

Ordinance Rewrite Committee (ORC)
August 22, 2019 Meeting Notes & Recommendations

Members Present. Maureen Aucoin, John Carson, Kate Dufour (Chair), Michael Frett, Danielle Obery, and Pam Perry

Staff Present. Nate Rudy, City Manager and Doug Ide, Code Enforcement Officer

Item 1: Review of Cannabis Ordinance. Due to a scheduling conflict, the discussion on this subject was postponed to a subsequent meeting. That being said, there appears to be some level of confusion, at least in the chair's mind, with respect to the ORC's cannabis ordinance review charge and interaction with the City's Marijuana Task Force. Since some members of the ORC, as well as the Council, have expressed interest in reviewing existing ordinances to ensure that all interested parties are treated fairly, I believe the ORC would benefit from Council guidance. As the chair of the ORC, I am requesting from the Council: (1) direction on how to proceed; (2) feedback on the areas of the existing ordinance that warrant review; and (3) guidance on the extent to which members of Marijuana Task Force should be engaged in future discussions.

Item 2: Review Proposed Amendments to Snow/Ice Removal Ordinance. The ORC engaged in a robust discussion on the proposed amendments to the City's Snow/Ice Removal ordinance and concluded that more work is needed. A second draft of an amended ordinance will be reviewed at the ORC's October meeting. Council action is not required at this time.

Item 3: Discuss Need for a Short-term Rental Ordinance. After an informative discussion, the ORC concluded that a "soft approach" on a short-term rental ordinance, primarily focused on the implementation of registry and fee system, would best address Hallowell's needs. The registration system would provide city staff with the contact information needed to address concerns, complaints and emergencies and the associated fee would help cover a portion of the related enforcement/administrative costs. That said, input from the impacted parties is necessary. The ORC is recommending that the Council: (1) appoint a special Short-term Rental Ordinance Subcommittee represented by members of the ORC, providers of short-term rental services and owners of state regulated lodging establishments located in Hallowell; (2) direct the subcommittee to work with city staff to develop a "soft/go slow" ordinance, focused, in part, on the development of a registry and fee system; and (3) submit its recommendations and proposed ordinance to the Council for consideration. Furthermore, to the extent this humble chair has any say in the issue, I would highly recommend that at the very least ORC members Councilor Maureen Aucoin and Pam Perry are appointed to the special committee, as both are well versed on the topic.

Next Meeting. Tuesday, October 8 @ 5:30 p.m. in Council Chambers.