

## MINUTES

### SHEBOYGAN COMMON COUNCIL

#### COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Wednesday June 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Rindfleisch at 7:00 p.m.

Ald. Present: Bohren, Bouck, Bowers, Dekker, Gischia, Hammond, Hanna, Kath, Kittelson, Montemayor, Radtke, Rindfleisch, VanderWeele, Versey, Wangemann (15)

Ald. Excused: Heidemann (1)

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes of the March 22, 2010 meeting – motion to approve by Gischia/second by Hammond – Vote 15-0 motion carried.

1. Sub-committee of Strategic Fiscal Planning report and update:

Ald. Dekker gave background information on the subcommittees.

Ald. Montemayor stated that gathering information was the charge.

Ald. Gischia stated that this session was to provide input and that the job of balancing the budget rests in the Mayor's office.

2. Department Head Updates:

**PUBLIC WORKS** - Director Bill Bittner – spoke of 3 approaches

- A. Continual marginal cuts – only way to do this one is people
- B. Look for Revenue Enhancements – fee for service basis
- C. Expenditures and Revenues – What should city services be?

A short recess was call on a motion by Chairman Rindfleisch/second by Hammond at 7:18 p.m.

Meeting resumed at approximately 7:25 p.m.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT** – Chief Domagalski

- A. Discussion held on Neighborhood Associations
- B. Number of sworn officers on dept. (was 82 now down to 78)
- C. Need for police officers to be pro-active before issues become major problems.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT** - Chief Hermann

- A. Echoes Director Bittner's comments
- B. Department is down from 89 to 69 people
- C. Need to find ways to be more efficient and generate revenue – hash out all the ideas first.

**MEAD PUBLIC LIBRARY** - Director Sharon Winkle

- A. Different scenarios regarding the library services were highlighted in the handout given to the aldermen.
- B. There does not seem to be any good revenue enhancing opportunities for the library at this time.
- C. Staff has been down-sized over the years while still moving ahead and offering a state-of-the-art service for the citizens.
- D. The library may have to lay-off employees in 2011.

**PUBLIC INPUT SESSION TOOK PLACE AT THIS TIME:**

- 1. Cynthia Morganweck – 832 N. 6<sup>th</sup> St., Sheboygan – stated to keep high quality business in Sheboygan, we need to support the library as it is. Support the Library.
- 2. Ed Wackowski - 2632 N. 8<sup>th</sup> St., Sheboygan - stated that we should transfer the Parking Utility to the DPW at no added cost. We should sell unused parking lots to the DPW.

3. Maeve Quinn - 310 St. Clair Ave., Sheboygan - she gave several statistics/facts on the library and stated that we should keep the funding level at the Maintenance of Effort.
4. Chase Longmiller - 2611 Rolling Meadows Dr., Sheboygan – he stated that continued cuts in all departments are not good for anyone. What do we want the city to look like? We, the citizens deserve a great looking city.

### **COMMITTEE DISCUSSION BEGAN AT THIS TIME**

Ald. Bohren directed his questions to the police chief regarding staffing levels and overtime issues. Chief Domagalski spoke of 2 retirements and 2 resignations, they are doing well so far with the overtime and there are 3 people on the Street Crimes Unit and we could use 1 more person.

Ald. Hanna stated that the changes the Chief has made in service ranks very high with the community. Police Officers are doing a fabulous job on the streets, on patrol and on bikes. Proactive approach is great! Thank you.

Ald. Bowers asked a question of the police chief regarding staffing levels. It was stated that the money for the additional police officers is now being used for other things.

Ald. Hammond echoed sentiments of Ald. Hanna – great to see officers in the community. Asked about investments in technology that would help long-term.

Chief Domagalski stated that he would pursue grant money for technological improvements in the department. He is also interested in changing the culture in the organization to become a learning organization starting at the lowest/entry level of the department. This will help to make the group more efficient – need to communicate constantly to make things better.

