

Meeting Minutes:

Finance & Personnel Committee
For August 6, 2008 at 4:30 p.m.
Council Chambers

Members present: Romberg, Tate, O'Connell, Barrington, Morack.
Also present: Henke, Herminath, Hager, Hunt, Villiesse, Rousseau, Beduhn.

1. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Romberg; Barrington/Tate to adopt amended agenda. Carried 5-0. Review of downtown alley easement agreement and razing permit policy were deferred to the September meeting.
2. Our Assessor's contract expires 12/31/08. Members would like a Request for Proposals (RFP) issued to evaluate the market. Morack/O'Connell to authorize the Clerk to prepare and send out an RFP for Assessment Services. Carried 5-0.
3. Stuart Beduhn of Bomier Properties, Inc. updated the Committee on activities with which his firm has been involved in marketing the NENLBC as well as other commercial & industrial properties in New London. He said that the tight money market is affecting everyone and there has been a drop in activity area wide. Many companies are now looking at building leases rather than outright ownership of land and buildings. He suggested that the City explore putting up a spec building to attract new companies in the current market. He mentioned that North Fond Du Lac has successfully filled a 60,000 square foot structure that they had spec built. North Fond Du Lac had no money in the project however they did guarantee the first two years of principal and interest on the construction loan. He also suggested that the City consider placing advertisements at the Outagamie County Regional Airport. In reviewing current activity Bomier has brought in new tenants for the Thedacare Building on North Shawano St. and assisted in the sale of the Cline Hanson warehouse to a distributor. There was also discussion of a local industry which has recently leased a facility in Hortonville. Stuart explained that in the current market, companies want to move into a modern, ready to remodel structure with a flexible lease, and in addition the company in question has only willing to pay lease rates substantially below market. After further discussion of the market, the economy

etc. Morack/O'Connell to renew the contract with Bomier for marketing the NENLBC through October 17, 2009. Carried 5-0.

4. The Board of Public Works would like to see the sidewalk program reinvigorated with an appropriation in the 2009 budget. Finance Committee members support this. It was suggested that unspent capital project funds from 2008 be designated for sidewalk and that the BPW should craft a new sidewalk assessment policy, which includes the criteria which sidewalk must meet to be replaced and criteria to justify new sidewalk.
5. Hager presented an Employee incentive program used by a California community. Members liked the basic structure and made some suggestions for changes in specific areas of the program. Morack/O'Connell to authorize the Administrator to initiate the program and evaluate its effectiveness after a year's trial. Carried 5-0.
6. Members wish to have some kind of Citizen Survey instrument, but don't want questions which only give a sense of a program's popularity with the citizens, but questions which result in specific input from the public about what they want or don't want in the way of services or service enhancement. They request assistance from the public, service clubs and City staff in the fashioning of questions, the answers for which would yield actionable results. Upon receipt of the questions it can be determined whether there should be one survey, or multiple activity focused surveys and how to conduct said survey. The committee hopes to have a compiled list of questions for the next meeting.
7. Budget and Economic development reports were discussed. There being no further business; Romberg declared the meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.