

MEETING MINUTES

FINANCE & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE WEDNESDAY - April 4, 2007 - 6 p.m. COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Members Present: Romberg (Chair), Morack, O'Connell, Betts, Henke

Others present: Tate, Way, Toltzman, Villiesse, Larry & Carrie Katerzynske, Dave Sarna, Rousseau

Romberg called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. Morack/Henke to adopt agenda. Carried 5-0.

1. Larry & Carrie Katerzynske, and Dave Sarna, representing the Shamrock Club of New Dublin, informed the Committee that the Club had renewed its efforts and has found a community in Ireland for New London to partner with as a Sister City: Killaloe, Ireland (population 1500, area 37 sq. miles!). Information about Killaloe was distributed. Carrie explained, having experienced the relationship between Waupaca and its Sister City in Japan that the relationship will take time to build and the focus will be on cultural exchanges. When groups or individuals do eventually travel to visit one another individuals typically cover their own travel expenses, but the Community provides lodging for the visitor during their stay.

If all preliminaries go well, a sign stating that our Sister City is Killaloe would be welcomed. As in most ventures, you get out of it what you put in and the benefits to the New London area will come as the Community gets involved in the project and reaches out. There is high interest in rivers, wetlands and fish management. There is great interest in sharing information with our fishing clubs. There is also hope for teacher and student exchanges during the school year. While nothing in particular is asked of the City as this time, it was requested that a Council liaison be appointed to work with the Shamrock Club. Romberg stated that he would speak to the Mayor about making this appointment and that the City was firmly behind the idea, welcomes Killaloe to become our Sister City, and looks forward to a long and mutually beneficial relationship.

2. The Committee reviewed the letters of interest from Michael Barrington, Joel Kable, Jo Anne Owen, and Macushla Mulroy for filling the 3rd District Council vacancy and approved a list of questions for the candidates to respond to at the regular May meeting. Laura Betts, District 4 Alderperson, has now announced her resignation from the Council and the same process and questions will be used. It is hoped that both vacancies can be filled at the May meeting.
3. The Capital Projects Committee met prior to this meeting and recommends that 2007 projects include Hatten Park road work (for approximately \$26,000) and purchase of a Clam Shell Bucket attachment for the backhoe. Henke/Morack to recommend to Council the equipment purchase and project. Carried 5-0.

4. The City acquired a small strip of land accessing Dauterman's Parking lot in 1960. The owner of the adjacent property wishes to acquire this strip for \$100 in exchange for an easement granting access to maintain our utility lines. The property will be used for a new childcare facility. Morack/Henke to recommend to Council sale of the property and acceptance of the easement. Carried 5-0.
5. The Committee discussed the role of the Finance Committee when matters under the jurisdiction of other Committees have a financial impact. After a thorough discussion it was agreed that Committee Chairs share information with each other, and when special circumstances warrant topics will be placed on both agendas.
6. There will be a special joint meeting of Board of Public Works and Finance & Personnel to discuss Special Assessment Policy for sewer mains.
7. Assessment procedures were discussed and the working of our computerized assessment program. Committee members were hoping that another City-wide revaluation would not take place until 2016, as the Assessor with his Market Drive Program would be making the necessary adjustments to keep values in compliance.
8. Financial Reports were discussed. Committee members would like to see major category comparisons between the current year and the prior year.
9. The Clerk explained that employees were now being given a cash payment for opting out of family insurance coverage. The City has an IRS Section 125 Plan, which allows employee payments of their required share of health insurance premiums with pretax dollars. The City's Section 125 plan documents were updated in December of 2005. The Committee reviewing the complex health insurance issues and seeking assistance in presenting the issues and information to the employees, and negotiating coverage changes with the Unions recommends hiring Associated Financial Group to the Council for approximately \$9700. Morack/Henke Carried 5-0.
10. Budget & Economic Development Reports were distributed.
11. A special report on a conference the Clerk attended regarding local government response to current trends, environmental pressures and new methods to be used in planning processes was distributed.
12. An ordinance restricting the residency of Boards and Commission members was set aside until next meeting.
13. The Mayor read a Proclamation honoring and presented flowers to Alderperson Laura Betts, as this was her last meeting.
14. At 7:50 p.m. Romberg declared the meeting adjourned.

Jim Villiesse
City Clerk