



CITY OF WAUWATOSA
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EMPLOYEE RELATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, April 14, 2009

Council Chambers

PRESENT: Alds. Donegan, Ewerdt, Walsh – 3

EXCUSED: Ald. Krol

ALSO PRESENT: J. Archambo, City Admin.

Ald. Donegan as Chair called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

Proposed salary reduction for council members

The committee reviewed a request by Alds. Jay and McBride regarding a proposed salary reduction for council members. In response to the economic conditions they felt the Common Council should consider a \$100 reduction per month in aldermanic salary for a period of twelve months. The alternative request is that the pay reduction be effective for a period of 36 months.

The annual salary for alderpersons is currently \$4,200 or \$350 per month. This salary was set by the Common Council in 1982.

Ald. McBride said that the issue of eliminating aldermanic pay altogether was discussed last year at budget time. He said that in these economic times he thought it would be a symbolic gesture to take a reduction in aldermanic salary. He felt this would be a good message to send to their constituents. He said that although they are probably underpaid, most of the council members have full time jobs for their financial support.

Ald. Walsh commented that he understands the good message it would send, but he doesn't agree. He said the city set the aldermanic pay in 1982 and it hasn't been increased since then. He felt if calibrated with inflation that would be approximately an additional \$125.00 and with this feels that they already are giving something back to the community. He felt that a person would be held more accountable when they get paid to do a job, and it is a reminder to bring value back to the city. This upcoming budget cycle will be a time to make tough decisions. He said a better message is sent when the city accepts stimulus funds which may be available. Employee health care costs with the unions need to be looked at.

Ald. Ewerdt said that the money that would be saved in one year with this reduction wouldn't make much difference. He would prefer finding a way to have a 0% increase that would mean something for taxpayers. A reduction of \$100 for three years has a maximum fiscal impact of \$57,600. Mr. Archambo said with a tax rate of 6.69%, this would make about a 75 cent decrease on a \$200,000 home. They need to look for items of substance in a tough budget year. He said that larger items need to be looked at, he felt that employee health care costs are out of sync compared to other communities. He noted that some council members may rely on their aldermanic pay as supplemental income. Ald. Ewerdt commented that Wauwatosa council members are paid much less than other communities, and they are not compensated for their cell phone bills, mileage or printing supplies used. The City of Brookfield has 14 aldermen and they earn more than double what Wauwatosa members earn. He said if they were in the median pay range or above average he would be more inclined to agree with this reduction.

Moved by Ald. Ewerdt, seconded by Ald. Walsh
to place item on file –

Ald. McBride said that the suggestion for the reduction in salary was for 12 months. If an increase was warranted after that, further discussion could take place.

Vote on the motion – Ayes: 3

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Carla A. Ledesma, City Clerk
City of Wauwatosa

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