



City Council

CITY OF BROCKTON

CITY HALL

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MINUTES – ORDINANCE COMMITTEE

May 8, 2019

The Standing Committee on Ordinances and Rules was called to order at 6:10 p.m. by Councilor Sullivan with Councilors Sullivan, Cruise, Monahan, Farwell, and Derenoncourt present.

Councilor Sullivan announces that the meeting is being recorded, televised, per prior written request.

Councilor Sullivan read the agenda into the record.

The Committee first considered the following:

1. Acceptance of the minutes of the April 3, 2019 Ordinance Committee Meeting.

Motion by Councilor Cruise to Accept the Minutes and Report of the April 4, 2019 Ordinance Committee Meeting, 2nd by Councilor Derenoncourt, motion carried.

Next the Committee considered the following:

2. Brockton United Ordinance: The purpose of this ordinance is to create unity among residents of Brockton, whether born here or abroad; to welcome newcomers; and to engage community members in building trust and solidarity between the different ethnic groups that make up the City of Brockton and the City's government. (Continued from Ordinance meeting of April 3, 2019)

City Solicitor Phil Nessralla attended

Councilor Sullivan read letter of Mayor into record.

Councilor Sullivan read letter of Police Chief into record.

Comments by Councilor Farwell

(re letter from Mayor, issued raised by Mayor in City Address, Mayor claimed this was a sanctuary city ordinance, this is a dialogue ordinance, used as a political weapon by the Mayor, not out of the ordinary to invite Mayor for comment, Mayor made comments about the Marijuana ordinance, involving City Solicitor for cooperation)

Comments by Councilor Sullivan

(re due diligence on the Marijuana issue)

Comments by Derenoncourt

(comment by Mayor that Jean Derenoncourt wanted to turn Brockton into a Sanctuary City Ordinance, co-sponsor of this ordinance, no language of sanctuary, no risk, believes in doing what is best for the City, needs courage and backbone to talk about the issue, in order to solve crime you need trust and belief from the community, not going to let politics interfere)

Comments by Councilor Sullivan

(re relationship between Legislative Attorney and City Solicitor)

Comments by Councilor Rodrigues

(co-sponsor of the ordinance, immigrant to this Country, United State Navy service, immigrants asked to pay the American dream taxes, Mayor disservice to the community, would never support a sanctuary city ordinance, supports this because of disconnect between police department and community, community afraid to come forward, need to ease those stresses, that was what this ordinance was about, ICE came to Brockton to seek out criminal, this ordinance would not have prevented ICE from doing that, Police Chief is against this because the Mayor is against, police asks councilors for ways that the police department can work closely with the residents, that's what this ordinance is trying to do, this would be a tool for solving crime, this is for public safety, not a political football, Visa screening concerns about reporting being a witness to a crime)

Comments by Councilor Derenoncourt

(re conversation with resident, not easy for undocumented immigrants to become documented, this ordinance is about bringing a sense of safety, involvement with DA Cruz, ask law enforcement about need for trust, domestic violence and human trafficking reporting, Mayor is using this ordinance for political gain, issue brought before in 2013, 2015, 2017)

Comments by Councilor Sullivan

(re decorum, respect for the politic process and hearing)

Comments by Councilor Derenoncourt

(re disrespect to elected official, ordinance is written in English, it's not a sanctuary city ordinance, why was he called out by the Mayor when there was a co-sponsor as well)

Comments by Councilor Sullivan

(re legislative counsel as clerk of the meeting)

Comments by Councilor Farwell

(support from DA's office and police department regardless of immigration status, doesn't want to interfere with day-to-day operations of police department, opportunity for police department to do outreach)

Comments by Councilor Cruise

(commends speech of Councilor Derenoncourt, reasonable read of the ordinance shows it's a trust act not a sanctuary city, the arrest of Brazilian would not have been affected by this ordinance, 5th meeting on this issue, section 3 and subsection C are issues for the attorneys, policy statement should not be codified as ordinance, roll of Federal government to control the issue, could be a resolution)

Comments by Councilor Monahan

(re what would be left would not have teeth, reads parts of ordinance with policy, Police Chief has offered to reach out to community to vocalize the policy of the department)

Comments by Councilor Sullivan

(commends Councilors Derenoncourt and Rodrigues for drafting the legislative, ordinance committee, residents care about Brockton, not a sanctuary city ordinance, duty to uphold the laws, comments from attorneys, not common to have 5 meetings on an issue, thinks a resolution would be beneficial, other Mayors have showed up but Mayor Carpenter did not)

Comments by Councilor Derenoncourt

(2 years as a citizen, be human here, proud of colleagues for having the discussion, he was doing this for the safety of the city and the benefit of Brockton, courage to talk about this issue)

MOTION by Councilor Cruise to Recommend Favorable (stating he is making the motion in the affirmative but will not be voting in favorable of ordination), 2nd by Councilor Derenoncourt.

Roll call vote on the Motion:

Councilor Farwell	No
Councilor Monahan	No
Councilor Derenoncourt	Yes
Councilor Cruise	No
Councilor Sullivan	No

Motion failed. The item will be reported back to the full City Council with an UNFAVORABLE recommendation.

Motion to adjourn by Councilor Cruise, 2nd by Councilor Derenoncourt. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:04 p.m.