



Office of City Administrator

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2009

Mayor Alan Picha called the Committee of the Whole meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 10, 2009. Committee members present at the time the meeting was called to order were: Donald Ehler, R. Dale Jones, Greg Kubarski, Mark Lankey, Richard Sweeney, Mary Jo Onsager and Rick Hanke. Darrow Novy was absent.

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 Sweeney and seconded by Hanke to approve the February 10, 2009, Committee of the Whole minutes. Motion carried.

Safety and Welfare

Police Chief Tom Richardson presented the committee with the monthly police report, including all the arrest and citation activity for the month. Administrator Klein then advised the committee that he has been speaking with Chief Richardson and the Elroy administrator in reference to a possible regional police department being created. Klein stated that he just wanted to bring it to the Committee's attention in case they hear about it through other channels. Klein added that it is in the early stages of assessing whether or not it will improve services while lowering the costs and that he and the Chief will keep the Council updated as it progresses.

Administrator Klein discussed the Title XIV, commonly referred to as the Virginia Graeme Baker Act. Klein stated that the Department of Commerce is requiring an engineer's inspection of all public pools and spas, to determine if they are in compliance with the act. Klein stated that he would have several bids to consider for the engineer's analysis of the City pool, for the Council meeting on Monday. Ehler requested copies of the actual Act be placed in the Council member's agenda packets.

Chief Richardson updated the Committee with regard to the National Weather Service's Skywarn Training being held on Wednesday, March 11, 2009, at 6:30 p.m. at the Community Center.

Improvement and Services

Klein advised the committee that the City's current Sludge hauler and spreader is no longer in business. Klein stated that he is soliciting quotes from other service providers and that he and Water Superintendent Lange will be viewing them and providing a recommendation and review of bids at Monday's Council meeting.

Parks Lead Hagenah discussed the 455 mower and the need to put even more money into it prior to it being operational this year. The Committee felt this was the best course of action in lieu of replacing the mower at this time.

Klein inquired if there were any objections to obtaining the City's salt supply once again from the State of Wisconsin's State Road Salt Bid. It was discussed that the State's rate is the best value and the fill is guaranteed. There were no objections from the Committee.

Hagenah discussed the need to have some crack sealing done and that the City's past provider is no longer in business. Quotes will be obtained from several other local communities.

Klein commended the Street department on their improved efficiency and their ability to handle the recent snows without any outside contracted assistance.

With the Improvement and Services Chair being absent, there was no discussion on the City shop being replaced.

Mayor Picha brought up an inquiry he had from a citizen in Tinker's Bluff with regard to runoff. Klein will have the City engineer analyze the issue and provide a recommendation for fixing the problem.

Hagenah brought up the fact that area contractors are taking salt from the City shop causing the stock to dwindle. After some discussion on what has been acceptable and what is not, Klein was directed to place an ad in the paper indicating it is not permissible for any individual or business to take salt from the City stockpile.

Finance and Personnel

As there were no issues with the bills, Lankey stated that approval of the bills should be placed on the Council agenda.

Klein discussed the new employee compensatory time agreement and corresponding policy addition to the employee handbook. Both items will be placed on the Council agenda.

Klein advised the Committee that the City attorney reviewed his HRA proposal and had no issues with it from a legal standpoint.

Chief Richardson provided an explanation of the City's police field training program. Chief Richardson sought approval for part-time Officer Joe Kellog to go over the 600 hours in a rolling calendar year, thereby mandating he be placed in the State's retirement system with the City's portion being 15%. The approval is based on the difficulty attracting a solid pool of part timers and Kellog's availability. After it was determined that the extra amount the City would need to pay would be less than \$500.00 per year, the Committee provided approval for Kellog to go over the 600 hour threshold.

Klein advised the Committee that a posting would be placed in this week's newspaper for City lifeguards and water safety instructors. Klein then sought approval from the Committee to seek additional employee benefits in the form of supplemental deferred compensation retirement plans such as 457 plans and life insurance. The Committee had no issue with providing additional benefits that are paid for entirely by the employee.

Mayor Picha discussed the Veteran's Memorial Account and the need for the City to turn those funds over to the respective VFW and American Legion Posts with the understanding that if both groups are dissolved, the City would control the funds to be used solely at the Veteran's Memorial.

Klein discussed the next steps in strategic planning and there was discussion on who the committee would consist of. Klein handed out homework to the committee from Facilitator Jenny Erickson.

A motion was then made by Ehler and seconded by Jones to go into closed session for the purpose of deliberating the purchase of public properties in accord with the hospital relocation. The motion carried, and at 8:02 p.m. the Committee went into closed session.

At 9:19 p.m. Onsager made a motion to go into open session which was seconded by Kubarski. The motion carried. There was no action to be taken from closed session. Klein will invite members of the hospital to next week's Common Council meeting.

With no other updates, a motion was made by Sweeney, and seconded by Lankey to adjourn at 9:23 p.m. Motion carried.