

Tuesday, May 14, 2024, 5:30pm, Remote Meeting

Committee Attendance:

April Fournier, Chair (At-large), Anna Trevorow (District 1), Roberto Rodriguez (At-Large).

City Staff:

Jessie Lemieux, Executive Assistant for Fire Department; Counsel; Keith Gautreau, Fire Chief; Dan Hondo, Police Major; Dena Libner, Assistant City Manager/Interim Director of HHS; Greg Jordan, Assistant City Manager.

1. Announcements:
2. Review and Approval of Minutes from April 23, 2024

Minutes approved by Rodriguez and Trevorow

Approved unanimously

3. Repeal of Section 17.5 of City Code (re: Cruising) (Councilor Fournier, Chair)

This request was brought forward from the public. Code was enacted in the 90s, and was designed to prevent solicitation but inadvertently targeted the gay community.

Greg Jordan - Police Chief and staff looked over code to review its use. No fiscal impact if removed. There is no evidence suggesting it targeted any particular group, but understand the perception.

Major Hondo - This memo was used for the assistance in deterring prostitution in hot spots, but use is infrequent and possibly outdated now and there are other ways we can use our resources.. Based on conclusions it would not create an issue if gone, but we (PD) would lose an investigative technique which can be helpful to us in some cases.

Councilor Rodriguez - Memo is helpful, will be supporting repeal. When people are looking for parking/ lingering and circle blocks, does this fall under code?

Major Hondo - Does not fall under this code. Hard to say if environmental changes in hotpots like good lighting, more sidewalks, more resources would deter this activity vs keeping code and citing, because it is so mobile by the transient community.

Councilor Fournier - Does support removal, but leaning in the direction of having a public meeting/hearing in June meeting list as an action item to allow public comment.

4. Staff Updates

1.) Planning Board application for Homeless Services Center site plan amendment (Dena Libner, Assistant City Manager)

Staff has submitted an application for the permanent increase at 654 Riverside St (HSC) by 50 beds

May 28 to the planning board, and 45 days after consideration go into effect

Public can weigh in at Planning Board meeting

2.) Opioid Settlement Fund allocation process update (Dena Libner, Assistant City Manager)

Tentatively in July, (looking at effective opioid strategies) looking at ways to use the funds. Looking at what the Maine Recovery Council is doing, also have a public facing website before the June meeting this will go live and then we can discuss on our end.

Councilor Fournier - Going into warmer days, thinking about cooling shelters

Chief Gautreau - will present plan in June, bringing Caity Hager into the conversation

Discussion on the conditions in Bayside and any updates:

Major Hondo - Changes made are more consistency in the bayside area, more officer presence. Greater update next month

Dena Libner - staff is working on a memo on needle exchanges and sharps containers.

This is open to staff questions and suggestions.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 5:55pm

5. Next Meeting: June 11, 2024

