

Observer: Sue Calder

Aldermen Present: Geracaris (chair), Kelly, Harris, Nieuwsma, Burns, Revelle, Biss, Suffredin (remotely/no picture just name) and Reid

Staff Present: Francellino, Stowe, Stoneback and Cummings.

Time: Called to order: 5:05 pm

Adjourned: 6:07 pm

Public Comment: via emails– both supported R3 and 1 supported R2.

Minutes: approved the minutes of 9/22.

For Approval

R1 Approved the schedule of Council meetings for 2023 by unanimous roll call.

R2 Amend council rule to add additional members to the Referrals Committee. Burns had spoken with each of the CMs during the day and two options came forth: 1) rotate the members of the committee and 2) continue with seniority but require two co-sponsors for a bill. Reid spoke several times: his background (young, Black and Q) is not represented. Revelle stated that all referrals had been eventually forwarded to committees but some had delays getting on the assigned committee's agenda. Biss liked two co-sponsors. Nieuwsma stated having two co-sponsors would help weed out the frivolous bills and would keep committee size to three. Reid moved to rotate membership on an annual basis. Then tabled the motion (passed) to the next meeting– which he thought would be in November.

R3 Amend the name of the Commission on Aging to that of the Commission on Aging and Disabilities. Revelle stated that this was a long overdue change and an important one. On roll call vote Suffredin was no longer in the meeting. Passed unanimously.

R4 Amend the rules that the Social Services Committee report directly to Council. All ayes.

For Discussion

D1 Communication for support for CMs of up to \$135,00 or \$15,000 per CM. Burns reported having surveyed all CM and some former ones and all said they self-supported some of their activities. He is so overwhelmed with committee attendance (he stated he was on all committees except Equity and Empowerment) that he has no time to write a newsletter. Geraceris stated that he is paying for an interpreter for his ward meetings himself. Nieuwsma stated that instead of a fund that could or could not be used by a CM that the City hire a staff person to help with communications and other tasks and be housed in the Manager's office, but Burns stated he wanted more flexibility. Biss thought there should be more structure and without it there may be legal issues. Nieuwsma pointed out that there is no policy of reimbursements. Revelle was appalled that an CM was funding an interpreter out of his own pocket and the City needed to come to grips with language issues. Reid stated that he is a student and his income is the CM stipend. Burns stated that those with limited incomes could not pay expenses upfront and wait for reimbursements; he recommended the item go to Council and be part of the budget discussion.