

EIGHTEENTH SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD)
33rd Regular Session)

SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD
GENERAL SANTOS CITY

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 18-117

Submitted by the **COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES**

Date of Hearing: March 15, 2017

RE: SPPO NO. 1718-0093

RECOMMENDED FOR ANOTHER HEARING

Sponsor: Hon. Brix T. Tan

MADAM PRESIDENT:

The above-mentioned committee to which was referred the hereunder ordinance

TITLE	RECOMMENDATION
SPPO NO. 1718-0093.- AN ORDINANCE CREATING THE FISHERIES DIVISION UNDER THE CITY AGRICULTURIST'S OFFICE, PROVIDING FOR ITS DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.	DECLARED ON RECESS- FOR ANOTHER HEARING ON MARCH 20, 2017 @ 9:30 IN THE MORNING.

has considered the same and has the honor to report it back to the August Body with the foregoing recommendation.

Respectfully submitted:

BRIX T. TAN
City Councilor and Chairperson



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD
GENERAL SANTOS CITY



MINUTES OF THE HEARING OF THE COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES, MARINE LIFE AND AQUATIC RESOURCES OF THE 18TH SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD, GENERAL SANTOS CITY.

Wednesday, March 15, 2017
2:20 P.M. to 3:25 P.M.
Learning Resource Center, G/F Legislative Building
Corner Roxas Street and City Hall Drive
General Santos City

COUNCILORS PRESENT: City Councilor Brix T. Tan (Chairperson), City Councilor Rosalita T. Nuñez, MNSA/PhD.

GUESTS/RESOURCE PERSONS: Please refer to the attached attendance sheet.

AGENDUM:

SPPO NO. 1718-0093.- AN ORDINANCE CREATING THE FISHERIES DIVISION UNDER THE CITY AGRICULTURIST'S OFFICE, PROVIDING FOR ITS DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The hearing was called to order by its chairperson, City Councilor Brix T. Tan to discuss the foregoing agendum. After taking cognizance of the presence of the attendees, the chair recalled that in 2015, this agendum was already initially discussed, and thereupon said that this ordinance is in support to the GSC Fisheries Code that was passed in 2009.

Since everyone was given a copy of the proposed ordinance, the chair solicited comments, recommendations, or amendments to be incorporated in this ordinance. After which, he acknowledged the arrival of City Councilor Nuñez and manifested that the latter and all the members of this committee will be the co-sponsors of this measure.

Thereafter, the chair invited the attention of the body to Section 3, Definition of Terms, Letter "p," Post-Harvest Facilities and then inquired if they can include the public market as there are also display of fishes thereat in which Mr. Quimosing and Ms. Sumalpong from the CTO were of the same opinion that it's no longer needed if it is not mentioned in the body of this ordinance. However, Ms. Villanueva deemed it necessary because it's part of the duties and functions of the division.

City Councilor Nuñez proposed to include the Post-Harvest Facilities in the second paragraph of Section 7 to read as: *The Fisheries Division shall have the authority to supervise and regulate the production and capture of fish and fishery*

products within its jurisdiction, as well as the processing, **supervision, and regulation of all post-harvest facilities within the city, subject to style.**

In reply to the inquiry of Mr. Quimosing, Ms. Villanueva stated that they actually monitor and gather production data as to the volume of fish catch. City Councilor Nunez explained and reiterated that the intent of her proposed amendment is to *supervise, regulate, and monitor activities within the post-harvest facilities so that all processes will be in compliance with national laws and international standards.*

When Mr. Quimosing asked about privately owned post-harvest facilities, City Councilor Nuñez said that it should be included, subject to style. Ms. Villanueva then clarified that a private fish port or fish landing usually falls under the jurisdiction of the BFAR which monitors private fish landing and fish ports. In order to further clarify this matter, she deemed proper to refer it to the BFAR as to the right terminology to use.

