

***City Council Committee Reports for 2020***

**DATE:** Public Meeting, Thurs., Mar. 5, 2020, ca. 7:36 pm to 7:50 pm

**PLACE:** City Council Chamber

**RECORDER:** Cllr. Jared Eigerman (handwritten notes)

***COMMITTEE ON GENERAL GOVERNMENT***

<b><u>Councillors</u></b>	<b><u>Attendance</u></b>
Barry N. Connell	Yes
Joseph H. Devlin	Yes
Jared J. Eigerman (Chair)	Yes
<b><u>Ex Officio Member</u></b>	-
Mayor Donna D. Holaday	Yes

***AGENDA ITEMS***

***ACTION TAKEN***

1. <i>Minutes from committee meeting of Feb. 27, 2020</i>	<i><u>Motion:</u> Approval. Moved by Cllr. Devlin, seconded by Cllr. Eigerman, passed 2-0, with Cllr. Connell abstaining due to his absence from relevant meeting.</i>
2. <i>ORDR169_02_24_2020 Amendment to Political Signs Guidelines</i>	<i><u>Motion:</u> Recommend approval to Full Council. Moved by Cllr. Connell, seconded by Cllr. Devlin, and passed 3-0.</i>
3. <i>ODNC052_02_24_2020 Designate Members of Planning Board as Special Municipal Employees</i>	<i><u>Motion:</u> Hold in committee. Moved by Cllr. Devlin, seconded by Cllr. Connell, and passed 3-0.</i>

***Minutes:***

1. *Cllr. Eigerman (Chair):* Any comments on the draft minutes from our last meeting?  
*Cllrs. Connell and Devlin, and Mayor Holaday:* None.

[Action taken regarding proposed minutes, as described on cover page.]

2. *Cllr. Connell:* As sponsor, explained belief that current rule, limiting each person at a polling place on election day to holding only one sign is unnecessary, impractical, and possibly unconstitutional (right to free speech)?  
*Mayor Holaday:* Rule's origin was as part of set to prevent blocking access to voting places.  
*Cllr. Devlin:* Having no limit seems fine; access can be assured, regardless.

[Action taken regarding proposed minutes, as described on cover page.]

3. *Cllr. Eigerman:* As sponsor, explained his understanding of the proposal, as suggested by Planning Board member Elizabeth DeLisle, an attorney practicing in Newburyport.  
*Cllr. Connell:* Some discomfort with a City board member being able to represent legal clients before another City board, especially if staff are under common direction.  
*Cllr. Devlin:* Does not want to discourage volunteer board members in our small city.  
*Cllr. Eigerman:* Will speak to Attorney DeLisle to gather better information.

[Action taken regarding proposed minutes, as described on cover page.]

[Motion to adjourn by Cllr. Connell, seconded by Cllr. Devlin, and passed 3-0.]

DRAFT