



CITY OF PARK RIDGE

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JOURNAL OF THE PROCEEDINGS

MAYOR'S ADVISORY BOARD

CITY HALL
FINANCE CONFERENCE ROOM
505 BUTLER PLACE
PARK RIDGE, IL 60068

MONDAY, MARCH 20, 2017 AT 6:30 P.M.

Chairman Mazzuca called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

I. Roll Call

Chairman Mazzuca, Ald. Shubert and Ald. Moran were present. Ald. Milissis was absent.

Deputy Clerk Peterson recorded the minutes.

II. Approval of Minutes

A. March 6, 2017

Moved by Chairman Mazzuca. Seconded by Ald. Moran.

Motion carried; voice vote.

III. Interview

6:30 p.m.

Peter McNamara: Civil Service Commission; seeking re-appointment for 2nd term (3 yr.) and new appointment to the Board of Fire & Police Commission (3 yr.)

Chairman Mazzuca reviewed the process and allowed the applicant to provide a 2-3 minute introduction. Mr. McNamara indicated that he interviewed previously 3 years ago for his initial appointment to the Civil Service Commission. At that time, he indicated that Ald. Maloney encouraged him to review other commissions since the Civil Service Commission would rarely or never meet. He was appointed; the commission never met during first term. Therefore, he decided to apply for the Board of Fire and Police Commission and for reappointment to the Civil Service Commission. He is a labor relations attorney who had worked for Local 150 for about three and a half years and is now employed by the Federal Aviation Administration for 7 years. His employment has always been with public service and is always looking for ways to serve the community. Labor and employment law is his expertise. He read all the documents related to the BFP commission available on the website. He has experience before arbitrators, various Labor Relations Boards and is familiar with local, state and federal labor relations laws. He has been involved with about 15 arbitrations and various contract and labor issues. Although is happy to represent both the Civil Service and the BFPC, if choosing one, he would prefer serving on the BFPC.

Ald. Shubert had no questions and was glad Mr. McNamara was interested in serving on both Commissions.

Ald. Moran agreed with Ald. Shubert; he confirmed with Mr. McNamara that he had no conflicts of interest.

Ald. Mazzuca had no questions. He explained the remaining process to the applicant and the requirement of a background check if selected to be appointed.

6:45 p.m.

John A. Bennett: Board of Fire & Police Commission, reappointment for 2nd term (3 yr.)
Chairman Mazzuca reviewed the process and provided the applicant to provide a 2-3 minute introduction.

Mr. Bennett is a current BFP Commissioner and has enjoyed serving for the last three years. He has been involved in the volunteer group CERT which provides support the Police and Fire Departments on several various occasions. He believes it is another way to contribute to those departments. He also serves as a Planning and Zoning Commissioner.

Ald. Moran questioned Mr. Bennet's attendance. Mr. Bennett recalls missing only one meeting.

Ald. Mazzuca inquired whether Mr. Bennet has ever dealt with a discipline issue of a CERT member. He has not, indicating that he had one disciplinary case come before him since he was appointed. He considers himself very professional and takes the position very seriously. He would not have any issues dealing with someone he knows. If it became an issue, he would recuse himself. He does not believe anything would jeopardize his position on the Commission. His relationship with Police and Fire has always been a positive experience.

Ald. Shubert asked Mr. Bennett for his input regarding the way the Board operates, ideas, or suggestions for doing things differently. Mr. Bennett recognized the union to be a controlling factor in what can and cannot be done with the Commission. State regulations must also be complied with which are incorporated in the commissions bylaws. The commission is most involved in the interviewing process with the candidates which he believes is the best part of his job. It is a great responsibility making sure that the right candidate(s) are chosen. He referred to one disciplinary proceeding that was to come before the commission and cancelled the same day of the hearing. He does not know why the commission is not involved in the process of disciplining someone prior to the point of being told that someone is to be disciplined. He continued to explain the process which most times goes to an arbiter. In his opinion, it is sad that the unions have a strong hold on the employees of this town. He would like to see the commission more involved in making decisions on disciplinary actions taken on an individual; currently decisions are made by the Chief and City Manager.

Ald. Mazzuca concluded by explaining the remaining process and the requirement of a background check if selected to be appointed.

IV. Deliberation / Recommendation

The Board inquired about the capacity in which both members currently serve and the term expiration dates. Mr. Bennett serves on two commissions; his term with the Planning & Zoning Commission ends September 2018.

Motion to recommend Peter McNamara to the Civil Service Commission.

Moved by Chairman Mazzuca. Seconded by Ald. Moran.

Motion carried; voice vote.

The Board continued deliberation of their recommendation for the Board of Fire and Police Commission.

Ald. Moran: Mr. Bennett was recognized for his great ideas on how to improve the commission. He is an incumbent who has served the commission well; it causes hesitation in taking it away from the individual. However, Mr. McNamara has the resume that gives him the edge with his background. If something came before the Board, it would be comforting knowing that Mr. McNamara has the legal expertise and background in labor law.

Ald. Mazzuca: He agreed with Ald. Moran's comments. However, the resume and distance is the right thing; Mr. McNamara would be a more impartial judge. His hesitancy was based on his distaste with Local 150 based on past experiences which made him pause. He believes it is a shame to waste Mr. McNamara's expertise on a commission that never meets. Although he believes that both candidates would serve well, his first choice would be Mr. McNamara.

Ald. Shubert shared similar thoughts. He liked Mr. McNamara's background and believes he would add depth to the commission. Mr. Bennett was recognized as being a great volunteer in a variety of ways and doing a number of things that help the community. Since Mr. Bennett's hands are full in other areas, Ald. Shubert believed it would be a great opportunity to give Mr. McNamara a chance to get involved.

Deputy Clerk Peterson read the list of current commissioners serving the BFPC.

Move to recommend the appointment of Peter McNamara to the Board of Fire and Police Commission.

Motion by Chairman Mazzuca. Seconded by Ald. Moran.

Motion carried; voice vote.

The Board wanted to extend its tremendous thanks to Mr. Bennett for all that he does for the community.

V. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.