

MEETING MINUTES

FINANCE & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 3, 2007 6 p.m.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Members Present: Romberg (Chair), Morack, Tate, O'Connell, Barrington

Others present: Herminath, Hager, Villiesse, Luaders, Hunt, Rousseau

Chairman Romberg called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. Morack/Tate to adopt agenda. Carried 5-0.

1. City Attorney Luaders and City Administrator Hager reviewed a statutory demand for an additional easement from American Transmission Company (ATC). Luaders' question was whether the compensation tendered for the easement was adequate and suggested that we hire an expert appraiser to evaluate the ATC documents. It was noted that we have 90 days to respond to the ATC proposal. O'Connell/Morack to authorize the review of the ATC appraisal and to bring the matter back before the Committee at its December meeting. Carried 5-0.
2. Hager presented the results of his analysis of firms seeking to market our Industrial Park lands. He recommends that we undertake a sequence of 2-year contracts rotating the brokers at those intervals, unless a firm shows exceptional results. He suggested that we begin with Bomier. Morack/Barrington to offer a listing contract for 2 years to Bomier Properties. Carried 5-0.
3. The development of the City's Downtown revitalization site was discussed. Hager explained that the Trail work would soon start and the public would see the clean up and river beautification activity. Meanwhile, the floodway and floodplain mapping will proceed. It is important that this be done before the land is offered to Developers, as they will need to know what they can develop and what they cannot.

Meanwhile, the Downtown initiative is progressing. Downtown leaders are considering their options including design standards, Main Street Program, a Business Improvement District, incentives to fix up the backs and fronts of Downtown businesses, among other things.

Related to these are discussions on the repair of the riverwall and maintenance of the adjacent alley. Also discussed were ideas on river access and public/private docking facilities.

4. Kent next reviewed conversations with Engineers and the DNR on our Old River Road landfill. It was suggested that it would not be in our best interest to proceed

with a site assessment and it was determined such an assessment would not be grant eligible. There are methods by which the site could be developed privately by special permit without a site assessment, and this would be our best development opportunity. The site has a lot of natural beauty and offers opportunities for campground and similar developments. These will be considered. The Committee will revisit this topic in February.

5. Members discussed Elected Officials Compensation and asked the Clerk to do a compensation survey for the next meeting. A request for additional compensation for the Municipal Judge was then considered. The Clerk provided information on his effective hourly rate. O'Connell/Morack to establish the Judge's salary after the next election at \$10,000. Carried 5-0.
6. Tate/Morack to go to Closed session per 19.85(1)(e) to consider the purchase of property. Carried 4-1 (O'Connell against).

The Committee considered property acquisition of which would be of benefit.

Morack/Tate to return to open session. Carried 5-0.

Romberg/Tate to authorize the Administrator to contract with a buyer's agent to proceed with the Committee's desires. Carried 5-0.

7. Finance Director's and Budget Reports were discussed. The Economic Development Report was reviewed and questions on things about town answered.
8. There being no further business, O'Connell/Barrington to adjourn. Committee adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Jim Villiesse
City Clerk