



CITY OF WAUWATOSA
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COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Tuesday, March 8, 2011 – 6:33 p.m.

PRESENT: Alds. Jay (6:38 p.m.), McBride, Meaux, Nikcevich, Organ, Roznowski, Walsh (6:45 p.m.), Wilson, Berdan, Birschel, Causier, Donegan -12

EXCUSED: Alds. Ewerdt, Pantuso, Wilke

ABSENT: Ald. Hanson

ALSO

PRESENT: Mr. Archambo, City Administrator; Mr. Kesner, City Attorney

Ald. Meaux in the Chair

Consider of Communication Regarding the Wisconsin Retirement System Contributions in the State Budget Repair Bill. At the Employee Relations Committee meeting on March 1, there was general consensus among Council members present that consideration ought to be given to sending a statement to the Governor and State Legislature that without parity among all employees with respect to Wisconsin Retirement System contributions, Wauwatosa could suffer significant negative financial consequences resulting in loss of services to the residents.

Ald. Donegan added that the Employee Relations Committee is especially concerned with the city's ability to match projected Budget Repair Bill revenue reductions against the projected expenses in that same Bill. He also sensed that some Council members are concerned with the disparity that will exist between protective and non-protective employees in terms of benefits and compensation as a result of provisions in the Budget Repair Bill.

In response to a query, Mr. Kesner explained that a Committee of the Whole meeting was called to discuss this issue because the Mayor chose not to call a special Common Council meeting. Thus, any vote taken this evening will reflect action taken by the Committee of the Whole, rather than by the Common Council.

(Ald. Jay present 6:38 p.m.) -11

Ald. Meaux read the proposed statement.

It was moved by Ald. Donegan, seconded by Ald. Birschel to approve the sending of the foregoing statement. –

Ald. Birschel expressed concern that reductions in state aid may negatively impact the city's ability to complete infrastructure projects. He speculated that the city's bond rating could suffer.

Ald. McBride observed that the tone of this letter is consistent with the League of Wisconsin Municipality's (LWM) statement issued on February 15, 2011 which stated that "...if we are going to ask municipal employees to shoulder the impact of the state's budget deficit, then the burden should fall equally to all municipal employees, including police officers and fire fighters." The current situation does not leave municipalities in a good financial condition. Other communities share the sentiments expressed in the LWM' statement.

Ald. Nikcevich expressed satisfaction with the pro-active approach being taken by the Committee.

Ald. Berdan expressed disagreement with the proposed letter, voicing her support for the Governor's position. Due to her status as a state employee, Ald. Berdan indicated she would vote "present" on this issue.

Ald. Roznowski acknowledged his colleagues for their civil discussion last week of this issue. He voiced support for sending the letter, noting the alternative can mean even more difficult financial decisions facing the city.

Ald. Jay suggested this issue not be voted on this evening as some members were not present.

(Ald. Walsh present 6:45 p.m.) -12

Ald. Wilson opined that focusing on this one particular issue merits action this evening.

Roll call vote on the motion, Ayes 9, Noes 1 (Jay),
Present 2 (Walsh, Berdan)

The meeting adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

Carla A. Ledesma, City Clerk

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