

**North Adams City Council
General Government Committee
Minutes of July 7, 2020 Meeting**

Chair read statement for virtual meetings

Call to Order and Roll Call

Meeting called to order at 4:17

Members present: Councilors Blackmer, Sweeney and Wilkinson

Others present: Councilor Harpin

- 1. Council Paper #11,840 regarding a study in regards to Children's Pillar Art located at Route 2, bridge, Veterans Memorial Drive.**

Councilor Blackmer reported that we were waiting on an answer from the City Solicitor regarding the application of VARA and to whom it would apply. Councilor Wilkinson asked why it has taken so long. Blackmer replied that it was sent to Solicitor at the end of February, right before COVID hit which threw municipalities into a tail spin and KP Law represents many communities. She also noted that Mr. Canales had been the point person and that her was on vacation. Continued the issue to the next General Government committee meeting.

- 2. Communication #11,811 submitted by Councilor LaForest requesting a process for appealing to the City Solicitor.**

Councilor Blackmer suggested that we change the ordinance to reflect that individual councilors need the support of the majority of the Council to ask questions of the Solicitor. There was a general discussion of the Accounts Payable Process and sign offs.

Councilor Wilkinson moved to have Councilor Blackmer tweek the ordinance and bring to the next committee meeting. Councilor Sweeney 2nd. All voted in favor.

Councilor Harpin asked what the Council would do if there were an emergency that needed the Solicitor and referred to Public Safety meeting held the night before. Councilor Blackmer replied that there was a City liability issue and that the Solicitor was there to advise the committee. And did she have any other examples where we would need an emergency opinion.

Committee agreed to meet at 6 PM on Tuesday July 14th.

Adjournment: Councilor Wilkinson moved to adjourn at 4:46 pm, all voted in favor.