



Office of Jim Grafton
City Administrator ▪ Public Works Director

Date: 1-30-18

Re: Public Safety and Ordinance Meeting

Attendance: Mayor Carter, Ian Pavelonis, Larry York, Tony Trulson, Kathy Hall, Rick Lohse, Bob Rockwell, Jim Nelson, Dave Leibovitz, Steve Bien, Mike Walz, Greg Hart, Jim Grafton

Location: City Hall 121 11th Street

The combined meeting was called to order at 5:00pm by Ian Pavelonis and it was noted that a quorum was present for the ordinance committee. There is not a quorum for Public Safety.

The purpose of the meeting was discussion of the Silvis Code of Ordinances and proposed changes related to section 38 Fire Chief. A modified ordinance of proposed changes was distributed for comments. Section 38-31 was reviewed; 7-11:30 and 11:30 to 4pm through the week. There are a total of 30 members; should state 30 total firefighters including officers. The word 'volunteer' should be changed to paid part time firefighters.

Certification by the State Fire Marshal is not a requirement according to the Fire Chief. There is no statute that is in violation. Steve Bien said going to Civil Service may create problems. Some people may test well but they may not have the competency to be a firefighter. The structure used for the past 100 years has worked well. Mike Walz said it's difficult to get the training in because the training times have been moved M-F during the week. It was noted that the training usually is done for other departments; the firefighters move onto other full time departments. The new terminology would be Basic and Advanced however there was no recommendation to include this language. Alderman Trulson asked why there is a need to change (the testing). Alderman Rockwell said that this is needed to get in line with the rest of the city. Alderwoman Hall noted that the wages are paid by the city. There are part-time employees at the Library however they have their own board and tax levy. Alderman Trulson asked if there is any other group that has a constitution. The test criteria would be set by Civil service and related to the respective position. Hart said he thinks (this committee) is trying to fix something that is not broken. Alderman Trulson said that the constitution states that the firefighter 'must' work toward FF2 certification...not required now. There is a training log for each firefighter and this is used for promotion consideration by the chief. Hart said they are in a constant state of training. Alderman Trulson why do we not have a set of criteria for promotions (in the constitution). There was discussion on Civil service testing that top three could pick from...or have to take the top person. Committee was in favor of written tests for promotions; four of the six members in attendance. Clerk Nelson said section 2-168b states that all part-time employees are subject to Civil service testing.

Mayor Carter said the language should reference section 2-431 or section 142 as noted in Administration.

The next topic of discussion section 38-32 Fire Chief consensus was to change 'volunteer' to 'paid on call firefighters' or POC. Section (a) committee would like to clarify the number of 'multiple housing' units that would be inspected annually. Committee policy would be eight units or larger would be inspected annually. Alderman would be changed to Alderperson. Section (b) just change to POC. Section (c) change the POC and plural assistant chiefs. Section (d) acceptable as written. Section 38-33 acceptable as presented as well as section 38-34. Section 38-35 section (a) again a change with POC. Committee clarified that Aldermen who were also on the fire roster could not collect wages from both positions. The word 'must' change to 'should' in Section (b). Section (c) was acceptable after some discussion.

Section 38-36 referred to On-Duty firefighters section (a) remove 'five'. Committee agreed with rest of this section however agreed to change 38-31 to read 'two on-duty firefighters per shift'.

Section 38-38 reference to wages for training to be set by wage and benefit ordinance.

Section 38-39 was last section considered and recommendation remove 'Assistant Chief'.

Alderman Lohse suggested that there should be language in the ordinance that states that the Code of Ordinances trumps the Fireman Constitution. Firemen would place this in the by-laws as well.

Committee continued discussion on the Civil Service Testing issue. Clerk Nelson referred to State Statute but was not able to locate any specific language. Current practice Chief makes the promotion with input from fellow officers and ratified by the brotherhood. Alderman Rockwell said he thinks the council needs to be involved with promotions and new hires. There should be some advance notice; perhaps have a committee meeting. There needs to be some transparency with the fire department. There is no posting when there is an opening for an officer. In summary it was generally agreed that section 38-31 (5) should include informing the city council of the promotions. The by-laws would change to include the Public Safety chairperson to be involved with the promotion of officers.

There were no other agenda items and the meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

