

## General Government Committee Meeting

February 6, 2023

Zoom link to recording

[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/4w0pV70fViUP\\_DHhOvgXwn\\_01YXikKxCRq5oiiYnWIL0q4xzelzri55SS4Wf0LQL.1tNtsSKSvB8KxafS](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/4w0pV70fViUP_DHhOvgXwn_01YXikKxCRq5oiiYnWIL0q4xzelzri55SS4Wf0LQL.1tNtsSKSvB8KxafS)

Passcode: J3Z5@6l1

### Agenda

- Public Hearing APPT00373 KP Law – City Solicitor
- ORDR00451 Brown School Ad Hoc Update

Committee attendees (in person): Councillor Bruce Vogel (at-large), Councillor Heather Shand (Ward 3 – Chair), Councillor Byron Lane (Ward 6) via Zoom.

Other attendees: Councillor Jennie Donahue (Ward 2), Councillor Jim McCauley (Ward 5), Councillor Afroz Khan (At-large), Councillor Sharif Zeid (Ward 1) arrived ~6:00, Mayor Reardon, Chief of Staff Andrew Levine, Planning Director Andy Port, Councillor Mark Wright (Zoom), Mark Reich (KP Law – city solicitor)

Committee came to order at 5:30

- Public Hearing, APPT00373 KP Law, City Solicitor

Atty Mark Reich spoke to the 20 years KP Law has been the cities solicitor and took questions from Councillors.

- Councillor Shand asked questions regarding the legal opinion on the temporary appointment of the Asst. DPW director position. Atty Reich spoke of the “directory” not mandatory interpretation of the charter regarding the timing of the appointment.
- Councillor Khan asked questions regarding section 3.4 of the Charter and also about the city solicitors position on councilors asking questions
- Councillor McCauley spoke to decision from KP coming back being narrow and supports the council having a “rules of engagement” with how we work with the solicitor through the council president.
- Councillor Vogel agreed with the Ward 5 councillor.
- Councillor Zeid, arriving ~6:00, asked questions regarding the time of the appointment and had that been reconsidered and also if KP Law acted as special council for specific topics instead of being the solicitor. Atty Reich said they did do specialized work.
- Chief of Staff Levine spoke to the appointment duration and the options to change.

- Mark Reich continued taking questions and brought up the options for additional executive sessions to continue conversations with the council

Public Comment in favor of the appointment was taken.

- Mayor Reardon spoke in support of KP's reappointment
- Jane Snow, 9 Coffin Street, spoke to the training class she took that KP conducted on open meetings in Amesbury and how well it was done. Supported appointment.

No public comment taken in opposition to the reappointment of KP Law.

Councillor Lane motioned to bring the reappointment forward with no recommendation to the full council. Councillor Vogel seconded. Roll call was 3-0 to bring the reappointment forward with no recommendation.

ORDR00451 Brown School Ad Hoc update

The updates to the ad hoc timeline along with the RFI proposal the committee was proposing going forward.

Councillor McCauley asked why Order 432 wasn't just amended.

Public Comment:

Jane Snow, 9 Coffin Street, stated the meetings didn't have agendas that could be followed and didn't want developers deciding on what was viable at the Brown School and that public comment had not been taken at the meetings.

Committee voted to keep the order in committee to continue work.

Committee adjourned at 6:45.