

**City of Stevens Point
SPECIAL COMMON COUNCIL**

Lincoln Center
1519 Water Street

January 8, 2015
5:45 P.M.

Mayor Gary Wescott, presiding

ROLL CALL: Ald. Doxtator, Walther, Wiza, M. Stroik, Slowinski, Trzebiatowski, Patton, R. Stroik, Phillips, Moore.

EXCUSED: Ald. O'Meara

ALSO

PRESENT: Clerk Moe, C/T Ladick; Director Lemke; Alex Kochanowski, Allen Rasmussen; Sari Lesk, Stevens Point Journal.

Discussion and possible action on the following:

2. Resolution directing a Spring Primary Election for the Office of Mayor.

Mayor Wescott stated that by state law, Alderpersons who are running for Mayor may vote on this agenda item.

Ald. Trzebiatowski **moved**, Ald. Slowinski seconded, to approve the spring primary for Mayor.

Ald. Moore asked Clerk Moe to clarify the process for the spring primary.

Clerk Moe stated the primary would be held February 17, 2015 and would follow a similar format as previous primary elections.

Ald. Moore asked if the end result would be the two candidates with the most votes advancing to the general election.

Clerk Moe replied yes.

Ald. Doxtator stated he supports the primary as there would be a clear majority election winner.

Call for the Vote: Ayes: Ald. Moore, Phillips, R. Stroik, Patton, Trzebiatowski, Slowinski, M. Stroik, Wiza, Walther, Doxtator.

Nays: None. Motion adopted.

3. Resolution directing a Spring Primary Election for the Office of Alderperson in Districts where there are three (3) or more qualified candidates.

Ald. Wiza **moved**, Ald. M. Stroik seconded, to authorize a primary election for Alderpersons in districts where there are three (3) or more qualified candidates.

Ald. R. Stroik stated he supports the Alderperson primary because there is a general city-wide election for Mayor.

Mayor Wescott added this could potentially enhance voter turn-out because of competition within the districts.

Ald. Phillips asked what the process would be if an alderperson candidate earned more than 50% of the vote in a specific district.

Mayor Wescott stated the two top vote receivers would advance to the general election.

Clerk Moe confirmed this.

Call for the Vote: Ayes: Ald. Doxtator, Walther, Wiza, M. Stroik, Slowinski, Trzebiatowski, Patton, R. Stroik, Phillips, Moore.
Nays: None. Motion adopted.

4. The action taken at the Special Personnel Committee meeting of January 8, 2015.

Ald. Phillips asked if there would be transit staffing issues if this leave of absence was granted.

Director Lemke replied this would be difficult to predict with certainty as there is the potential for retirement and medical leaves.

Ald. Trzebiatowski asked what the leave of absence would encompass if the candidate was eliminated after the primary.

Mayor Wescott asked Alex Kochanowski to clarify his request of a leave of absence to campaign for Mayor. He asked if Mr. Kochanowski was eliminated in the February 17, 2015 primary, would he still continue his leave of absence.

Mr. Kochanowski stated he would be willing to leave that up to the Committee or the Council and it could be revisited at that time. He stated he is currently off work until January 20, 2015 because he drives the UWSP bus route and students are off until then.

Mayor Wescott asked if it would be beneficial to terminate the leave of absence effective February 18, 2015, pending outcome of the primary or leave it in effect no matter the outcome of the primary.

Mr. Kochanowski stated if it would be better for Council to determine the leave of absence ending February 17, 2015 and return to work on the 18th he was

comfortable with that. He said a request for an additional leave of absence could be revisited at that point if there remained a conflict of interest.

Mayor Wescott stated it would be best to take the request verbatim. The leave of absence would remain in effect through Election Day, April 7, 2015. He said this could be revisited should circumstances change.

Ald. R. Stroik asked if Mr. Kochanowski was eliminated in the February 17, 2015 primary, would he need to approach the Personnel Committee to be reinstated.

Mayor Wescott stated yes.

Mr. Kochanowski asked what the policy is regarding Alderpersons who are candidates for Mayor voting or rescuing themselves when there may be a potential conflict.

Mayor Wescott replied state law states that discretion is left up to the candidates to either vote or abstain. He stated he is inclined to recommend the approval of the leave of absence request.

Ald. Trzebiatowski **moved**, Ald. R. Stroik seconded to approve the leave of absence request until April 8, 2015 and if his situation changes, he contact Personnel and his manager for reinstatement earlier.

Ald. Phillips asked if there was a replacement driver for this route.

Mr. Kochanowski stated this is handled similar to when someone calls in sick.

Call for the Vote: Ayes: Ald. R. Stroik, Patton, Trzebiatowski, M. Stroik
 Nays: Ald. Phillips, Slowinski, Walther, Doxtator
 Abstain: Ald. Moore, Wiza. Tie vote.
 Mayor Wescott voted aye. Motion adopted.

5. **Adjournment.**

Meeting adjourned at 5:31 p.m.