

Meeting Minutes
Finance & Personnel Committee
Wednesday – January 7, 2009 4:30 p.m. Council Chambers

Members present: Romberg, Barrington, Morack, O'Connell, Tate,

Also present: Herminath, Way, Hager, Radke, Villiesse, Hoerth, Kari Bunting, Lee Rousseau

1. Chairman Romberg called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. Morack/Tate to adopt agenda. Carried 5-0.
2. The Committee discussed a memo from John Varda an attorney specializing in railroad matters. He responded to a number of issues raised over the abandonment of Canadian National trackage from River Road to House Road and a decision to no longer serve Wolf River Lumber. He advised some immediate action and gave an estimate of the cost of his further services. The Committee discussed these with Kari Bunting of Wolf River Lumber and determined that it was best to proceed along lines indicated by Mr. Varda.

Morack/Tate to contract with Attorney John Varda over the Canadian National – Wolf River Lumber matter, with fees not to exceed \$3,500. City Administrator Hager is to request that Mr. Varda act on getting CN to agree to a "stand still" with respect to track removal, advise him of the City's action to contract with him and also advise him that within 40 days he will receive a "scope of services requested" letter. Carried 5-0.
3. Judy Radke reviewed with the Committee a summary of Non-Wage Compensation to be given to all employees with their W-2's, making them aware of the value of fringe benefits they receive. The Committee liked the format but suggested that next year it show the previous year so that employees may note the growth in some fringe benefit costs. Radke will proceed with the notices.
4. The Committee discussed the overall assignment of work. Morack would like to see a single person determining the priority of all work by City forces and assigning personnel by priority. He proposed working to change Union Contracts as needed to accomplish this. Action on combining Parks and Cemetery operations was put on the back burner until the larger organizational issues can be addressed.
5. Committee Restructuring. The Finance Committee looked at a draft ordinance, which would affect all City Committees, their jurisdiction and membership. The proposed ordinance was discussed in depth, and changes made to the draft as agreed by all.

Of contention, was the suggestion that the Board of Public Works not be composed of members from each District. This was debated.

Romberg/Tate to strike a sentence from the draft ordinance requiring this. Carried 3-2. (O'Connell, Morack against).

Romberg/Tate to recommend the amended Committee Restructuring Ordinance be adopted by Council. Carried 3-2 (O'Connell, Morack against).

6. Budget Reports and the Economic Development Report were discussed.

Questions and Answers:

1. It was noted that the Building Inspector has not been contributing to the Staff notes recently.
2. Members would like to see copies of citizens' complaints.
3. Members would like to see a report from the Administrator on how his goals are being met.

7. There being no further business Morack/Tate to adjourn. Committee adjourned at 6:24 p.m.