

CITY OF NEENAH
FINANCE AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE MEETING
Monday, July 8, 2024 at 5:30 pm
Hauser Room, Neenah City Administration Building
211 Walnut Street, Neenah, Wisconsin

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Erickson at 5:30 pm.

Present: Chairman Erickson, Vice-Chair Boyette, Council President Borchardt, and Aldermen Steiner and Ellis, Director of Finance Rasmussen, Director of Human Resources Fairchild, and City Clerk Nagel.

Also present: Interim City Attorney Walsh, Alderman Pollnow Jr., Scott Boetcher, and Bethanie Gengler.

Absent/Excused: Alderman Steiner.

1. Public Appearances:

Alderman Pollnow spoke on extending the Interim Attorney hours to 16-30 hours/week. He feels we are fighting from behind as far as a management decision. Alderman Pollnow put together a cost analysis of different hourly options for the attorney along with a funding source. He is advocating for no less than 16 hours a week but would like to see 30 hours for the Interim City Attorney. He would the City Attorney attend all council, committee, commission and board meetings. Atty. Alderman Pollnow believes the city needs to start thinking long-term with the city attorney duties.

Scott Boetcher, 1061 Green Acres Lane – Encourages to look at the interim attorney position from a crisis management point of view. This is a very long term situation and would like the city to get ahead of the game.

2. Minutes: Motion/Second/Carried Ellis/Borchardt to approve the minutes from the June 24, 2024 regular meeting as written. All voting aye.

3. Review and make recommendation on Health Plan Renewal Update with M3 Insurance. (Attachment)

Bec Kurzynske from M3 Insurance walked the committee through her presentation about projected changes that will be coming forth in employee health insurance benefits. Committee members asked questions and engaged in dialogue with Ms. Kurzynske as she went through her presentation. The takeaway from the presentation is a projected forty-percent increase in costs for the 2024 employee health insurance, a cost which will be passed onto the employees. Health insurance options currently being researched include self-insured, employee health clinic options, and partnerships with other local governmental entities. This item was for informational purposes only at this time, more information will be forthcoming.

4. Information only, Interim Attorney 45 Day Review Update. (Attachment)

The committee reviewed Mayor Lang's memo regarding increasing the Interim City Attorney hours. Mayor Lang did reach out to the Department Heads to get a better understanding of what the needs are and what needs are not addressed. Consideration was also given that municipal court hours are not included in the interim city attorney hours of service.

Info. Only

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Interim City Attorney Walsh commented that if the committee is asking for a comparison of what is being addressed now versus what was being addressed with a full-time position, not everything is being covered. Currently, critical timing issues are given a priority, with less critical items being done as time allows. The question is more time necessary, depends on what services city wants. If the city wants to get back to the point of a full-time attorney, then a significant amount of additional time would be required. Deadlines are being tracked, deadlines are being met, but they probably aren't being met as quickly as the Department Heads would like.

The consensus of the Committee was to have Mayor's requested Special Finance and Personnel Committee Meeting prior to the July 17th Council meeting for the Mayor to bring forth a proposal for extending the Interim City Attorney hours. The Committee would also like the 45-day review of the position to be attached to recommendation to assure legal needs are being met.

5. Information only, legal update on pending litigation. (Attachment)

Interim City Attorney Walsh gave an update on the status of pending litigation.

6. Adjournment

Motion/Second/Carried Borchardt/Steiner to adjourn the meeting 6:50 pm. All voting aye.

Respectfully submitted,



Charlotte Nagel
City Clerk