

The Rules Committee held a meeting on
Wednesday, March 25th, 2024 beginning at 7:25 P.M.

Committee Members Present:

CD: Chair Callahan, Mitchell, Schneider, Oswald, Lipian
Finance: Chair Tollett, Davis, Schneider, Cerra
Others: Armstrong, Stewart
Not in attendance: Siwierka

Administration and Department Heads Present: Mayor Brubaker, Safety Service Dir Pyanowski, Finance Dir Pileski, Asst Finance Dir Farrell, Asst Dir Strohsack, Law Dir Deery, Public Works Supt Conner, Water Team Leader Jacob, Community Development Dir Scott, Com Dev Manager Almobayyed, Engineer McKillips, Chief Pronesti and Police Chief Pelko

1. Approval of the February 7th, 2024 Rules Committee Meeting Minutes.

Mr. Callahan moved, second by Mr. Stewart to approved these meeting minutes as circulated.

MOTION CARRIES

2. The matter of amending Elyria Codified Ordinance 176.01 to update the method which appointments to the Financial Review Board are made.

Referred By: Law Director Deery **[Finance and Rules Committees]**.

Chair Cerra said this matter was just passed by the Finance Committee.

Law Dir Deery stated that there were previous meetings where the committee approved the appointment and establishment of a current Financial Review Board. Her office looked at 176.01 as it stands, it became apparent that the way that board would be appointed is at least unwieldy and she had a conversation with the Mayor and Attorney Craig. There were changes proposed which is the reworking of that provision as far as how it would work better.

The board will remain as five members, which will be bipartisan and the four members would remain appointed by Council and the fifth would be appointed by the initial four members of the board. The term and eligibility requirements would remain the same. Hopefully we will be able to move forward and get this Financial Review Board set up.

Motion made by Mr. Callahan, second by Mr. Stewart authorizing an ordinance amending ECO 176.01 of the Financial Review Board.

MOTION CARRIES COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

3. The matter of the creation of a 5-member 'Elyria Ambulatory Care Planning Committee'.

Referred By: Ward 1 Councilman Lipian and Council-at-Large Tollett

Mr. Lipian said he had referred this matter along with Mr. Tollett and not being a member of the Rules Committee, he won't be able to vote on this matter but he appreciates the opportunity to make the referral. He said he is not interested in naming any company or suggesting anything beyond Elyria's specific services, he would focus the conversation only on Elyria.

We are afforded the unique opportunity to ensure Elyria is proactive in regards for strategic planning and development for ambulatory services. The idea is for our city to reduce our vulnerability and expand our strategic vision and incorporating a more nuanced approach. What the conclusion of the committee would be is unclear which is part of the need for a committee. If it can objectively assess future potentialities for ambulance services, it may help that we are not taken by surprise. He has no conclusions to draw today only that discussions should happen and be proactive. The committee may look at long-term financial strategies for community services which could prove a benefit to the residents. Mr. Lipian turned it over to Mr. Tollett.

Mr. Tollett said that after sitting in a meeting with the Administration, one of the things he realized is that he has concerns about ambulatory services. The solution to having a backup plan, in his opinion, is that it is to be handled by the Mayor's office and specifically the Safety Service Dir's because he has to deal with the EFD and EPD first hand. Once recommendation is made then it could come back to council. If the Mayor would appoint a committee to review the services we are currently getting and review those bills, he would gladly step forward to be put on a committee selected by the Mayor. To have an impartial committee would be beneficial. His colleagues and the administration presented that to him in that manner.

Mr. Stewart asked if this is going to be a planning committee, but then will there be another committee which will oversee the current invoices?

Mr. Tollett said in his opinion, we should only have one committee at this time and that committee would be appointed by the Mayor and that would be to review current invoices and to respond, if asked, for ideas regarding a backup plan. But, he thinks that should be a directive of the Safety Service Dir because council members are getting out of their realm.

Mayor Brubaker thanked Mr. Tollett for those comments. He said the intent he had when he notified them of creating a committee was to specifically review the invoices that they've received. They received the first one and it was reviewed by the Mayor, the Director and Law Dir Breunig and they have submitted the first one for payment. He said he believes that there is a need to have someone to sit down and look at future invoices from a council standpoint. Those invoices will become public record. But, if someone from council puts their eyes on those invoices and if there are questions, they could be asked of that person or the Finance Chair, however, in lieu of what Chair Tollett was discussing he is open with working with the Safety Svc Dir, specifically to create that committee to review invoices as a committee, as well as taking a look at a bigger picture of our ambulance service and to have a backup plan. We are currently in one month of a four-year contract.

