

**DRAFT**  
**Minutes**  
**City Council Legislative Subcommittee Meeting**  
**Conference Room A**  
**8:30 a.m.**  
**Monday, July 18, 2016**

Present: John P. Bohenko, City Manager; Jane Ferrini, Assistant City Attorney; Mayor Blalock, Assistant Mayor Splaine, Councilor Spear, Councilor Dwyer and Kelli L. Barnaby, City Clerk

Others Present: Robert Lister, Jacqueline Cali-Pitts (8:55 a.m.), State Representative

I. Call to Order

Mayor Blalock opened the meeting at 8:30 a.m. and requested everyone remember the life of State Representative Debbie DiFranco who recently passed away.

II. Distribution of draft Minutes from June 13, 2016

Mayor Blalock said the minutes will be reviewed and action taken at the June 25<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Assistant Mayor Splaine suggested inviting the legislative members that are running to attend the next meeting.

III. Discussion of the New Hampshire Municipal Association's Final Policy Recommendations the Subcommittee supports. Final Policy Recommendations attached

Mayor Blalock said Former Mayor Bob Lister is here to discuss the Meals and Rooms Tax Distribution and assist the City with the hotel charge of \$1.00. Mr. Lister spoke to his recent travels and every hotel he stayed in had a destination charge on the bill ranging from \$1.00 - \$3.00. He inquired about the destination charge and was told the funds would go towards advertisement or overtime for the Police Department, etc. The funds would be provided to the City Manager and/or City Council for the decision of where the funding would be allocated.

Councilor Dwyer said she would like to advocate the NHMA standing policy recommendation regarding local option revenue source from a standing policy, to an action policy on this matter.

Mr. Lister said he would be travelling today to the Woodstock Inn, NH and on his bill there is a \$2.00 destination charge and he will be meeting with the hotel manager to find out what the fee is used for and if it is something that could be used in the City and entire State of New Hampshire.

For further information on the Legislature, draft bills and the Senate and House Calendars, see <http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us>. For information regarding the New Hampshire Municipal Association's Bulletin, see <http://www.nhmunicipal.org/LegislativeBulletins>.

City Manager Bohenko said this matter needs to move up as a priority.

Assistant City Attorney Ferrini spoke to short term rentals and indicated that a group would be put together to speak on the matter before the Commission created by last year's bill.

Discussion followed on the creation of legislation to charge \$1.00 for hotels and motels related to rooms and meals tax. City Manager Bohenko said we could charge the fee as a new program in the City and put the funds in escrow in case we were challenged. Councilor Dwyer said what if we did it through the Chamber of Commerce and the funds could be designated for fireworks. City Manager Bohenko suggested creating a Betterment District to establish the fee. Councilor Dwyer expressed concern for small businesses within the Betterment District having to pay the fee. Councilor Dwyer said she feels that it would be worth putting through as a floor amendment.

Councilor Dwyer spoke on defining an airbnb/short term rentals, as a home business and amending the existing law could work, which would allow the City to get to the life safety code issue. She said she would like to see this as a floor amendment.

City Manager Bohenko said we would look at the Betterment District to see if it would allow us what we want it to do.

Councilor Dwyer said she would like to look into Accessory Dwelling Units being built for the purpose of Short Term Rentals. She said if an Accessory Dwelling Unit is allowed it should not be rented for less than 30 days. She said that family neighborhoods will be affected by this.

Councilor Dwyer said we should be discussing the following 4 items with the Legislative Delegation at our meeting on Monday, July 25<sup>th</sup>:

- Betterment Districts
- Define Air bnb/short term rentals as Home Businesses
- Prohibit Accessory Dwelling Units from renting for less than 30 days
- Accessory Dwelling Unit Designs regarding Historic Districts

Assistant City Attorney Ferrini reviewed with the Subcommittee NHMA Final Policy Recommendation and Final Policy Recommendations, which are attached. The Subcommittee will be reviewing the policies with the Delegates and vote to recommend NHMA policies to the City Council at the Subcommittee's next meeting schedule for July 25, 2016.

Councilor Dwyer left the meeting at 9:40 a.m.

Councilor Spear discussed whether the City should opt out of the state retirement system.

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IV. Discussion of Floor Policies to propose for City Council vote. Floor Policy Proposal form attached

The Floor Policies will be discussed at the meeting next Monday, July 25<sup>th</sup> with the Legislative Delegation.

Assistant Mayor Splaine said now is the time to get the attention of candidates running for the Senate, Governor's Council and Legislators and having a meeting with them following the September 13<sup>th</sup> State Primary Election to see how they feel on 3 or 4 issues. He said it would be a discussion forum.

V. Status Update on enrolled bills that have been signed by the Governor

No discussion took place on this item.

VI. Adjournment

At 9:55 a.m., Mayor Blalock closed the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by:

Kelli L. Barnaby, MMC, CMC, CNHMC  
City Clerk