

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE MEETING
Monday, September 10, 2012 – 6:30 p.m.
Lincoln Center ~ 1519 Water Street

PRESENT: Chairperson Moore; Alderpersons Slowinski, O'Meara, Patton, Phillips

OTHERS

PRESENT: Mayor Halverson; C/T Schlice; Clerk Moe; Attorney Molepske; Alderpersons Suomi, M. Stroik, Wiza, Trzebiatowski; Directors Schatschneider, Lemke, Ostrowski, Schrader, McGinty; Chief Ruder; Assessor Siebers; Assistant Chiefs Zenner and Skibba; Carrie Freeberg; Commissioner Hanson; Assistant to the Mayor Pazdernik; Barb Jacob; Corey Ladick; Matthew Brown ~ Portage County Gazette; Brian Kowalski ~ Stevens Point Journal

Chairman Moore called the meeting to order.

1. Discussion and possible action on new position requests:

Dispatcher

Police Officer

Late Night Transit Supervisor (half-time to be added to current half-time position)

Mayor Halverson addressed the Committee. He indicated that per City Administrative Policy, he is required to place the new position requests before the Personnel Committee along with his recommendation as to whether or not to approve the creation of the new positions being requested.

Mayor Halverson requested approval of the additional hours for the Late Night Transit Supervisor. He stated that the addition of these hours are able to be handled within the existing budget and there is no change to the local share for the Transit Division as a result of this request.

Mayor Halverson stated that the other two requests are different; his suggestion for these two requests would be to deny them. The operational justification provided by Chief Ruder and Director McGinty indicate both positions are very much needed, however as we look at

2013 financially Mayor Halverson disclosed that he and the Comptroller have developed a budget that for the first time in fifteen years will be balanced without the use of fund balance. This is something that they have worked very hard to get to. If the Committee were to approve these two positions, although warranted and needed in the City, it would create an extreme budget challenge to maintain the discipline of the budget being put together and it would require dollars from somewhere else to apply to these two positions. The need exists; as we are looking at our new construction and the new growth we are experiencing, we are growing exponentially and that needs to continue in this community. Mayor stated based on the value projections that the Assessor as well as the Comptroller and he have extrapolated out; we will be positioned, based on the balanced budget to add staff for 2014. It will be the first time the Common Council will be able to have a very broad discussion about what those priorities can or should be. There are going to be other position requests likely from Public Works as well as Parks; they've had their staff eliminated over the years. Mayor Halverson's request to the Committee would be to deny these new positions requests. Based on the stance that the Police & Fire Commission took at their most recent meeting where this was discussed, we would be preparing the department as best we could for the hopeful introduction for a forensic officer for 2014. My request to you would be to deny dispatcher request as well as the police officer request and approve the late night transit supervisor addition of .5 given that it doesn't change the existing budget and it doesn't impact the levy and does not modify the local share.

Alderman Phillips questioned what will happen in next year's budget for funding of the late night supervisor in Transit. Mayor Halverson replied that ridership and revenue projections look to be stable and new partnerships are being developed that will allow this to be sustainable and not affect the future of any potential increases associated with the increase of .5 to that position.

Alderman Moore questioned whether the position title was an appropriate one. Is it truly in need of being a supervisory position? Director Lemke replied that the position title would also be modified to LNT supervisor/dispatch-scheduler.

Alderman Phillips moved to approve the Mayor's recommendation of denial of the forensic officer position as well as the dispatcher position and approval of the .5 addition for the LNT supervisor/dispatch-scheduler; Alderman Slowinski seconded the motion.

Alderman Patton questioned what the cost of a police officer and dispatcher would be. Mayor Halverson replied that wages and benefits for a police officer would be approximately \$100,000 and a dispatcher would be approximately \$80,000.00.

Alderman Phillips asked Mayor Halverson to address the cost of the health insurance benefit. Mayor Halverson replied that the employee contribution reduces the cost to the number included in the materials.

Alderman Wiza commented on the Mayor's understanding of the Police & Fire Commission's stance on the new positions requests. He referred to the GeoComm Study relating to joint dispatch and stated there are some things that can be implemented. Additional dispatcher is warranted; what surprised him was that we don't already have someone on staff to do computer forensics. Cameras, any digital device hard disc recovery checking e-mail address, IP addresses, we don't have anything like that. We don't have the facility to do this nor trained staff. The capitol projects the Mayor mentioned and getting the teams and the technology there to be able to do it is only part of the equation. We need to allocate at least some money in the budget for training. There is a cost for sending these things out. Alderman Wiza stated that he wants to make sure the Committee and the Council are aware that this is something he thinks is sub-par and that we need to at least be aware of it and hopefully can add some money to the budget in 2013 for training to initiate these things.

Ayes all; nays none. Motion carried.

2. Discussion and possible action on out of state travel for 2013

Reference was made to the memo included in the packet from the City Assessor relative to his anticipated out of state travel in 2013. Mayor Halverson referenced the potential of an additional request for out of

state travel for Public Works to attend a national conference. This request, however, is not before the committee this evening.

Alderman Phillips moved to approve the request of the City Assessor for out of state travel in 2013; Alderman O'Meara seconded. Ayes all; nays none. Motion carried.

3. Notice of Intent ~ Employee seeking Public Office

Alderman O'Meara moved to acknowledge receipt of notice of intent and place it on file; second by Alderman Moore. Ayes all; nays none. Motion carried.

4. Motion by Alderman Phillips second by Alderman Slowinski to adjourn into closed session (6:45 p.m.) pursuant to Wisconsin State Statute 19.85(1)(e) [conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session] to discuss bargaining parameters with City employees.

Roll Call: Moore, Phillips, Patton, Slowinski, O'Meara
Ayes all, nays none; motion carried.