourn at 6:20 pm.