



Office of City Administrator

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2009

Mayor Alan Picha called the Committee of the Whole meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. on Tuesday, January 13, 2009. Committee members present at the time the meeting was called to order were: Donald Ehler, Rick Hanke, R. Dale Jones, Greg Kubarski, Mark Lankey, and Mary Jo Onsager. Richard Sweeney was absent and Darrow Novy arrived at 7:34 p.m.

Mayor Picha asked if this meeting received proper public notice to which City Administrator Brett Klein confirmed that the meeting was properly noticed.

A motion was made by Ehler, seconded by Jones to approve the December 9, 2008, Committee of the Whole minutes. Motion carried.

Safety and Welfare

Administrator Klein discussed the K-9 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) agreement to be entered into by the City, Elroy, Union Center, and Wonewoc. Klein explained that LaCrosse District Court Administrator Brummond ruled that the RCCC's marijuana surcharge was illegal. The City's attorney drafted the MOU to provide the same agreement that was in place with the members of the RCCC, but that the processing would not go through the RCCC. A motion was made by Lankey and seconded by Onsager to place the MOU on the Council agenda. Motion carried.

Klein discussed that Kendall has decided not to join the RCCC, however, after much work, the RCCC has a revenue payment system now in place that is both fair and equitable and should result in the City beginning to receive payments on a quarterly basis.

Police Chief Tom Richardson presented the committee with the monthly police report, including all the arrest and citation activity, and briefed the Council on the "Snowmobile Radar Run", which will be held on February 14, 2009.

Mayor Picha stated that there would be a Fire Association meeting held next Tuesday. Mayor Picha also relayed that he received a complaint in reference to the street lighting by the school / pool area. It was decided that Alliant would be contacted for pricing if it was determined there was an issue with the lighting.

Improvement and Services

Klein discussed the library fundraising awareness banner for the expansion. The banner is too large and heavy to hang over the street or affixed to a building. It was decided that it will be set up on the municipal tennis court fence adjacent to the library. A motion was made by Hanke and seconded by Kubarski to place the item on Monday's Council agenda. Motion carried.

Klein advised the Committee that he has completed a grant application for playground equipment at Veteran's Memorial Park through the Alliant Foundation.

The State DOT contacted Klein and advised that the City was not receiving the State Transportation Aid for Hynek Road because there was never an official annexation ordinance on file. Klein stated that the City attorneys will be working on drafting the annexation ordinance.

Klein discussed the need to have more uniformity in the sidewalk repair / replacement procedures, and presented ordinance amendment suggestions to reduce the City's exposure to liability. A motion was made by Lankey and seconded by Ehler to place the ordinance amendment on Monday's Council agenda. Motion carried.

It was discussed that Improvement and Services Committee would be meeting regularly to determine if hiring seasonal labor may benefit the City, and what projects should be prioritized and whether or not any items could be handled in-house. The Meetings will begin next month following the Committee of the Whole meeting.

Klein reported to the Committee that he attempted to make contact with the Hrbek's to determine if the family was interested in selling a portion of land so Enterprise Drive could be extended to the State Highway.

Klein reported that costs are mounting on the 1022 Pine raze order and the need to place a lien on the property. This will be discussed in further detail at Monday's Council meeting.

The School Road drainage project was discussed and the need to get moving on the grant. It was determined that since it has been so long since the Council has looked at the plans, prior to engineering the work the

Council would like to be updated by reviewing the plans again at the next meeting.

Finance and Personnel

There were no questions or concerns with the monthly bills and approval of the bills will be placed on the Council agenda.

The Council reviewed the letter to the City's contracted assessor, from the City Attorney in reference to several assessment errors and issues. Klein stated that the issues seem to be resolved and also advised that the City's assessment information can now be accessed online on the assessor's website.

The need to update elected officials contact information on the website was discussed, and a form was distributed to the elected officials to fill out indicating their preferred contact method.

Klein reported that he would be joining the League of Wisconsin Municipality's legislative lobbying team, and what type of time commitment and work that would involve. The Committee had no issues and felt this could be a good opportunity for the City.

An amendment to the vacation time policy was proposed for increasing the number of hours that could be carried over to the following year. With no issues it was determined that this would be placed on Monday's Council agenda.

The Committee reviewed a proposal for amending the City's funeral leave policy, which will be placed on the Dec. 15th Council meeting's agenda.

Klein proposed changing to Aramark for linen and mat service based on the cost savings over the current provider, BandBox. This will be discussed further a Monday's Council meeting.

Klein asked for the Committee's permission to attend the University of Wisconsin's 2-year Certified Public Manager program and highlighted some of the benefits. Alderperson Ehler stated that it was a good professional development opportunity and that it could be voted on during Monday's Council meeting. Klein then informed the Council that there would be monthly staff meetings in an effort to enhance intra- and interdepartmental communication.

Mayor Picha informed the Council that at the recommendation of the City auditors, the payroll for December 27-January 9 would all be paid based on fiscal year 2009 wages.

Klein then discussed his displeasure with the current responsiveness of the City's attorney. Klein provided examples of having to wait unacceptable amounts of time for responses and also voiced the fact that the attorney should have a vested interest in the welfare of the City by either living in the City or having an office with office hours in the City. With the lack of real complex legal matters and annual legal services costing the City over \$25,000.00, Klein stated that he was confident the City could obtain good, local legal services for a fraction of that amount. There was some discussion, but nothing was resolved.

With no other updates, a motion was made by Onsager, and seconded by Jones to adjourn at 8:44 p.m. Motion carried.