Ald. Versey expressed the same sentiment as previous aldermen. He is appreciative of police department efforts. He then asked about unit utilization.

Chief Domagalski stated that the neighborhoods are the building blocks of communities. Control the public spaces and be out in those public spaces where things are occurring. Officers need to spend time where the problems are. Random patrol gets random results. Work to try to reduce the fear in people.

Mayor Ryan wants to make clear that we've applied for a grant for 3 more police officers to be funded for 3 years.

Ald. Dekker spoke on the Library and wanted to clear up some misinterpretation on the Maintenance of Effort. If we go below the M. of E. we get expelled. How lenient will the state be with us if this were the case?

Ald. Bouck stated it would hurt Eastern Shores to kick us out of this area. Would the state want to do that to us? Discussion ensued on last year's give back.

Mayor Ryan stated that he met with heads of the League of Municipalities. Other cities have identified M. of E. as a real issue that they will be addressing this year in the state legislature. M. of E. may change this year.

Director Winkle said this approach to risk of expulsion comes from a year of conversation with Michael Cross. The topic has come up before – yes it is Eastern Shores that does the expulsion. There is a process to follow before expulsion from Eastern Shores.

Alderman Hanna asked to be excused at this time for an urgent phone call.

### **FIRE DEPARTMENT ISSUES WERE DISCUSSED NEXT ON THE AGENDA**

Ald. Versey – had concerns regarding Document 3-54 – Ward Reports. The submission of Incident Detail Reports were questioned.

Chief Hermann went on to explain the Detail Report – numbers are rounded up.

Ald Versey stated that good reporting times were rounded up/down and was concerned about the discrepancy. A better way is needed to communicate between the police and fire departments.

Ald. Hanna stated as Chairman of PP&S for 2 years there was only 1 complaint on response times. The Fire Chief and Ald. Versey should get together to discuss the document further and resolve the discrepancy.

Further discussion took place on the number of calls and response times submitted in the Fire Chief's quarterly report.

Ald Bowers asked about B2 Comp Time.

Fire Chief replied that B2 Comp time saves the city overtime dollars. It is given in lieu of overtime pay to employees at the Chief's discretion. It is taken as time off.

Ald Versey continued the discussion regarding response times, reporting and compliance ratings.

A motion was made to file Council Document 3-54 by Ald Versey and seconded by Ald Gischia. 15 in favor - 0 opposed.

Motion to approve Council Document 5-68 with no recommendation to Council made by Ald Bouck – second by Bohren.

Motion withdrawn – Discussion then took place regarding Document 5-68.

Ald. Bouck began a lengthy discussion regarding compensation of city employees. He encouraged our union presidents to take this matter up with our state representatives and offered the contact information.

Ald Bohren questioned the Fire Chief on the funding for the additional firefighters.

Fire Chief responded that a good portion of the money was there because we did not meet the May 1<sup>st</sup> hiring date.

Ald Bohren stated that if the money was there in the budget why did he close station #5?

Fire Chief – Ald Bohren you told me to close it. The savings went back into the account because the station is closed.

Ald. Hanna – Ald. Bouck is dead on – the state has a stranglehold on us – that is the dilemma and why we are where we are. The line turns ugly because of the retirement benefits (contribution to the WRS).

Ald. Gischia – The state system is rotten and the situation stinks from a taxpayer standpoint. We have talked about contribution from the city employees – People must understand the process (Mediation/Arbitration).

Ald. Bohren – Are you prepared to please open Station #5 on an interim basis? It is at the chief's discretion and eventually you will get your people.

Fire Chief – No, I need the people to open that station. Long-term fixes are needed. We need to sit down at the table together to find solutions on how to fix the problem long-term.

Ald. Bowers concurs with Ald. Bouck's thinking and wonders if the people can contribute to their own retirement fund?

Ald. Gischia stated he didn't know.

Ald. Hammond stated that there are 2 issues here – a short-term fix and a long-term fix. What do we do going forward? What does the fire department look like in 5 years?

