

**LABOR RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES**

The Labor Relations Committee/Full Council met on Wednesday, September 22, 2015 at 4:45 p.m. in Conference Room No. 1 at the Willmar City Office Building.

Present:	Steve Ahmann	.....	Chair
	Denis Anderson	.....	Member
	Ron Christianson	.....	Member
	Tim Johnson	.....	Member
	Audrey Nelsen	.....	Member

Others present: Mayor Marv Calvin, Labor Attorney Frank Madden, Rice Hospital Representatives Mike Schramm (CEO) and Joyce Elkjer (Human Resources Staff).

Item No. 1      Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Council Member Ahmann at 4:45 p.m.

Item No. 2      Closed Session Pursuant to Minn. Stat. §13D.03

Council Member Christianson made a motion, seconded by Council Member Nelsen to go into closed session. The meeting was closed at 4:46 p.m.

Rice Hospital representatives Mike Schramm and Joyce Elkjer left as the public meeting opened.

The meeting was reopened at 5:10 p.m. by motion of Council Member Christianson, and seconded by Council Member Anderson.

Interim City Administrator Kevin Halliday, Community Education and Recreation Director Steve Brisendine, Public Works Director Sean Christensen and Administrative Assistant Janell Sommers entered the meeting at this time.

Item No. 3      Civic Center Area Department Director Discussion (Motion)

The Council discussed the issue that was before the Labor Relations Committee in July whereby the Committee questioned the position of Civic Center Manager being placed under the supervision of the City rather than Willmar Community Education and Recreation. Council Member Anderson stated he thought the consensus of the Labor Relations Committee at that time was to change the supervisor of the Civic Center Manager and have this individual report to the Public Works Director.

Interim City Administrator Kevin Halliday stated it was staff's recommendation not to make any changes at this time and that historically these buildings were under a City Department Head position that upon retirement was not filled. The City then entered into the Joint Powers Agreement with the School District whereby CER Director Steve Brisendine assumed those responsibilities and is considered as an equal Department Director who attends meetings of the City.

Council Member Nelsen commented the City needs to take back responsibility for its buildings including the Civic Center, Community Center and Auditorium.

Council Member Nelsen made a motion, seconded by Council Member Anderson to have the Civic Center Manager report to the Public Works Director. The motion failed on a 2-3 vote with Council Members Christianson, Johnson and Ahmann voting "no."

Item No 4      Engineering Position Title and Organizational Chart (Motion)

The advancement of the Engineering Senior Technician to the Assistant Public Works Director was approved, but questions were raised as to the correct job title. Staff presented an organizational chart, noting that the position is in-line with the two other Superintendents and does not have the position of authority over their departments in the absence of the Public Works Director.

Staff recommended the Council select the title of "Assistant City Engineer" based on a consistent title in the County Highway Department and the determination of the Bureau of Mediation Services (BMS) that the titled position of "Assistant City Engineer" is included in the Supervisory Unit. Labor Attorney Frank Madden stated he did not see this as being an issue with the BMS. For simplicity reasons, it is staff's recommendation to change the title to Assistant City Engineer until such time as the Public Works Director would recommend a title revision based on input from Public Works Director's peers.

Council Member Nelsen made a motion to amend the job title to Assistant City Engineer. Council Member Anderson seconded the motion, which carried.

Item No. 5      Closed Session Pursuant to Minn. Stat. §13D.03

Council Member Christianson made a motion, seconded by Council Member Anderson to go into closed session. The meeting was closed at 5:33 p.m.

Gene Thul, representative of Blue Cross/Blue Shield, was in attendance during the closed session to answer questions of the Council. Mr. Thul left the meeting at 6:42 p.m.

The meeting was reopened at 7:16 p.m. by motion of Council Member Christianson, and seconded by Council Member Anderson.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janell Sommers  
Administrative Assistant