We have to be cognitive, that we're not crossing a line of a breach of contract or anything along those lines. The Mayor met with the two main representatives of Lifecare and they reviewed each of the line items and answered many questions satisfactorily. He is open to creating that committee, but, it doesn't need to be more than 5 people, maybe just a few who will look at those invoices and have discussions over the next few months.

The Mayor feels that this should be under the direction of the Safety Svc Dir, so he can be involved and, as was stated, Safety Svc Dir is responsible for our First Responders.

Mrs. Mitchell asked if we will continue to have the representatives from Lifecare attend those invoice review meetings?

Mayor Brubaker said, yes, that is the standing meeting that we will have, but, he doesn't want to have a meeting just to have a meeting. If there is a concern on a specific invoice, then we will have that standing meeting to sit and review that. He also thinks it will be important to have our Finance Chair sit in on those meetings, that way if Council has questions, they would have a representative.

Mr. Lipian asked if the Mayor or Administrative staff would convene a committee to look at strategic planning and development for future ambulatory care, not just a back-up measure for emergency, but to be proactive and find a vision for the future?

Dir Pyanowski said it's been his intention to start reviewing those things and discussing with the Fire Dept., he's waiting for a report right now from Fire regarding their beliefs on ambulatory services, numbers as far as runs, etc. His intention is to gather information throughout this year and toward the end of the year, after having an opportunity to review our relationship with Lifecare, under this current contract, along with a years' worth of invoices and then to start looking at our plan for the future. That will give us 3 to 4 years, if we use that fifth-year option, to put in place a plan, if we will need to. It will also give an opportunity for this relationship to prove itself one way or another. That is the timeframe he is working with and we also have a number of things happening this year which might impact a number of those conversations.

Mr. Oswald said he understands that we want to be prepared, but, he thinks that we have a great staff and the Safety Svc Dir will get a handle on this. Once they start receiving the information they may see that this is going along great or not and we should go with his direction.

Mr. Stewart concurs with what Mr. Oswald said. He said we're in the early stages of this contract and he respects Mr. Tollett and Mr. Lipian bringing this forward, but he thinks we're early on in the start of this. He does feel it's advisory to have a committee together to oversee the invoicing, but maybe at a later date. He's in favor of that oversight committee when that's in need, in the meantime we should give the Safety Svc Dir ample time to look at what's ahead and come back to let council know where things are at.

Mr. Lipian said he has no question that the administration is capable of assessing the situation and Mr. Tollett and he, by referring this, didn't mean to suggest otherwise. However, it's important to state that one can never be proactive too early. It's good to set strategic vision as soon as possible then you can avoid obstacles in the future. We have had the discussion, which was good and healthy. More discussion needs to be had in the future and he looks forward to that.

Chair Cerra said he will put this into 'Pending Items' to be reviewed at a later date.

4. The matter of the definition of Non-Partisan for the purpose of the Charter Amendment. [Discussion only].

Referred By: Ward 1 Councilman Lipian

Mr. Lipian said he had the chance to speak with Law Dir Deery, off the record, and she rendered her legal opinion that the charter stipulates non-partisan is delineated by, as evidenced by whether or not a person voted in the most recent party primary election. That explanation seems technically correct, so having referred, he will preference that this referral be tabled for now and to add, he may bring it back at a later date. He understands that not being a member of the Rules committee, he will take his leave and he thanked everyone.

Mr. Cerra asked for a motion to adjourn:

Motion moved by Mr. Tollett and seconded by Mr. Stewart to adjourn the Rules Committee Meeting at 7:45 P.M.

MOTION CARRIES

Respectfully Submitted by,

Colleen Rosado, Secretary/Administrative Assistant

PENDING ITEMS

1. The matter of the creation of a 5-member 'Elyria Ambulatory Care Planning Committee'.

Referred By: Ward 1 Councilman Lipian and Council-at-Large Tollett

2. The matter of the definition of Non-Partisan for the purpose of the Charter Amendment. Referred By: Ward 1 Councilman Lipian