



CITY COUNCIL

Administrative Oversight and Land Use Committee

Tuesday, July 5, 2011
Meeting Report

Attendance: S. Marmarou, D. Reed, F. Acosta

Others Attending: S. Katzenmoyer, F. Denbowski

The meeting was called to order at 6:07 pm by Mr. Marmarou.

I. Interviews

Elsayed Elmarzouky (appointment – Police Civil Service Board)

Mr. Elmarzouky reported on the success of the community event held on July 4. He stated that over 900 people attended and were treated to free hot dogs, soda, face painting and music by a DJ.

Mr. Marmarou questioned why Mr. Elmarzouky was interested in serving on this board. Mr. Elmarzouky stated that he feels the need to assist the City with recruiting more minorities on the police force. He stated that the City's demographics are changing and the force needs to be better diversified. He stated that diversity will help ensure justice. He stated that he would also like to be sure that promotions are fair and equal. He noted the need for City residents to be comfortable with police officers and not be intimidated by them.

Mr. Marmarou expressed his agreement with Mr. Elmarzouky and described how he was part of a minority segment in the Police Department in the past. He also noted the need to hire City residents onto the police force.

Ms. Reed questioned the number of women on the force. Mr. Elmarzouky noted that there were a few.

Ms. Reed stated that there are no women in the Fire Department. She stated that women are often overlooked as a minority and encouraged the recruitment of women. Mr. Elmarzouky agreed.

Mr. Acosta noted that Mr. Elmarzouky is qualified to serve in this capacity and is well respected in the community. Mr. Elmarzouky expressed his appreciation and noted his wish to serve the community. He noted the need for more people to give back to the community and to lead by example.

The Administrative Oversight Committee recommends the appointment of Mr. Elmarzouky to the Police Civil Service Board.

James Reber (appointment – Citizen’s Advisory Board)

Mr. Marmarou questioned who was recommending this appointment. Ms. Katzenmoyer explained that the appointment has the support of Mr. Sterner from District 3.

Mr. Marmarou questioned why Mr. Reber was interested in serving. Mr. Reber explained that he resigned from the Board of Health and was reviewing other opportunities to serve. He stated that he had the most interest in the Citizen’s Advisory Board.

Mr. Reber questioned how this Board would function. Mr. Denbowski explained that the Act 47 Recovery Plan recommended that the City fill this Board in order to get resident input in the implementation of the Recovery Plan. He suggested that Mr. Reber review the entire plan. He stated that this Board has not yet met as there is a required quorum of 11 people and not enough appointments have been made.

Mr. Reber questioned how many people would serve on this Board. Mr. Denbowski stated the Board would have a membership of 21 people.

Mr. Reber questioned if Board members would be able to bring items forward or if the Board would give feedback on progress and programs. Mr. Denbowski stated that the Board would first receive an update on the initiatives that the City has completed and those that are in progress. He stated this Board would assist with the implementation of the plan as needed.

Mr. Reber thanked the Committee for the information as he felt it was important to learn about the requirements before becoming a member of this Board.

Mr. Acosta noted that this Board will make recommendations to the City regarding the Recovery Plan.

Mr. Denbowski also explained that the Recovery Plan covers five year time period. He stated that if the City does not exit Act 47 within the five year time period that a new Plan must be drafted. He stated that the Board would assist in drafting the updated Plan.

The Administrative Oversight Committee recommends the appointment of Mr. Reber to the Citizen's Advisory Board.

Reading Area Transportation Study Appointment

Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that this vacancy continues. Ms. Reed suggested that Ms. Katzenmoyer contact Fritz Rothermel and Frank McGough to see if they are interested in serving as they have planning experience.

The Administrative Oversight Committee adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Shelly Katzenmoyer,
Deputy City Clerk