



City of Malden

Malden City Hall
215 Pleasant Street
Malden, MA 02148

Meeting Minutes - Final Citizens Engagement Committee

Tuesday, February 5, 2019

5:30 PM

City Council Chambers

Roll Call

*Present: Councillor DeMaria(Chair), Anderson, Crowe
Also Present: Councillors Camell, O'Malley and Winslow
Kevin Duffy-Business Strategist*

Minutes to be Approved

Business

[449-18](#)

Be it hereby Ordained that Chapter 7 of the R.O. of 1991, as amended, be further amended by adding a new section 7.29 relative to The Use of Recyclable and Reusable Bags.

Sponsors: David Camell and Deborah DeMaria

Councillor DeMaria calls the meeting to order at 5:36 P.M. She lets the committee know that the meeting will be filmed by John Miara. The meeting is requested to discuss Paper #449-18 Be it hereby ordained that Chapter 7 of the R.O. of 1991, as amended, be further amended by adding a new section 7.29 relative to the use of recyclable and reusable bags. She turns the meeting over to Councillor Camell who is the sponsor of the paper.

Councillor Camell says we have seen this happening in other communities and residents are recycling bags however, his biggest concern is that they get into the storm water drains and they take a thousand years to break down and our trash is incinerated so they do not end up as land fill. He feels asking the business community isn't a new issue and that many other communities have put this into motion. He asks that they have some debate tonight but would like to move it to a Public Meeting to interact with resident's questions and comments and try to do what's right for the City.

Kevin Duffy is speaking on behalf of the Chamber, Joan Ford-Mongeau the executive director of the Chamber is home sick but she has told Kevin she has shared this information with the board about this issue and they are supportive of this effort and also spoke to their members, 350 businesses in the City and they did not get any comments back. Kevin is dealing with larger groups in multiple communities, Stop n Shop, CVS, Walgreens and they are on board. He plans on speaking with smaller business owners to make sure they are on board. He feels by that time if there is a public meeting date he will reach out to them to attend the meeting with their concerns.

Councillor Camell says we are roughly talking about nine months to a year for this to be in effect and he would be aware of making sure this is ample time for the businesses.

Councillor Anderson asks if the sponsor's if there is a plan to educate the public of what their goals are what is the thought that has been put into that with the public relations

piece of that

Councillor Camell says he feels the Public Meeting would be the vehicle to educate the public

Councillor Anderson says for the record we should be speaking about the benefits of this paper

Councillor Camell says when we talk about the storm drains backing up and the trash blown up against a fence usually a large percentage of that is plastic bags they will be in there forever which is not mentioning the ecological concerns.

Councillor DeMaria says that building statistics for the benefits at the Public Meetings are important

Councillor Anderson agrees we need to let the public know we are looking to rescind the plastic bags for these reasons and this is what we will propose and not take it for granted that people understand.

Councillor Camell says there is a lot of information out there with the benefits and we will get that out to the public

Councillor Anderson asks Kevin when you have gone to the businesses there has been no pushback what have you been saying to them as the reason we are doing this

Kevin says he hasn't given them any reasons he has spoken to the larger businesses and they are on board and he says more of the how and not the why. He feels that the smaller businesses like the mom and pop shops need to be informed

Councillor Anderson says that is important to reach out to the public as the why not just the how

Councillor Crowe says someone has asked her about the bags at the cleaners

Councillor Camell says there are certain exemptions such as bags for produce, laundry drycleaning bags, newspaper bags and plastic used to contain or wrap products to contain moisture

Councillor Winslow appreciates Kevin reaching out to the small businesses they need to understand and help to make them be able to draw down stock. A strong social media campaign is important he says they could do some through recycling. Plastic bags actually clog the recycling machines. He does say into the record that the Wilson family on Forest Street do not agree with this the word is getting out into the media. He has done many clean-ups in the City and it's disheartening to see these bags in the trees or in the river. He feels there are many advantages to this

Councillor O'Malley says some businesses in the community such as Trader Joes has decided to eliminate plastic bags proactively in all their stores across the country

Councillor DeMaria has reached out to Katie McCormack as to booking two meetings at Beebe and Linden possibly on a Monday night and the committee decides on Monday, March 18th from 6:30 P.M to 8:00 P.M. at the Linden School for the first Public Meeting. The committee will hold this meeting and then come back together to review and plan a date and time for the second meeting.

CITIZENS' ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE will meet as requested by the Ordinance Committee dated November 27, 2018 to discuss Paper 449-18, sponsored by Councillor David Camell; Section 7.29 Revised Ordinances of 1991, by adding Section 7.29 regarding the use and recyclable and reusable bags.

Guest: Business Strategist for the City of Malden, Kevin Duffy.

Other Business

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Councillor Crowe and seconded by Councillor Anderson. All were in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 5:58 P.M.