

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

MINUTES

Date/Place: Friday, August 11, 2006

8:00 a.m.

City Hall, Human Resources Office/Room 204

Present: Lucio Fuentez, Mary Lynne Donohue, Lee Montemayor

Ex-Officio Member: Edward Surek

OPEN:

1. Call meeting to order.

The meeting was called to order at 8:15 a.m. by Lucio Fuentez.

2. Approve minutes of the previous meeting.

Minutes stand approved.

3. Discussion and possible action regarding establishing new rate of pay for Alderpersons in 2008.

Lucio Fuentez: I'm not comfortable with making that kind of recommendation. For us to make a decision we should make a comparison with other cities. There is only so much money.

Mary Lynne Donohue: Would the Council be willing to cut its size from 16 members to 8? We might want to consider restructuring.

After some discussion a letter was drafted and with the Commission's recommendation.

A motion made by Lucio Fuentez and second by Mary Lynne Donohue to send the letter to the Council President, President of Salaries and Grievances Committee, with a copy to Mayor Perez. Ayes: Lucio and Mary Lynne - 2.

Abstain: Lee Montemayor - 1.

4. Set date of the next Civil Service Commission meeting.

Hold

5. Adjourn.

Motion to adjourn by Lee Montemayor second by Mary Lynne. Passed 3-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:15 a.m.

Attachment

August 11, 2006

Dear Council President Burg:

The Civil Service Commission has met regarding Resolution 152-05-06 which referred the matter of aldermanic salary increases to the Commission for its review and recommendation.

As an initial matter, the Commission does not believe that it has jurisdiction or authority to study this matter under the current Code of Ordinances. We strongly believe that this matter should be referred to the Salaries and Grievances Committee. Nonetheless, as a courtesy to the Council, the Commission has agreed to review the proposed salary increase.

In order to properly review the issue, the Commission proposes the following course of action:

1. We would ask that Human Resources obtain information from similarly sized cities within the state regarding aldermanic compensation. In order for this information to be helpful, we would also need to have a general idea of the amount of time an alderman spends on his or her duties, e.g., number of meetings attended each month, time spent reviewing materials, time spent on constituent issues.
2. We would need that same kind of information from the Council. We suggest a survey to all aldermen, simple and short, but which nonetheless gathers this information. At that point, we could make meaningful comparisons.
3. We need to have a full understanding of the budget impact of the proposed increase. As the Council is looking at a zero sum increase in the 2007 budget, we would need to know what other services or programs would be impacted in 2008.

Please let us know if you believe this to be an appropriate course of action. If so, we will then review the matter you have referred to us, even though this is not within the purview of the Commission's authority. However, we will not consider this as a precedent for future referrals from the Common Council which are not within our jurisdiction.

Respectfully,

Lucio Fuentes
Chairman Civil Service Commission

Cc: Mayor Juan Perez
Salaries and Grievances Committee