

LAW COMMITTEE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 23, 2014 MEETING

- Attendees: Richard Bardach, Ray Warren, Natalie Wolf, Tom Muething, Nicole Browder, Scot Lahrmer, Bill Doering, Peg Conway, and Kevin Frank.
- Motion to approve the minutes of the April 10, 2014 law committee meeting was made by Tom Muething, seconded by Natalie Wolf and was unanimously approved.
- The law committee reviewed communication protocols for advance material received by council. A general discussion was entertained to define what constitutes a “meeting” for purposes of the Open Meetings Act. Generally, it was discussed that gathering is a "meeting" if it has three characteristics. First, it must be a prearranged gathering. Second, a majority of the members of the public body must attend. Third, the purpose of the meeting must be to conduct, transact, deliberate, or discuss public business. A social or impromptu gathering is not a “meeting.” Nor would the Act cover a conference or similar event that a majority of members happened to attend, so long as the event was not used as an excuse to deliberate or discuss public business without an open meeting.
- The law committee conducted a review of the Solicitor’s invoices for the prior six (6) month period and these legal expenses were significantly less than the previous year. For the previous years’ six (6) month period, legal costs totaled \$19,757.00 compared to the current period of \$14,300.00. These expenses do not include the litigation expenses incurred in defending the Fisher lawsuit.