

Minutes of the City Council Executive Session of June 12, 2006

The meeting convened at 9:00 p.m.

Members Present:

Mayor Mitze	Aldermen:	Hayes	Absent:
		Jones	Clerk Fruendt
Deputy Clerk Rennels		Weisenborn	Alderman Vanderkloot
		Brown	
		McHale	
		Allman	
		Corrie	

The purpose of the Executive Session was to discuss personnel.

Mayor Mitze stated that there were a lot of things going on that were affecting staff morale and he wished Mr. Allsop to comment on that. First, Mr. Allsop stated that as you all know Friday will be Mary Jo's last day. He also stated that the current system is not working, and he felt that there was a lack of communication and trust and that it was affecting morale. He stated that City staff cannot continue with the atmosphere of always looking back and focusing on the negative. He said that he thought morale was about a 3 on a scale of 1-10. Mayor Mitze said that he felt it was his responsibility to create a positive atmosphere so that City staff could be productive. He stated that a hard look at the situation needed to be taken.

Criticisms of Mr. Allsop centered around:

1. the running of water to Gary Huisinga
2. the continuation of Renee's employment
3. Danny Carroll and Long Grove correspondence
4. the wireless contract
5. the airport.

In response to the Huisinga issue, Mr. Allsop stated that originally Mr. Huisinga had proposed setting up 3 meters and 3 separate lines to his new property. This has been done in the past and has proved to be a problem for the City. The actual looping of the system would set up the system for possible expansion to the East plus the former line was old and giving the city problems. Mr. Huisinga agreed to pay all the material cost if the City would provide the labor to loop the system in this manner. Mr. Huisinga gave his verbal agreement to annex to the City. As Mr. Allsop felt this was an area within his authority and one that he was not accustomed to bringing to the Council, Mr. Allsop agreed to this and the work was done. Mr. Allsop stated that a mistake he made was not getting the agreement to annex in writing. However, part of the reason he did not annex was the questioning they were receiving from the Council, and he decided they weren't sure that he wanted to annex into the City. As there was nothing in writing, nothing could be done to force him to annex. The Mayor stated that he is paying double water rates on his bills, and there is some long term potential for development out that way, where this would be used. Alderman Hayes stated that all we did was save on costs, as this would inevitably

come into the City. Alderman Brown stated that in his opinion it was not Mr. Allsop's decision to make. Alderman Allman responded with the question of whether he was on the Council at that time. When he responded no, Alderman Allman stated that the Council that was on then took care of it. The Mayor stated that he felt any criticism that is made should be made in Executive Session and not on the streets.

In response to the Renee situation, Mr. Allsop stated that he felt it was a win-win situation to allow her to complete things that she already had in progress. Alderman Brown felt that this was a pattern of acting against Council wishes. Alderman Corrie said that when the majority of the Council let it be known that she should go, Floyd acted on this. Per the Mayor, there was no comment made by Mr. Allsop to the effect that "What are you going to do fire me?", when he was told to see that she was gone. Mr. Weisenborn questioned whether we had to hire a consultant to redo some of the work she had done. Mr. Allsop stated that the consultant was not redoing what she had done and that in fact, the consultant was not currently doing anything, as he had been pulled off of it because we were not getting what we wanted accomplished. Per the Mayor, when Mr. Allsop was told that Renee was to go, she was gone within a couple of weeks. The Mayor stated that he can understand where Mr. Allsop is coming from and why he might not trust the Council. He said that the Council needed to accept some of the responsibility for that.

The Mayor said that he did not place as great a sense of importance on the Danny Carroll issue, in relation to not involving the Council in that. He felt that it was apparent what the Council feeling on that issue was. Alderman Weisenborn said it was stated that no more correspondence would be sent without Council authorization and that no formal action was taken by Council on the Danny Carroll property. Mr. Allsop stated that the reason was because the County had not passed their ordinance and he wrote the letter because the developers were getting so disgusted with being bounced around between the City and County. He felt that they should be allowed to get on with it, instead of waiting for the County to make up its mind. Once both the City and County had both passed the ordinances, there was clear procedure for what was to be done. Alderman Weisenborn stated that it was City Ordinances that should be followed. The Mayor questioned whether the City would have taken any action. The Mayor stated that we had a system that worked. After 3 meetings, something else was agreed upon but then the County wouldn't agree to it. Mr. Allsop stated that no matter what the situation it is resolved.

On the wireless internet situation, Mr. Allsop said that the Council stated that they wanted that service for the City, and Mary Jo went out and found someone willing to provide that for us without any cost to the City. It was all put together, brought to Council, and it was stalled by the Council. During the time that it was stalled, Mr. Wilke got over committed with other communities to the point where he could not fulfill it. As result, Mary Jo met with some people in Champaign, who stepped in and took over. All they did was change the name. Mr. Allsop said he signed an agreement with them that was the same as the previous agreement except for the name change. He said that right now they are talking about not honoring that agreement because they are afraid to invest that much money and have the Council not renew the agreement in two years. They took the comments made by the Council very personally. Mr. Allsop thought that the City might be faced with having to extend the agreement beyond the two years before they will progress. They are

providing a better system with the T-1, and they are afraid to go out on a limb. The City does not have people knocking on the door to bring this system in. Alderman Weisenborn questioned whether we are going to encourage them to fulfill their contract within the 90 day period. Mr. Allsop said that right now the problem is with Verizon. Alderman Weisenborn stated that Nextel feels that it is becoming a drag on its business because the system is not up and running. Nextel has an agreement to help install, and they are fielding calls on it. Mr. Allsop said that he will call the Champaign firm tomorrow and if he can not get an answer, he will ask them to attend the next meeting.

The Mayor stated that after what he had heard that it should be clear that if there is anything that there is any question on it should be brought to Council. He stated that trust goes both ways and that so far both sides have not done a very good job. In closing, Mr. Allsop said that everyone needs to learn to get along. He felt he has worked hard on improving how he does business, based on his evaluation. He is trying to bring more things to the Council and that he feels he has done a good job of addressing last year's evaluation. He thinks the Civic Center is a good example of that. He stated that we need to think of a replacement for Mary Jo fairly soon.

After each Councilman stated his opinion, it was a consensus that an evaluation would be done on Mr. Allsop. Alderman Jones stated that she was in the process of doing that. Mayor said that his vote would be that Alderman Jones and he would compile the results to include the comments. They would then meet with the rest of the Council, and then he would talk to Mr. Allsop. As a side issue, it was stated that Councilmen who miss meetings should make every effort to catch up on information they miss. The Mayor stated that the Council needs to speak as one voice.

The Council returned to open meeting at 10:45 p.m.



Martha J. Rennels, Deputy City Clerk