

Meeting Minutes

Personnel Committee

December 11, 2006, 6:28p.m.

City Water Department, 300 Bliss Avenue

Present: Chairman Moore; Alderpersons Molski, Sevenich, Hanson, Wiza

Also Present: Mayor Wescott; Comptroller/Treasurer Schlice; Clerk Moe; Directors Schrader, Halverson, Gardner, Euclide; Alderpersons Trzebiatowski, Stroik, Slowinski, Barber, Walther, Robinson; Assessor Kuehn; Chief Morris; Chief Barnes; Mary Ann Laszewski; Reid Rocheleau; Peter Ananiadis; Elbert Rackow; Gene Kemmeter - Portage County Gazette; Personnel Specialist Jakusz

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1. Request to amend City Ordinance Chapter 5 (Police Department and Regulations), Section 5.04, Officers of the Department.
2. Discussion and possible action on the Mayoral salary for the 2007-2010 term of office.
3. Adjournment.

Chairman Moore called the meeting to order.

1. Request to amend City Ordinance Chapter 5 (Police Department and Regulations), Section 5.04, Officers of the Department.

Personnel Specialist Jakusz explained that this change (increasing the number of Police Officers from 30 to 31) is due to the addition of the recently approved, partially grant-funded Police Officer position.

Alderperson Molski moved, Alderperson Wiza seconded, all ayes to approve the amendment to City Ordinance Chapter 5 (Police Department and Regulations), Section 5.04, Officers of the Department.

2. Discussion and possible action on the Mayoral salary for the 2007 - 2010 term of office.

Mayor Wescott reviewed the recommendation contained in his memo of December 8, 2006 which provides the following salary structure:

Commencing April 17, 2007 \$56,000

Commencing April, 2008 \$57,680

Commencing April 2009 \$59,410

Commencing April, 2010 \$61,192

Mayor stated that he reviewed mayoral salaries in area communities and sought input from the Chairpersons of the Finance and Public Protection Committees. He added he would normally seek input from the Chair of Personnel, but Alderperson Moore is a candidate for that position so he sought input from Alderperson Sevenich. He also stated that a few alderpersons approached him to discuss the salary.

Mayor clarified that the salary outlined from 2008, 2009 and 2010 would become effective on the third Tuesday in April of each of those years.

Alderperson Robinson spoke in opposition of lowering the salary because the incumbent isn't seeking re-election. He stated that four years ago when the incumbent was seeking re-election in a contested race the pay was increased. He also feels that increased employee benefit contributions should be taken into consideration when setting the salary.

Reid Rocheleau stated that he is astonished the Mayor would involve himself in setting the salary for the upcoming term; he is also surprised that Alderpersons would confer privately about the salary instead of at a public meeting. His opinion is that the salary should be set at \$63,000 for each year of the term.

Alderman Wiza recapped the Mayor's recommendation and stated Mayor Wescott has 12 years of experience and he understands and agrees with the rationale.

Alderman Wiza moved, Alderman Hanson seconded approval of Mayor's salary recommendation for the 2007 - 2010 term of office; discussion ensued.

Alderman Stroik stated that he is one of the Alderperson's who approached Mayor Wescott to discuss the salary for the upcoming term of office. Alderperson Stroik asked if this is how the salary had been set historically. Both Mayor Wescott and Alderperson Molski confirmed that this is the process of how the mayoral salary has been set in the past.

Alderperson Robinson stated that the salary is set for the position, not for the person and as such, reducing the pay is not appropriate.

Alderperson Sevenich stated that she also spoke with Mayor Wescott regarding the salary for the upcoming term of office and feels that it is appropriate to reduce the salary.

Alderperson Hanson referred to the recent discussion and action by the City Council relative to a pay raise for the Alderman. He stated that those who spoke in opposition of a raise were praised; now they are being blasted that the salary for the position of Mayor is underpaid. He added that those running for the office will know the salary before they run.

Chairperson Moore called for the vote; ayes all, nays none motion carried.

3. Adjournment - 6:52 p.m.

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