

Richard C. McCarthy Commission Chamber
Millville City Hall
Work Session
August 15, 2023, 6:00 P.M.

The Board of Commissioners met in a **WORK SESSION** with Mayor Orndorf presiding. Members present: Hewitt, Sooy, Watson and Romanik. City Solicitor, Brock Russell was also present.

Salute to the Flag

The salute to the flag was led by Mayor Orndorf

Open Public Meeting Statement by Mayor Orndorf

"This meeting is being conducted in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act of 1975 and was advertised, posted and made available to the public as required by Statute. The Municipal Clerk is directed to include a statement in the minutes of this meeting."

City Clerk To Review Changes To the Agenda

Mayor Orndorf asked the City Clerk if there were any changes to the agenda with Jeanne Parkinson, City Clerk responding no.

Discussion of Commissioners

Commissioner Romanik

Commissioner Romanik reported the Construction Office was very busy with all the incoming applications for new businesses and stated that it is great that the city is moving forward.

Commissioner Hewitt

Commissioner Hewitt reported that it was a hot day yesterday at the pop-up Play Streets event at Wood School that was held by the Police Department and announced that next week is Police Youth Week.

Commissioner Watson

Commissioner Watson stated he would like to remove the non-binding referendum resolution from the Regular Agenda, because he believes employee raises should be the decision of the governing body and the union representatives should be provided with the opportunity to proceed with negotiations.

Brock Russell advised Commissioner Watson he would need to make a motion to have the resolution removed from the agenda.

Vice-Mayor Sooy stated that each Commissioner should be provided with the opportunity to comment before the motion is made and Mayor Orndorf agreed with Vice-Mayor Sooy but advised that she must recuse herself with Brock Russell advising that he anticipates Mr. Alderman attending the meeting on behalf of the PBA.

Vice-Mayor Sooy stated he is aware that Mr. Alderman is filing an Unfair Labor Practice, but the city labor attorney advised him the non-binding referendum is permissible, in addition Council 18's President does not have a problem with the non-binding referendum and if the police have a problem with it they can remove the police from the non-binding referendum. He further stated that it is not designed to put a cap on anything and stated the governing body members were elected to represent and serve the people and not impose their will upon them.

Vice-Mayor Sooy stated he sees it as an opportunity for the governing body to be informed of what the residents want and considering inflation, he does not foresee it going to arbitration and ending up with zero, that is nonsense, because he has never seen that happen. He further stated people want transparency and input and this is an opportunity for them to get that.

Vice-Mayor Sooy concluded that he is not trying to impose his will on the residents or on the governing body and referred to the governing body members for their collective wisdom and is fine with what they decide.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to remove the non-binding referendum resolution from the agenda with Commissioner Romanik seconding the motion.

Commissioner Hewitt asked if removing the resolution from the agenda tonight will end it for future consideration with Vice-Mayor Sooy responding yes, because this is the last opportunity to meet the deadline for it to be placed on the General Election ballot with City Clerk Parkinson confirming the authorizing resolution would need to be sent to the County Clerk 74 days prior to the General Election, with the deadline being August 24th.

The motion was carried by the following vote. Yeas: Hewitt, Watson and Romanik. Nays: Sooy.
Recused: Orndorf.

Vice-Mayor Sooy called upon Wayne Johnson to provide a presentation in order to explain the funding process of the Infrastructure Trust Fund.

Vice-Mayor Sooy

Vice-Mayor Sooy explained that he placed the engineer's presentation on Four Season's late because they all have received a lot of complaints from those residents and was made aware they would be attending the meeting this evening and wanted the city engineer to provide a report to address their concerns.

Mayor Orndorf

Mayor Orndorf asked for an explanation on the Business Manager salary ordinance with Vice-Mayor Sooy stated that he is working in conjunction with Commissioner Romanik, and they are hiring a full-time individual to oversee the fifth floor due to ongoing problems and projects that need to be managed that will require moving some personnel around and it will be a full-time position.

Commissioner Romanik stated that hopefully the position will be filled soon due to upcoming projects and there is a necessity for a full-time management position for the fifth floor.

Mayor Orndorf confirmed that it is an administrative position, and they have the approval in the budget for that salary and assumes Mr. Davis will be removed from that floor and located elsewhere and also asked if the Business Manager will have an understanding of zoning, construction, planning, etc. to be able to manage that floor and is all that included in that job description. She referred to previous conversations with Mr. Compari indicating that the position's job description needs to be very structured with a clear understanding of the responsibilities on that floor.

Vice-Mayor Sooy stated that whoever manages that floor needs to have experience in managing personnel and processes and it needs to be a full-time position and stated that an individual could work for Boeing and not know how to build an airplane.

Mayor Orndorf agrees with the necessity of managing personnel on the fifth floor, however, believes they also need to have a background and understanding of the procedures on that floor such as zoning, planning and working with engineering, since those have been ongoing issues.

Commissioner Watson also stated that if they are going to be paying a person a salary of \$80,000.00 they should have experience of how to run that department and not just people skills in his opinion.

Mayor Orndorf again referenced conversations she has had with Mr. Compari and would like to ensure that the person hired is knowledgeable of the operations on that floor with Vice-Mayor Sooy responding they will have a working test period in the event they lack the required skills and knowledge noting that the decision falls on Commissioner Romanik of who is hired.

Mayor Orndorf questioned why they laid off the city's Senior IT person and are now increasing the amount of Rivell's contract and asked if the proper procedure was followed in the layoff.

Vice-Mayor Sooy stated the proper layoff procedures were followed and the plan was approved by Civil Service and advised there is a significant savings of approximately 45 or 50 thousand dollars a year and Rivell will now be on site twice a week for the city, rather than only being available by phone. The reason for the action was cost and efficiency, which again was approved by the Civil Service.

Commissioner Hewitt stated they have been lacking in IT, especially in the Police Department, which will be addressed by Rivell and further advised that he had meetings with the Police Chief before he approved the layoff and further added that Chief Hoffman is pleased with the change.


Public Comment Portion

Mayor Orndorf declared the public comment portion open and asked if any person present wished to be heard. There being no response, Mayor Orndorf declared the public comment portion closed.

Adjournment

There being no further comments, the meeting was adjourned on a motion made by Commissioner Hewitt and seconded by Commissioner Watson subject to the call of the chair. All were in favor. None were opposed.

Respectfully submitted,


Jeanie M. Parkinson, RMC
City Clerk