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Office of the City Administrator

**PUBLIC WELFARE COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
November 11, 2014**

PRESENT: Aldermen Gierl, Mayr, Pukaite

ALSO PRESENT: Acting City Administrator Thyges, Alderman Nerbun (6:36 pm), Alderman Strzelczyk (6:16 pm), Police Chief Graff, Executive Assistant Prosser, Interested Parties, Press

The meeting was called to order by Alderman Mayr at 6:00 PM.

Approve meeting minutes of October 14, 2014

Action: Motion to approve meeting minutes of October 14, 2014 (Pukaite/Gierl)

Result: Motion passed by voice acclamation.

RESOLUTION 3257- Resolution in Support of the Creation of a Single United Way of Ozaukee County Organization

Acting City Administrator Thyges stated a citizen request has come forward from an individual who is active in the United Way Organization. Mr. Thyges went on to say, Ozaukee County is unique in that it is split between two separate and distinct factions of the United Way organization. Mr. Thyges noted the southern portion of Ozaukee County belongs to the United Way of Greater Milwaukee County and the northern part belongs to the United Way of Ozaukee County. Mr. Thyges stated a resolution is before the Committee for recommendation to the Common Council to support the creation of one United Way organization for Ozaukee County in 2015. Mr. Thyges stated the Assistant Ozaukee County Administrator will be coordinating the project for the county.

Action: Motion to approve Resolution 3257-Resolution in Support of the Creation of a single United Way of Ozaukee County Organization (Pukaite/Gierl)

Result: Motion passed by voice acclamation. Resolution 3257 recommended to Common Council for approval.

Item for Discussion: City's Code of Ethics

Acting City Administrator Thyges stated the city's code of ethics is before the Committee as an item for discussion per Alderman Gierl's request. Mr. Thyges stated the Committee has been given the section of the city's code of ordinances which codifies the declaration of an ethics policy governing the actions of elected officials and city employees. Mr. Thyges noted the section of the code sets forth standards of conduct, a complaint process, as well as, an adjudication procedure for ethics related grievances before the Ethics Board. Mr. Thyges pointed out, in addition to the city's code of ethics; employees are subject to ethical codes of conduct through their professional organizations. Mr. Thyges reviewed highlights of the city's ethics code with the Committee. Mr. Thyges stated employees and elected officials are all held to a higher standard set forth in the city's ethics code, accompanied by the employee personnel manual and professional ethical codes of conduct.

Alderman Gierl provided his reason for the request to review the city's ethics code. Alderman Gierl stated no where within the ethics code the word "honesty" appears. Alderman Gierl shared a one page sample of a code of ethics he drafted using samples from other municipal websites, and suggestions provided to him from business leaders, and developers. Alderman Gierl read the sample code of ethics out loud to the Committee.

Alderman Pukaite stated the current code of ethics spells out what city officials and employees need to follow, noting it is incumbent upon elected officials and employees to do what is right.

Alderman Gierl stated he would like to see that an honesty and fair dealings clause be included in the city's code of ethics.

Alderman Mayr recommended the city attorney review the current ethics code to determine if a honesty clause needs to be included.

Alderman Pukaite stated she would support a review of the code of ethics by the city attorney.

Staff was directed to bring back a review of the ethics code with the intent of adding an honesty clause to the next meeting with the city attorney present.

Item for Discussion: Coyote Culling

Acting City Administrator Thyges stated the topic of coyote culling is before the Committee for review per a citizen request and inquiry as to whether the city has a coyote culling program. Mr. Thyges stated in the past residents have voiced their concerns of coyotes. Mr. Thyges stated in March of this year an effort was made by staff to address resident concerns regarding coyotes in the area by holding an information work shop utilizing a speaker from the Humane Society of the United States. Mr. Thyges pointed out two sessions were held at the Mequon Nature Preserve; one during the day for elected officials and city staff and an evening session for general public. Mr. Thyges stated information provided by the Urban Wildlife Specialist from the Humane Society emphasized a culling coyote program would be expensive and ineffective; noting hazing or scaring coyotes out of an area is the recommended form of control. Mr. Thyges pointed out coyote hunting is legal in Wisconsin with a small game permit. In the City of Mequon potential hunters would need the proper weapons discharge permit in addition to the small game permit.

Alderman Gierl shared his experience with coyotes and noted culling coyotes would be difficult. Alderman Strzelczyk stated there is a lot of concern in the community and recommended the Committee consider baiting groups of coyotes.

Alderman Pukaite stated she would like to have additional information from the DNR about other options, available, insight from the police department and possibly obtaining opinions from hunting groups on how to control coyotes.

The Committee requested the topic of coyote culling be placed on the next meeting agenda for further discussion.

Adjourn

Action: Motion to adjourn the meeting (Gierl/Pukaite)

Result: Motion passed by voice acclamation. Meeting adjourned at 6:44 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Lina Prosser, Executive Assistant

CITY OF MEQUON PUBLIC WELFARE COMMITTEE