

CITY OF SHULLSBURG
COMMON COUNCIL MEETING
AUGUST 20, 2008
6:30 P.M.

A regular meeting of the Common Council of the City of Shullsburg was held August 20, 2008 in the Community Room of the Shullsburg Community Townsend Center, 190 N. Judgement Street, Shullsburg, Wisconsin. Mayor Tom Curran called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. Notice of the meeting was posted and given to the official newspaper. Roll Call- Darrell Morrissey, Cheryl Fink, Carol Korn- Present. Josh Jerry- Absent. Others present: Mary Alice Pedley, Tom Pedley, John Strause, Ann Russell and Sonja Walton.

Motion by Fink second by Morrissey to approve the minutes of the August 6, 2008 meeting. All aye, motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Ald Morrissey reported that the skate park and the east shelter house projects are moving forward.

Ald Fink reported a leave request for Chief Strause, the police report and September schedule. Fink stated that she had contacted Sheriff Pedley and county will cover the days on the September schedule which are not covered by city officers.

Donna Rogers arrived.

Ald Korn reported a leave request for Verne Jackson and George Morrissey.

Motion by Fink second by Korn to accept the committee reports. Korn, Fink- Yes. Morrissey- No. Motion carried.

John Weiskircher arrived. Jim Lacke arrived.

Motion by Morrissey second by Fink to approve the bills for the general, water, sewer, electric, pool, museum and library. All aye, motion carried.

Regarding the nepotism policy, Mayor Curran explained that the situation has come up that a candidate for a position at the city is related to one of the council members. The city's policy states that no person shall be employed on the City staff while either he/she or a member of his/her family serves as Mayor or on the Common Council. After the last council meeting, the city attorney was contacted for his advice. Curran explained that if a relative of a council member were hired, you can't ask the council member to resign; they would have to so voluntarily or you don't hire someone who is related to a council member. Also you cannot tell someone they cannot run for office. According to current policy, if a city employee's relative were to be elected to the city council, employment with that employee would have to be terminated.

A discussion was held regarding a side letter agreement with the Teamsters Union. The agreement states that the union is willing to accept the job classification, job description and wage as requested by the city in

exchange the union is asking that the position remain a union position, with union benefits, and a probationary period of 6 months as stated in the current union contract. Ald Fink checked health insurance prices for the non union employees. One company was a lot higher priced. Fink contacted the current health insurance provider, Central States Health & Welfare, to see if they would be willing to insure the non union employees without going through the union. The company would have to take it to their board which does not meet until September 11. Therefore, if the council waited for an answer from the insurance company this issue would not be addressed again until the September 17 council meeting. Ald Morrissey inquired about what we are getting from the union. Ald Korn feels that the union has given, they have agreed to the city's job description and wage. Mayor Curran agreed with Korn. Motion by Korn second by Morrissey to accept the side letter agreement with the Teamsters Union. Roll Call- Morrissey- Yes, Korn- Yes, Fink -No. Motion carried.

A brief discussion was held regarding the possibility of installing steps in front of the Shullsburg Community Townsend Center. Ald Korn will get more information regarding the ADA requirements.

A brief discussion was held regarding an Indemnity Agreement with Double G Protective Coatings for the coating that was put on the skate park equipment. Ald Korn feels that the city attorney should review the agreement before a decision is made. Motion by Morrissey second by Fink to approve an Indemnity Agreement with Double G Protective Coatings. Fink, Morrissey- Yes. Korn- No.

Mary A. Pedley, Richard L. Reyna and Devin L Feryance have submitted applications for operator license. The clerk stated the all have had background checks by the police department and none have alcohol violations. Motion by Korn second by Fink to approve operator license for Mary A. Pedley, Richard L. Reyna and Devin L Feryance. All aye, motion carried.

During the public comment session of the meeting, Tom Pedley suggested that the proposed steps in front of the community building be deeper to make it easier for handicapped individuals.

Also during the public comment session, John Weiskircher inquired about a written absentee policy for council members. Currently there is no policy addressing this issue. Weiskircher suggested that the city implement a policy. Weiskircher feels that decisions are being delayed due to absences.

Also during the public comment session, Korn stated that she had been contacted by Deb Hochberger regarding having a bon fire at the burning grounds on Friday before Homecoming. The burning ground attendant will be asked to not burn, so there will be enough wood for the bon fire.

There was no closed session regarding the employee grievance, as Chief John Strause requested that it be held in open session. Chief Strause

filed a grievance after a statement was read by Ald Fink at the July 16 council meeting during the committee reports. Chief Strause presented the council with a list of questions which he would like answered. Ald Fink felt that this should be discussed in closed session and choose not to answer the questions. Ald Jerry also choose not to answer Strause's questions. Ald Korn stated that she was not involved in the writing of the statement, therefore could not answer any of the questions. Chief Strause requested that both, Ald Fink and Ald Jerry be removed from the Public Safety Committee. Strause does not feel he can work with them. Strause requested that this issue be put on the next agenda in open session.

Jim Lacke was present and voiced his concerns regarding Chief Strause's questions not being answered. Lacke feels that Strause deserves answers and the council should be accountable for their actions.

At 7:07 p.m. a motion was made by Morrissey second by Korn to adjourn. All aye, motion carried.

Marsha Einsweiler
City Clerk