

MINUTES OF THE RULES COMMITTEE
Monday, August 1, 2016
7:00 p.m.
Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center
Council Chambers

Present: Mayor Elizabeth Tisdahl, Ald. Peter Braithwaite, Ald. Judy Fiske, Ald. Brian Miller, Ald. Ann Rainey, Ald. Eleanor Revelle, Ald. Mark Tendam, and Ald. Donald Wilson

Absent: Ald. Delores Holmes and Melissa Wynne

Presiding: Ald. Mark Tendam

Staff Present: Wally Bobkiewicz, City Manager, Erika Storlie, Deputy City Manager, Kimberly Richardson, Assistant to the City Manager, and Henry Ford, Assistant City Attorney II

CALL TO ORDER/DECLARATION OF QUORUM:

Ald. Tendam declared a quorum and called the meeting to order at 7:55p.m.

CITIZEN COMMENT:

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETINGS OF JUNE 20, 2016:

Ald. Rainey moved approval. Ald. Wilson seconded. Ald. Revelle noted her name was not listed as present and Ald. Wilson was shown as present and absent. Ald. Wilson commented that those corrections had been made. Ald. Rainey noted the minutes were extensive and really very, very thorough and is thankful for that. Minutes approved.

ADDITIONAL BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE ORDINANCES:

Kimberly Richardson reported on the changes to the Mental Health Board, Housing & Community Development Act Committee and Economic Development Committee. For clarification the Economic Development Committee and the Housing & Community Development Act Committee were both resolutions so this process will now allow them to be codified into our code. Also under Housing & Community Development Act Section 2-14-2 – membership, the number listed is incorrect. There are currently 10 members on the committee and there will continue to be 10 members consisting of 5 Aldermen, 3 residents of predominately low income neighborhoods, 1 At-Large-Member and 1 member representing the Plan Commission. Staff will make those adjustments to the ordinance.

Ald. Rainey asked about the reference that the committee must annually elect a chair person from among its members. The Mayor always appoints. Ms. Richardson said that correction would be made.

Ald. Miller asked why 7 Council members are on the Economic Development Committee and not all 9. Ald. Rainey explained that in the past the Rules Committee appointed Aldermen at

the beginning of every term to the various committees. At that time the Economic Development Committee was the most sault after Committee. And as the Council went from 18 members to 9 and got much more liberal, progressive, open and much more friendlier to one another instead of punishing Aldermen by not putting them on they rewarded Aldermen by putting them on. That is how it grew.

Mayor Tisdahl congratulated Ms. Richardson for being one of the top 50 up and coming young leaders in local government.

Ald. Fiske stated she thought 7 Aldermen on the Economic Development Committee was too many. When they have any committee that includes citizens and is top heavy with Aldermen citizens feel as though their participation doesn't really matter because a majority of the Council are right there at the committee. She would like to see them go back to 5 members and increase the number of citizen members by 1 or 2. Ald. Wilson pointed out that he also felt that a bit small number of Aldermen would be appropriate. Ald. Miller said he also agreed and would like to refer back to staff and figure out a way to revamp it.

Mayor Tisdahl responded that since she appoints the people no citizen has ever complained to her.

Ald. Tendam said he too would agree with Ald. Fiske and Ald. Wilson and thinks a greater representation from the community would be a strength in the committee. Ald. Rainey stated the citizens she knows on the committee have never indicated any intimidation. She would like to know what is negative about 7 members being on because they frequently disagree. A lot of good stuff goes to the Economic Development Committee and the good stuff gets approved no matter who is on the committee. She doesn't have a problem with whatever number is on the committee. Aldermen serving on that committee can give the citizens some addition information that they might not otherwise have.

City Manager Bobkiewicz said they strive for odd numbers so if they were to go from 7 to 5 they could still have a 9 members committee. This can be sent back for further study or make the amendment to go from 7 to 5, have a committee of 9 and move forward that way.

Ald. Fiske moved to go back to 5 Aldermen on the Economic Development Committee and stay at a 9 member committee. Ald. Miller seconded.

Ald. Rainey suggested that these changes take place for the next Council. City Manager Bobkiewicz clarified that it would be 5 members of the Council on Economic Development Committee with an effective date with the 80th City Council.