Ald. Hanna concurs with Ald. Hammond. Fire Department will give back raises to help. Challenge the union to step up and lead the way on the Wisconsin Retirement. Love to be recognized as the first city to do this.

Ald. Bouck offered further discussion regarding union negotiations. He stated that he is not naïve, but idealistic. Stand up to great change and promotion of long-term change.

Ald. Versey stated, don't forget why we are here. He spoke of all the fire departments he researched outside of Wisconsin trying to find solutions to the problems here.

Fire Chief responded that he would need to see the research done in order to comment on it.

Mayor Ryan stated this issue will not be solved in the next month. Council needs to look at short-term fix and a long-term solution. We have 18 months to figure out a long-term solution. Cannot continue as we have – we need to take action. Need a long-term solution. Council needs to make a decision.

Motion made by Ald. Hanna on Council Document 5-68 to keep Scenario D (5 fire stations and the ambulance service) seconded by Ald. Kittelson.

Under discussion, the Fire Chief stated that when we opened Station #5, we had more people on the department, so no additional people had to be hired. Ald. Radtke asked for clarification on the scenarios. Ald. Bohren had a concern with the budget deficit in the future if we hire 4 additional people. Ald. Kath asked about the new pumper truck and the number of people needed. Ald. Bouck asked if a long-term fix for the fire department was something that was coming from the Strategic Fiscal Planning Committee. Ald. Hanna stated that maybe the Mayor will be getting the answers we need for a long-term solution. Mayor Ryan stated that he will be looking outside the box. An excursion is planned to Minnesota to check out some

different fire operations. Ald Bohren stated that he would get closer to voting for this and it would make it a lot easier if the union would consider some concessions in next year's contract negotiations.

At this time an amendment was made to Document 5-68 by Gischia/Hammond that the plan be accepted, contingent upon receipt of a letter from the union heads regarding concessions for long-term planning.

A second amendment was made to Document 5-68 by Hammond/Radtke that the long-term plan would be received by 12/31/10.

Roll call vote was then taken on the entire Document 5-68:

Ayes: Bohren, Dekker, Gischia, Hammond, Hanna, Kittelson, Montemayer, Radtke, Rindfleisch, VanderWeele (10)

Nays: Bouck, Bowers, Kath, Versey, Wangemann (5)

Excused: Heidemann

Motion made by Gischia, seconded by Hanna to file Council Document 5-37.

Discussion began.

Ald. Versey spoke on the Analysis Report and asked questions on the numbers presented.

Ald. Gischia stated that we discounted the whole report and then continued with explanation of the document.

Ald. Bohren asked the Fire Chief questions about the billing process and stated that we need a truer picture of this business.

Fire Chief spoke to the billing and ambulance questions and talked about allocation of time to ambulance and other duties. The new CAD/ RMS software is needed to do better reporting.

Ald. Hanna calls the question

Majority votes ayes, Ald. Bohren votes no on calling the question.

Vote taken on Council Document 5-37:

Ayes: (15)

Nays: (0)

## **PUBLIC INPUT**

1. Chase Longmiller 2611 Rolling Meadows Dr., Sheboygan stated that we need to all understand that at negotiation time we gave back 2% of our wages to help the city. Looking forward, now they have to help the city. We try to give the city the best fire department possible.
2. Carter Pawlus 414 Erie Ave., Sheboygan talked about fire department. Fire Department ambulance should be shut down. It is a government intrusion of unneeded jobs.
3. Matt Polzin 2822 S. 19<sup>th</sup> St., Sheboygan stated the concessions we make last year was to keep the guys on and we are more than willing to work with the city.

Ald. Bouck commends Chief Hermann for his professionalism and the scenarios presented here this evening.

Ald. Wangemann stated that Carter Pawlus has a right to his opinion and we should let him speak.

Motion to adjourn was made by Montemayer/ seconded by Bouck

Meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alderman Jean Kittelson

Vice-president of the Common Council