



COMMITTEE of the WHOLE

CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES
April 25, 2011
5:00 P.M.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

D. Reed, S. Marmarou, J. Waltman, V. Spencer, D. Sterner, F. Acosta, M. Goodman-Hinnershitz

OTHERS PRESENT:

L. Kelleher, S. Katzenmoyer, F. Denbowski, C. Geffken, K. Kulp, C. Younger

Mr. Spencer called the Committee of the Whole meeting to order at 5:13 p.m.

I. Interview with Interim Fire Chief Kulp

Council entered executive session at 5:13 pm as this is a personnel issue. Council exited executive session at 6:20 pm.

II. Executive Session

Council entered executive session at 6:22 pm to discuss a legal issue. Council exited executive session at 6:35 pm.

III. Sewer Fund Investigation

Mr. Spencer reviewed the amendment. He questioned if the amendment will include the answers to the questions. Mr. Geffken stated that the questions will be answered via memo and will be a separate document.

Mr. Spencer suggested that Council schedule a meeting to discuss strategy. Ms. Kelleher stated that the first stage of investigation is discovery. She stated that information should be relayed to Council at that time.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz stated that this information needs to become public and suggested a report be prepared and a resolution adopted to accept the report to close the investigation.

Mr. Spencer questioned the use of subpoenas. Ms. Reed stated that the subpoena process may become too expensive.

Mr. Spencer stated that information would be requested from City staff. Ms. Reed also suggested requesting information from the City Auditor.

Mr. Marmarou questioned if information would be requested from former City employees. Ms. Reed suggested that letters be sent requesting the information and informing the former employees that if information is not given voluntary that subpoenas will be issued.

IV. Agenda Review

Council reviewed this evening's agenda including the following:

- Resolutions promoting Police personnel

Mr. Sterner questioned the process used for promotions. Mr. Geffken stated that the civil service process is used. He further stated that all positions will remain necessary in the department and are being filled due to vacancies.

- Ordinance amending the 2011 Full Time Position Ordinance to add a Planner II to the Community Development Department to focus on the Ricktown Project

Mr. Geffken stated that the Administration requests that this ordinance be tabled at this time.

- Ordinance setting the salary of the Director of the Department of Fire and Rescue Services

Based on discussions held during the executive session on personnel, this ordinance will be amended to \$77,500.

V. County Graffiti Abatement Program

Ms. Kelleher distributed a copy of a letter from the Mayor to the County Commissioners offering to contribute \$35,000 toward this program to ensure it continues as a regional effort. She stated that she has heard that the County believes since we can contribute financially to the program that the City should run the program.

Mr. Denbowski explained that the current program was funded by a three year grant which will expire in June 2011. He described three options available to the City:

- Contributing \$35,000 to the County to offset the salary of the program director. He stated that there has not yet been a response to the letter.
- Bringing the operations to the City as an in-house program with the opportunity for contributions from outlying municipalities to continue to participate
- Outsourcing the operations to a private entity

Mr. Denbowski stated that timing is urgent as the June deadline is fast approaching. He stated that now is the time to get the program running to remove as much graffiti as possible during the warm weather. He noted the need to hear back from the Commissioners quickly so that the City can move forward as needed. He stated that he will have a further update at Council's next meeting.

Mr. Marmarou questioned where the funding for the program would be drawn. Mr. Denbowski stated that the program would be funded through the solid waste fund.

Mr. Waltman suggested that the Mayor call the Commissioners in order to address this issue quickly.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz noted that recent research has tied gangs to graffiti in the Reading area. She noted the importance of removing graffiti and stated that it is spreading beyond the City limits.

Mr. Marmarou expressed his belief that this program needs to continue. He encouraged the publication of offenders who are caught committing this crime.

Mr. Spencer questioned when Council would receive its next update. Mr. Denbowski stated that he will further update Council at their next Committee of the Whole meeting. He stated that the City should have a plan to move forward at that time.

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 pm.

Respectfully Submitted
Linda A. Kelleher, CMC
City Clerk