Vote: 1 to 7. Mayor voted nay. Ald. Fiske, Braithwaite, Wilson, Rainey, Revelle, Tendam and Miller voted yea.
Motion passed.

City Manager Bobkiewicz said if the changes as proposed by staff on the remaining 2 ordinance, 79-0-16 on the Mental Health Board and 103-O-16 on the Housing & Community

Development Act Committee are alright then staff would ask that the committee move that forward to the Council for consideration.

Ald. Wilson moved to have the changes to Mental Health Board and Housing & Community Development Act Committee go to Council for consideration as proposed. Ald. Rainey seconded.

Motion passed.

Ald. Rainey moved to have 5 Aldermen serve on the Housing & Community Development Act Committee. Ald. Wilson seconded.

Motion passed.

Ms. Richardson asked would this change have an effective date of 2017 after the election. The ones that have been approved by Council have a January 1, 2017 effective date. City Manager Bobkiewicz stated that the ones that involve Aldermen they will make sure they will have an effective date after the election.

Ald. Revelle moved to revise Mental Health Board ordinance 79-O-16. Ald. Wilson seconded.

Motion passed.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF CITY COUNCIL RULES:

After much discussion Ald. Wilson moved to have this item moved to Council for consideration. Ald. Revelle seconded.

Motion passed.

SETTING COMPENSATION FOR COUNCIL, CLERK AND MAYOR:

City Manager Bobkiewicz reported that Ald. Rainey provided addition information that is included in the packet along with the communication from the chair of the Compensation Committee.

Ald. Rainey stated she asked staff to provide her with the stipend that Alderman receive for insurance and looking at these numbers it seems it would be very difficult for anybody to say that it is fair and equitable for Aldermen to receive \$34,500.00 in one case and \$17,000 or \$15,000 in another case. They should all receive equal stipends across the board. She does not think their stipend should be the same as the Mayor or the City Clerk. But Aldermen ought to be treated equally across the board.

Ald. Revelle asked if employees are offered an opportunity to receive a stipend in lieu of benefits.

Ms. Storlie noted that there is an insurance waiver. If an employee has coverage with an employer or elsewhere, they are entitled to choose to get a waiver instead which is \$150.00 per month. City Manager Bobkiewicz added that on the other end the city provides a base amount of money for employees and then the employee is responsible for paying beyond that. Ms. Storlie pointed out that they have insurance premiums exactly similar to what the Council has which roughly amounts to 10% per person of the total cost of the cost of the insurance.

City Manager Bobkiewicz said those who have family coverage, those cost are then recalculated and the employee pays an additional fee. City Manager Bobkiewicz commented that if the Council wishes to go to something like that with a flat payment and then have the Aldermen pay an additional based on their need that could be done. There is any number of schemes that could be developed that could meet the needs.

Ms. Storlie stated there are several plans that anybody can chose from when it comes to the insurance. Some people chose to be covered under an HMO versus a PPO. Some choose to cover themselves or themselves and their spouse. Some will choose to cover themselves plus their entire family. The rates are different depending on how many people are covered and what type of insurance is chosen.

Ald. Rainey understood all that but stated when looking at the numbers there are some Aldermen who receive more than others and it is not fair. Ald. Wilson suggested perhaps those who have either no insurance or a significant disparity in insurance get a payment in lieu of the insurance. That is something that would be more fair and more equitable.

After a lengthy discussion Ald. Rainey moved that in lieu of compensation those of who are receiving so much less in terms of benefits that they each be afforded a 5,000.00 additional stipend. Ald. Wilson second.

The vote: 4 to 5 (Ald. Rainey, Braithwaite and Wilson voted yea, Ald. Fiske, Miller, Revelle, Tisdahl and Tendam voted nay.

Ald. Tendam opened the discussion on the actual compensation recommendation proposed by the Compensation Committee.

Ald. Raney moved to increase by 5% each year and not just the first year. In other words, \$15,990 and then the increase that was made this year will be added each year going forward. As opposed to just the \$15,990 for the rest of the term. Ald. Wilson seconded.