At this juncture, the second paragraph of Section 7 was further amended to read as: *The Fisheries Division shall have the authority **to monitor the capture of fish.*** He then explained that the use of production is very broad considering that there are lots of productions like tuna, sashimi or cannery, etc. which fall under the jurisdiction of the food inspector and BFAR.

Regarding the other concern raised, City Councilor Nunez opined that the fisheries division should be more active in "inland aquaculture". She also believed that production must be given more importance, so there should be a division solely for this purpose.

Looking at the proposed organizational structure, City Councilor Nuñez commented that under the fisheries division, there should be a separate section for aquaculture in which Ms. Villanueva explained that in their original proposal, there were actually three divisions such as Coastal or Marine, Aquaculture, and Fishery Law Enforcement and Licensing Section. But allegedly in a series of discussions with the Human Resource Management and Development Office, it was agreed to lump together the coastal and inland or aquaculture but to separate the Fishery Law Enforcement and Licensing Section thus reducing it into two.

The first two sections have mandates for trainings. The Fishery Law Enforcement & Licensing Section is more on deputizing fish wardens to be oriented on the different fishery rules and regulation while Fisheries Production and Technology and Post-Harvest Technology Section is on capacitating them to engage in production activities. Finally, City Councilor Nuñez reiterated to specify the inland aquaculture.

When queried after the HRMDO representative had shown the functional structure to Mr. Quimosing, Ms. Villanueva clarified that the position titles are Aquaculturist because they are currently using the same. As the discussions went on, there were amendments introduced which were as follows:

Section 8. Duties and Functions.

- In letter " b", the words "**and advisory**" were deleted and shall now read as: **b) Provide technical assistance to different sectors of the fishery industry;**
- After the letter "b" was an amendment by insertion to read as: **c) Promote inland aquaculture production;**
- The original letter "c" shall now be letter "d" in which the succeeding letters shall be adjusted accordingly;

- The new letter "h" as amended shall read as: h) *Facilitate implementation of Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) **programs and projects***

Concerning the budget of the created positions, Mr. Quimosing could not assure that the city can fund all the proposed positions. Since the city at this time can't address this need as there are also other departments which are currently on the process of reorganizing, City Councilor Nuñez advised to look for the priority and approved positions which can stand/function even without the other proposed positions.

When asked what priority positions are needed in the said office, Ms. Villanueva responded that they currently need technical people for their many programs and projects in partnership with the BFAR.

With the suggestion of the chair to approve all the positions created and to fund the priority positions in the 2017 supplemental budget and the rest of the positions will depend on the availability of funds, Mr. Quimosing of the City Budget Office was amenable.

Ms. Sumalpong, however, commented that with the passage of this proposed ordinance, there is always a corresponding cost in the implementation wherein the CTO is always tasked to look for a revenue to support this measure. Although they actually appreciated the move of the SP for creating such positions because of lack of personnel despite the large scope of work, she appealed to the departments which have the same proposals to help generate income to support the programs and projects of the city.

Atty. Taniegra viewed that they are actually contemplating to implement various ordinances. She believed that this measure would greatly help regulate an industry. Ensuing further deliberations, City Councilor Nuñez supported the approval of this ordinance since the budget for the creation of positions will be treated in another ordinance. She then advised that before passing this item for second reading, they must see to it that the functional chart is already available and that the priority positions must have already been decided with their corresponding budget.

Before the declaration of a recess, the chair scheduled another hearing on Monday, March 20, 2017 @ 9:30 in the morning, the same venue to tackle/present the duties and responsibilities of every plantilla of the said office. He then requested for a copy of the minutes of this hearing and advised his staff to prepare a separate copy of all the amendments introduced. After which, he declared the hearing on recess at 3:25 p.m.

HEARING ON RECESS

Prepared by:

INOCENCIA J. TUMBAGA
Stenographic Reporter III

DINA B. MURING
Stenographic Reporter III

Edited by:

Noted by:

CARMELITA A. GENOTA
Stenographic Reporter III

LOLITA P. PEDRO
Division Chief, Journal & Minutes

Attested by:

BRIX T. TAN
City Councilor & Chairperson