MINUTES
GENERAL COUNSEL COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 12, 2026

Present: Council Member Blackwell, Council Member Salafia, Council Member Pulino, Council Member Sweeney and Council Member Fulton

Staff: Deputy General Counsel Kori Wisneski, HR Director Justin Richardson

Public: Christine Marques, Michael Fullam, and Pamela Steele

1. Call to Order:

The meeting video was opened at 7:00 p.m. and the meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m.

2. Public Comment:

Pamela Steele: Ms. Steele explained that she is the Chairperson for the Parking Authority. She talked about how the Parking Authority is a mix of business and community members and that the Authority has been working together on the ordinance that is in front of this Commission for the better part of a year. Chairwoman Steele expressed that she is proud of the Authority's work and collaboration on this ordinance and she encourages this Commission to approve it.

3. Approval of Minutes

Council Member Salafia made a motion to approve the January 15, 2026 special meeting minutes and Council Member Fulton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. New Business

A. Ordinance – Parking Ordinance (285-17, 285-20 & 285-21)

Councilwoman Fulton made a Motion to Suspend the Rules so that Chairwoman Steele could be part of the discussion as needed for the Parking Ordinance, which was seconded by Councilwoman Sweeney. The Motion passed unanimously.

Director Marques walked through the changes in the ordinance and answered questions from the Councilmembers on the substance of the ordinance and reasons for the proposed changes. Councilwoman Blackwell asked about parking at Harbor Park and whether the parking department monitored that area. Director Marques explained that this is not an area that the parking authority monitors at this time for parking revenue. Councilwoman Sweeney asked to talk about the 10-15 minute parking and Chairperson Steele explained the history behind those parking spots and the Authority's decision on where to put them and why.

Council Member Fulton made a motion to approve the Parking ordinance and Council Member Sweeney seconded the motion. The motion passed with three ayes (Blackwell, Fulton, Sweeney)

and two nays (Pulino, Salafia). Councilwoman Salafia and Councilman Pulino explained that they thought this was the wrong time to bring this ordinance forward given the budget.

The Commissioners took an informal, but unanimous vote to send this item to F&G. Attorney Wisneski stated that she would send it to staff for F&G to be included on its next agenda.

5. Old Business

B. Recruitment Efforts: Director Richardson went through the Recruitment and Outreach report explaining the recent events that Maria Scarlett has organized and introduced the Black History Month Event for February 18 and the Women's History Month event in March.

C. Baker Tilly Update – Director Richardson referenced the recent Baker Tilly workshop that occurred this past Monday. Councilwoman Blackwell stated that she appreciated Councilman Loffredo's questioning during the prior Council meeting on next steps and implementation. Attorney Wisneski explained that the City would need some time to implement whatever the Council decides. Director Richardson responded to questions about next steps in light of the fact that Local 466 did not respond to requests to review job descriptions before the report was issued. He mentioned the need for impact bargaining, updating HR systems, as well as payroll systems.

D. Vacancy Report: A robust discussion ensued about the vacancy report. The commissioners went through the list one by one and Director Richardson explained the status of each open recruitment and vacancy. Councilwoman Salafia asked specifically about the Director of Public Works position. Director Richardson explained that within the past two weeks, the Mayor had put that recruitment on hold and had told him that if any of the Commissioners had further questions on its status to direct them to the Mayor or his Chief of Staff. Councilwoman Blackwell asked how long individuals had been acting in roles like the Director of Public Works or Deputy positions. Per Director Richardson, both positions had individuals in acting roles since sometime in December. Councilwoman Fulton asked about how the City pays these individuals when they are in acting roles. Director Richardson explained the City's process for paying acting employees.

There was a large discussion about openings in the Tax Office. There was a notation on the vacancy report that an individual had recently been appointed pursuant to MOU. Individuals asked how and why that happened. The individual appointed had been temping in the role and Director Richardson explained that the list was cancelled and the temp was appointed. Councilwoman Fulton, Councilwoman Salafia, and Councilwoman Blackwell had follow-up questions about how long the position had been open, how long the list was in existence,

and whether there had been any attempts to hire off the list. Director Richardson explained that the Department Head has the obligation to request hiring off the list and ultimately the other decisions were made at the direction of the Mayor.

6. Adjournment

Council Member Fulton made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Council Member Salafia seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.