Ms. Storlie, for clarification asked if the 5% would be in addition to the 23% that was proposed by the Committee. Ald. Rainey said 5% on the \$15,900 and then increase by 5% each year annually.

Ald. Fiske noted that the currently they receive \$12,500. In 2017 it would be \$15,990 in 2018 \$16,789, in 2019 \$17,628, and in 2020 \$18,509.

Ald. Tendam asked for a vote on the proposed based salary plus the increment of 5% additional every year. The motion failed.

Ald. Braithwaite moved for approval the recommendation of the Compensation Committee of the \$15,990 for the new Council coming in May 2017. we approve the recommendation of the compensation committee of the \$15,990. Ald. Revelle seconded.
The vote: 5 to 3. Motion passed.

Ald. Wilson moved approval for the Compensation Committee's recommendation of the City

Clerk salary. Mayor Tisdahl seconded.

Ald. Miller amended the motion to have the same 23% percentage increase that the Council got for the City Clerk. Ald. Wilson seconded.
Motion failed.

Mayor Tisdahl moved approval of the Compensation Committee's recommendation with a 3% increase. Ald. Revelle seconded
Motion passed.

Ald. Braithwaite moved the Mayor's salary for the next council of \$25,317 effective, May 1, 2017. Motion to accept the recommendation of the Compensation Committee. Ald. Braithwaite seconded. Motion passed.

ALDERMANIC COMMUNICATION ALLOWANCE:

City Manager Bobkiewicz commented that Aldermen receive other paid services for multiple items which include mobile phone service, home internet service and cellular data service for iPads. There is not a real consistent application of this throughout the Council. His hope is to have a process in place moving forward with the 80th City Council. Asking that either a standard stipend be provided for communication services, that all members would receive. Or if Council would just like to standardize among mobile phones, home internet, cellular data services for iPad and it would start with the 80th City Council.

Ald. Braithwaite moved for discussion. Ald. Wilson seconded.

Ald. Braithwaite asked what the range would be. City Manager Bobkiewicz stated the City pays for 2 Aldermen's direct cost of the Comcast bill for home internet services and provide reimbursement for the 3rd Alderman who now rents and it was included in that rental cost. Erika Storlie added that costs are between \$25 - \$45.00 a month. City Manager Bobkiewicz went on the state that the city pays for a mobile phone for 1 Council member and 3 or 4 Council members receive cellular data services on iPads. Staff has standardized providing one device per Alderman, either an iPad or laptop and a cell phone. There's inconsistency and hopefully prior to the election they can have some consistency for the 80th Council.

Ald. Fiske moved that since they are all using iPads and a cell phone that is consistent with what they do now. Her suggestion is that the City provide services for 1 cellphone and 1 laptop or iPad as requested. Ald. Miller seconded.

Ald. Wilson said it seems to him if it is not broken continue with the reimbursement on an as needed bases.

Ald. Braithwaite – amendment to Ald. Fiske's motion. Suggested coming up with a flat fee to be used for mobile devices and Council members can choose to use depending on how they use technology. Made suggestion of \$60.00 a month.

Ald. Fiske withdrew her motion. Ald. Miller withdrew his second.

Ald. Miller suggested changing the word stipend to allocation in the budget for Aldermen's communications of \$60.00 per month. Ald. Braithwaite accepted.

Mayor Tisdahl asked how much money is this all costing for us to do the best job we can.

City Manager Wally said the cost is approximately \$500 a month for the full group, \$6,000 for the year.

Ald. Wilson moved to advance this to City staff to come up with an amount and a schedule for communications reimbursements for Council. Ald. Miller seconded Motion carried.

APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR TO THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE:

City Manager Bobkiewicz stated with the departure of former Alderman Jane Grover it caused a vacancy in the chair position of the Economic Development Committee. Staff is asking the Rules Committee to recommend a chair for the period through the October 2016 meeting. Ald. Rainey nominated Ald. Wilson. Ald. Revelle seconded. Ald. Wilson humbly accepted the nomination. Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS:

None

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting adjourned 9:40p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Darlene Francellno

A video of this meeting is available at www.cityofevanston.org/government/agendas-minutes/agendas-minutes--rules-committee.