

MEETING MINUTES

FINANCE & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY - DECEMBER 6, 2006 - 6 p.m. - COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Members Present: Romberg, Morack, O'Connell, Betts, Henke

Others present: Tate, Villiesse, Hager, Dave Tebo, Jim Schlies, George Dearborne, Pat Connor, Rousseau

Romberg called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

1. Dave Tebo, Town of Greenville, George Dearborne, Town of Menasha and Jim Schlies, Fox Cities Chamber of Commerce introduced themselves and invited the City to join the Fox Cities Economic Development Partnership. They reviewed the role of the Partnership, its accomplishments and goals. Joining the Partnership would enhance New London's marketing efforts for industrial and commercial properties and solidify its position as one of the Fox Valley communities. There would be a \$1500 membership fee annually. The Committee will make a decision and recommend to Council at its January meeting.

2. Pat Connor of MLG Commercial spoke in favor of the City's membership in the FCED Partnership. He said MLG has had a long relationship with the group, and that the City would greatly benefit from its membership. Mr. Connor reviewed recent market activities for the NENLBC. A potential tenant is now being prequalified. Overall, interest in the Park and of the Commercial properties remain low.

There was discussion, as with the previous group, on the local and State economics. Wisconsin remains strong in manufacturing jobs and this is expected to continue. There is a statewide shortage of welders and machine operators. Studies indicate that the high schools are not meeting the needs of businesses by training non-college bound graduates in the skills they need to enter the job market. Everyone repeated that real job growth comes by retaining, and facilitating the growth of current businesses.

3. Morack and Betts reviewed what they had learned about the Main Street Program. The key factor is buy-in by the local businesses, to participate in and financially support the program. Efforts will be made to encourage business support and commitment.

4. Villiesse distributed the 2006 tax rates. The rates are lower than those suggested during the revaluation. Romberg stated that the true reaction to the revaluation will come now as people receive their tax bills.

5. Henke/Morack to recommend approval of the poll workers list to the Common Council. Carried 5-0.

6. An ordinance amending residency requirements was discussed. Committee members inserted language to allow for Council review of residency requirements set by the various oversight committees. This will encourage consistency and uniformity. Each oversight committee will have to address residency and issue a policy statement under the terms of this ordinance. Henke/Morack to recommend the ordinance to the Council, as now amended.

Carried 5-0. [O'Connell had previously moved to leave current policy untouched, however, there was no second].

7. The Investment Policy was reviewed, additional changes were recommended and it will be reviewed again at the next meeting.

8. Villiesse advised that in January an employee health insurance review committee will be established.

9. Budget and Economic Development Reports were discussed. Members discussed the feedback from Rhinelander on their "first impressions" visit to our Community. Also, members were looking for a response from Earl on expedited garbage clean up options and an opinion on the use of the word "citizen" describing persons eligible for Commissions or Board membership.

10. There being no other business, O'Connell/Morack to adjourn. Committee adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Jim Villiesse
City Clerk