

Finance & Personnel Minutes
May 7, 2008

In attendance: Members: Romberg, O'Connell, Tate, Barrington, Morack. Others: Herminath, Henke, Hanlon, Rousseau, Villiesse.

1. Chairman Romberg called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Morack/Tate to adopt agenda. Carried. 5-0
2. Forward New London requests that the City retain the services of Ed Wendland for the remainder of the year. Mr. Wendland has been providing valuable guidance to downtown businesses and the business district wishes to continue this relationship. Morack/Tate to recommend to Council to fund Mr. Wendland's efforts for \$2250.00 for the remainder of the year. Carried 5-0. If the Forward New London wishes to continue the program into 2009 it will be budgeted.
3. Building Inspector Paul Hanlon explained that the State now requires the inspection of tie downs, bracing and other aspects of any new mobile home parked in the City. As we have no inspection fee scheduled for this he brought forth recommendations to create this fee and adjust some other building permit fees. These were reviewed and accepted. Morack/Barrington to recommend to Council adoption of an ordinance establishing these fees. Carried 5-0.
4. Hanlon then reviewed the current status of raze orders issued on several unsound structures in the City and discussed the status of the Villa Apartment building.
5. The City had issued an RFP [Request for Proposals] seeking a consultant to review and revise our current non-union compensation plan and the status of police supervisors vs. regular patrol officers in terms of compensation and benefits. Eight firms responded to the RFP, at a recent meeting these were reviewed and two firms were selected for follow up (inquiring of the 5 most recent consultations their level of satisfaction.) With both firms getting glowing reports: Morack/Tate to recommend to Council to contract with the PAR Group, of Lake Bluff, Illinois. For \$10,600. Carried 5-0.
6. Herminath reported on a recent meeting where members of the Shamrock Club and City Council heard from persons involved in the town twinning of La Crosse with Bantry, Ireland.

It appears that an official twinning document is executed first and then a grass roots effort is made between interested parties who forge bonds of common interests between the two communities. This process will take some time and go through fits and starts. An official friendship committee will need to be established. A kick off meeting is planned for June 18 to gather together interested persons within the community.

7. A list of possible Council actions and the required majority needed to advance such actions was distributed. Members had some questions on the statutory details and these will be researched and brought forward to the next meeting.
8. Villiesse reviewed the process to be followed in selecting the new alderperson.
9. Henke lead the discussion on the use of electronic documents and technology rather than paper to conduct committee business. The Technology Committee will follow up on his ideas and look at he costs and feasibility of various options.
10. Villiesse then demonstrated the new wireless voting system to be used at council meetings.
11. O'Connell/Morack to recommend to Council an ordinance amending the membership of the Cable Commission. Carried 5-0.
12. Budget reports, and the Economic Development Report were discussed.
13. During questions and answers:
 - a) It was asked that conducting a new city survey be placed on next month's agenda.
 - b) That the employees be solicited for ideas on the most effective use of one of the houses recently acquired.
 - c) That we send one or more persons to the next FVTC LEAN class.
 - d) That we consider instituting some manner of employee recognition program.
14. There being no further business Morack/O'Connell to adjourn. Committee adjourned at 8:02 p.m.