

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Special Meeting
TUESDAY, JULY 19, 2022
6:00 PM
Common Council Chambers

I. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Mayor Steve Hass with the following attending:

Paul Russell – District 1
Michael “Gus” Caylor – District 2
Rick Blake – District 3
LaDonna Fermanich – District 4
Dick Lupton – District 5
Mike Rick – District 6
Mark Weix – District 7
Steve Sabatke – District 8

Other’s present: Mayor Steve Hass, City Clerk Lori Anderson-Malm, City Administrator Dave Johnson, Finance Director Kathy Unertl, City Attorney Tom Hayden, Public Works Director/City Engineer Rod Akey, Building Inspector/Zoning Administrator Darin Pagel, Enrichment Center Director Tammie Mrachek, Fire Chief Josh Klug, Library Director Jessica Zellers (remote), Merrill Productions Nathan Meyer.

City Attorney Hayden and Park & Recreation Director Dan Wendorf were excused.

Residents present: Tina Scott, Mike Ravn, Gene Bebel, Outside Counsel Bob Burns

II. Public Comment

Aldersperson Gus Caylor spoke regarding his quote from the paper mentioning people read into his comment. He went on to say, he did not say eliminate and has not heard the word eliminate from any city official. He spoke about his opinion regarding the current city administrator position and wants the city to take time to figure out what the city wants before rushing into filling the position.

Mike Ravn spoke and concurred with Aldersperson Caylor regarding needing to take time before making a decision. The organization of a city is a key component in success in his opinion. The Council sets the contract and job description and does job reviews. The Council can put the checks and balances in the job description. He also stressed it is

better to do it right to fill this position rather than just to change things. He closed with saying this may be one of the most important votes this council will make.

Gene Bebel said he was in the prior discussion before hiring the city administrator. He suggested considering appointing another citizen group for future discussions. Measure what you want to do and what you want to get done. Good things have gotten done over the past years that the council has been a part of. Focus on the administrative part of getting things done.

III. **Open Session Items:**

Consider options and process of succession for City Administrator position due to pending retirement.

Mayor Hass started the discussion stating he is in favor of an administrator form of the government for the city. The city needs the expertise to take on the city administrator role to continue to grow. He said there is an option of an administrator or a coordinator.

City Administrator Johnson stated the main difference between an administrator and coordinator is the administrator has department heads reporting to them while the coordinator does not. Alderperson Rick mentioned the county coordinator does have department heads reporting to her. It was concluded that aspect of the position can be adjusted.

Alderperson Fermanich said citizen input is important and we need to take time going forward. She agrees with the comments from the Mayor.

Alderperson Blake agreed with the above statements and is in agreement of an administrator position.

Discussion continued regarding the make-up of the committee. Previously there were 3 citizens and 2 alderperson's. Mayor Hass said the citizens would not have voting rights and would have input only. The ad-hoc committee would make recommendations to the full council.

Further discussion occurred regarding an interim administrator. Finance Director Unertl stated the end of the year is a good opportunity for recruiting. She stated she is not interested in acting as the interim administrator and spoke for City Attorney Hayden stating he is not interested in acting as the interim.

City Administrator Johnson said the council has the ability to name person/persons as interim. He agreed to help on an hourly basis in the interim.

After a lengthy discussion including administration, council members and residents, it was decided a recommendation would be made to form an ad-hoc committee.

Mayor Hass will have Dustin Brown put a notice on the city website regarding the ad-hoc committee.

Aldersperson Fermanich made an adjustment to the initial recommendation stating the committee should come back to the council by early October. Without objection, that was added.

Aldersperson Weix made a recommendation to form an ad-hoc committee with 3 citizens and 3 council members for input and investigating the city administrator/coordinator position and come back to the council by early October. Aldersperson Blake seconded and the recommendation carried.

IV. Closed Session summary:

Mayor Hass read the following statement regarding closed session:

The Committee may convene in closed session pursuant to Wisconsin State Statutes Section 19.85 (1) (c) and (f) to consider employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of an employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction and to consider financial, medical, social or personal histories of disciplinary data of specific persons, preliminary consideration of specific personnel problems or the investigation of charges against specific persons which, if discussed in public, would be likely to have a substantial adverse effect upon any person referred to in such histories or data, or involved in such problems or investigations, to continue review of recently reported incident related to City employee(s) and to review the personnel file and status of a City employee.

A motion to enter into closed session was made by Aldersperson Rick and seconded by Aldersperson Caylor. A roll call vote was taken. On a 9-0 roll call vote, the committee went into closed session at 6:41 PM.

Outside counsel Bob Burns participated in the closed session.

Council discussed the city administrator position. Outside counsel Burns answered questions and concern regarding the transition.

V. Adjournment

The council did not reconvene in open session because there was no action taken.

Aldersperson Rick made a motion to adjourn. Aldersperson Russell seconded and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:32 PM by Mayor Hass.

Minutes prepared by: Lori Anderson-Malm – City Clerk