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Office of the City Administrator

PUBLIC WELFARE COMMITTEE
Tuesday, May 10, 2016
Minutes

1) Call to Order, Roll Call

Present:

Alderman Dale Mayr
Alderman Mark Gierl
Alderman John Wirth

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mayr at 5:45 PM.

Also Present: City Administrator Jones, Assistant City Administrator Thyges, Community Development Director Tollefson, Deputy City Clerk Fochs, City Attorney Sajdak, Executive Assistant Prosser

2) Approval of April 12, 2016 meeting minutes

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Alderman Wirth
SECONDER:	Alderman Mayr
AYES:	Mayr, Gierl, Wirth

3) Elect Committee Chairperson

Chairman Mayr requested nominations for Chair of the Public Welfare Committee. Aldermen Mayr and Wirth were nominated.

Motion to elect Alderman Mayr as Committee Chair.

RESULT:	APPROVED BY VOICE ACCLAMATION [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Alderman Wirth
SECONDER:	Alderman Gierl
AYES:	Mayr, Gierl, Wirth

4) Resolutions

- a. **RESOLUTION 3379** A Resolution Authorizing Renewal of a Mutual Cooperation Agreement For the City of Mequon's Participation In the Home Investment Partnership Program Administered by Waukesha County

Community Development Director Tollefson stated the HOME Consortium is a four county program established in the late 90's consisting of Ozaukee, Washington, Waukesha and Jefferson. Ms. Tollefson noted the City has participated in the program since 2005. Ms. Tollefson went on to say, the program assists in advancing home ownership opportunities through various programs for households with income below 80% of the county's median income. Ms. Tollefson stated a renewed participation agreement is required at this time due to federal law updates related to the Fair Housing Act. Ms. Tollefson pointed out the City's participation in the program is identified in the City of Mequon Comprehensive Plan 2035 as a government program that allows the City to assist in promoting housing choices. Ms. Tollefson noted there are no costs to the City for participating in the program.

Alderman Wirth questioned what would happen if the City did not participate in the program. Ms. Tollefson stated the City would need to formally pass a resolution to discontinue participation in the program, noting the City's participation would automatically renew unless the City proactively chooses not to be part of the program. Ms. Tollefson mentioned nonparticipation in the program may weaken the dollars available to Ozaukee County. Alderman Wirth moved to table the item for further information with regard to the program's default versus success rate.

RESULT:	TABLED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Alderman Wirth
SECONDER:	Alderman Gierl
AYES:	Mayr, Gierl, Wirth

5) Discussion Items

- a. Consideration of Ordinance Amending Sections 2-136 (2) and 2-137(b)(9) of the Mequon Municipal Code in Connection with Establishing an Honesty Definition and Provision within the City's Ethics Code

Assistant City Administrator Thyges stated the Ethics Code and Employee Personnel Code were last updated in 2015 to include an amendment in the Ethics Code that specifically prohibits dishonestly obtaining a financial gain. An amendment in the Employee Personnel Code included the term "honesty" within the expectations of conduct and "dishonesty" as an action that may warrant disciplinary action. Mr. Thyges stated the Public Welfare Committee was interested in pursuing further amendments to the Ethics Code and went on to provide an overview of the Public Welfare Committee's discussions related to amending the City's Ethics Code. Mr. Thyges indicated at the April 2016 meeting, staff was directed to prepare an ordinance amendment that incorporated a definition of honesty for the Committee to review at their May meeting. Mr. Thyges noted staff was directed to provide the Committee with the amended language one week prior to the meeting to allow enough time for review.

Mr. Thyes stated he did receive comments back from Mayor Abendroth, Aldermen Wirth and Gierl with regard to the code amendment. Mr. Thyes stated both Mayor Abendroth and Alderman Wirth's comments centered on a concern that the proposed language may be ambiguous and Alderman Gierl requested a fair dealings clause with the public and more specific non-retaliation language. Mr. Thyes pointed out Alderman Wirth provided his own amendment which has been distributed to the Committee members. The Committee reviewed Alderman Wirth's amendment to the proposed language.

Alderman Wirth moved to approve the amendments to the proposed language to Ordinance Sections 2-136 (2) and 2-137(b)(9) and forward to the Ethics Board for review. Assistant City Administrator Thyes stated, after the Ethics Board reviews the amendments the ordinance will come back to the Public Welfare Committee for final review and consideration before recommending approval to the Council.

RESULT:	APPROVED AS AMENDED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Alderman Wirth
SECONDER:	Alderman Gierl
AYES:	Mayr, Gierl, Wirth

6) Information Items

a. Official Newspaper Designation

Deputy City Clerk Fochs stated the News Graphic newspaper was adopted at the April, 2016 organizational meeting as the city's official newspaper. Ms. Fochs noted Council requested additional information to be provided to the Public Welfare Committee to review with regard to the circulation numbers, subscription rates and costs of the newspapers bidding on the city's official newspaper designation. Ms. Fochs reviewed the additional information with the committee noting that a newspaper must meet the criteria set by State Statues to be qualified as an official newspaper which the News Graphic does meet. No further information was requested by the Committee. Alderman Wirth recommended that the same memo format and information provided to the Public Welfare Committee be used for the next organizational meeting.

Alderman Mayr requested future agenda items be sent to Assistant City Administrator Thyes. Alderman Wirth suggested that the future agenda items be placed on the next meeting agenda for the committee to prioritize.

7) Adjourn

The meeting of the Public Welfare Committee was adjourned at 6:16 PM.

RESULT:	APPROVED BY VOICE ACCLAMATION [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Alderman Wirth
SECONDER:	Alderman Gierl
AYES:	Mayr, Gierl, Wirth