

REPORT – ORDINANCE COMMITTEE
June 7, 2023

The Standing Committee on Ordinances and Rules to which was referred the following reports as follows:

#1 on agenda

having considered the same, report FAVORABLE AS AMENDED by Motion of Councilor Minichiello, 2nd by Councilor Farwell .

MINUTES – ORDINANCE COMMITTEE
June 7, 2023

The Standing Committee on Ordinances and Rules was called to order at 6:08 p.m. by Councilor Asack, Farwell, Minichiello and Rodrigues present.

Agenda read into the record.

The Committee first considered the following:

#1 on agenda

Comments by Councilor Asack

(Director Fitzgerald had a previous engagement, unable to attend, ordinance heard last month, considering changes)

Comments by Councilor Farwell

(did not anticipate amendment during last ordinance meeting, commission of similar nature to be encompassed by the new board of health, and floor amendment included veteran's services and council on aging)

Amendment read.

Comments by Kelly Young, director of Veteran's Services

(recommends veteran services should not fall under the Department of Human Health and Services, covid put spot light on issues, Governor Healy removed Department of Veterans Services from the state's health department, oversight should be by an elected official, comments re Soldier's Home, a lot of what is done in veterans services is confidential, disability claims, separate from cash assistance, quality of life, helps gets more health care, fewer people who need to know, mandated position, Massachusetts is a front runner in this, most of programs are top of the line throughout the country, state researches as best practices so we should follow it, state and federal mandates and programs, works for the residents of Brockton, fewer layers determined to be a best practice, developing partnerships, homelessness partnerships to look for rental and mortgage assistance, working with Council on Aging, department should be the advocate and having the say on priorities)

Comments by Councilor Farwell

(spoke with Director Young, learned more about the veterans services, thrust of the amendment was to reduce Mayor's span on control so that not so many people were reporting to him, Health Department needs to be priority, would be comfortable allowing veteran's services to stand on its own, Mayor could recommend a change at a later date through ordinance, new inspectional services department, we can always come back to it, wants to focus on health)

Comments by Councilor Minichiello
(direct line to elected officials? Limiting the layers would help?)

Comments by Kelly Young, director of Veteran's Services
(agrees, takes very little of Mayor's time, and when they do it is important for the Mayor to know)

Comments by Councilor Minichiello
(sees the logic, agrees with Councilor Farwell)

Comments by Councilor Rodrigues
(previously spoke about it, Veteran's Services in the City of Brockton has been known for benefits and doing parades, looking to do more than that, real services needed in the health and human services, this was proposed to department some cover, to work within a division, sees idea of readjusting, did not see this as taking away powers, augmenting work, collaborating, want to make sure veteran's issues are seen as a human services issue, thought it would bring more light to the veteran's issues, how can we make this better than it has been, resources, eyes and ears)

Comments by Councilor Farwell
(agrees with Councilor Rodrigues, decision making needs to focus on timing)

Motion by Councilor Farwell to strike "Veterans' Services Division" and "Veterans' Council" from Section 6, 2nd by Councilor Minichiello. Motion carries unanimously.

Comments by Councilor Asack
(conversations with Director Kelly, agrees with revisiting if needed)

Comments by Councilor Minichiello
(respects Councilor Rodrigues' opinion, try to ease in, can always revisit)

Motion to report FAVORABLE AS AMENDED by Councilor Minichiello, 2nd by Councilor Farwell. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to adjourn by Councilor Minichiello, 2nd by Councilor Farwell. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:37 p.m.