

## Public Affairs Committee Meeting

22 February 2010, Council Chambers

The meeting was called to order at 5:01 p.m. by interim chairman Deborah Groat. Present were Henk Berbee and Groat. No other guests were present. On motion by Berbee and voice vote Groat was elected chairman for the year 2010. Tracy Richardson entered at about 5:06.

The only agenda item was discussion of Council Rules of Procedure with the specific concern to address how to handle amendments of resolutions which only receive one reading. Upon consideration of research presented in written form by the Clerk of Council, Connie Patterson, it was determined that the Rules of Procedure do not need to be modified to allow an amendment to be added to a resolution and either accepted or rejected at the same meeting as the initial resolution; the rules already provide for such an occurrence. Continued discussion about the need to change rules #23 and #24 resulted in the following additions:

RULE #23 at the end of the first paragraph, add the sentence: “An exception to this rule is a resolution which does not involve an expenditure of money per RULE 2, section E, paragraph 2.”

RULE #24 in the first paragraph add “resolution or” before the word “ordinance” in the first line. The new RULE #24 will now read: “Amendments. It shall be in order to amend a resolution or ordinance at any time when not in the hands of a committee;...”

In further discussion, Richardson expressed the strong concern that on 11 Feb. 2010 Council had passed a resolution concerning serving beer at the 2010 Union County Fair without enough time to consider the resolution fully; that the resolution had not been in the Council packet earlier and that the communications via e-mail had been insufficient preparation; that had an amendment been offered to the resolution and subsequently passed, the process would have been streamlined too far. Groat offered that experienced Council members had been through the same situation the previous year, and that streamlining the passage of resolutions after only one reading, even with an amendment, would seldom have the same appearance of undue haste. Richardson believes that in the case of an

issue of significant public interest, we may want to revisit the procedures to require the opportunity for public input via a second reading. This discussion may be revisited at a future date.

After discussion about changing RULE #1 to read that the November and December Council meetings would always be held the first and third Thursday, it was determined that because this would create as much as a four-week gap between the last December and the first January meeting, it would be better to allow the rule to stand as stated.

The next Public Affairs Committee meeting will be held at 5:00 p.m. on 22 March 2010 in Council Chambers. The meeting was adjourned at 5:50.