

ROLLING MEADOWS CITY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
January 19, 2010

COUNCIL IN ATTENDANCE: Mayor Ken Nelson, Aldermen John Pitzferro, Barb Lusk, Larry Buske, Brad Judd, Glenn Adams, John D' Astice, Jim Larsen

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE: City Manager Sarah Phillips, Public Works Director Fred Vogt, Community Development Director Valerie Dehner, Police Chief Dave Scanlan, Fire Chief Ron Stewart, City Attorney Jim Macholl, Assistant City Manager Barry Krumstok

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1) Update on New Freedom of Information and Open Meetings Act

Mr. Macholl: Updated Council on recent amendments that took place effective January 1st, 2010. Deputy City Clerk Ginny Cotugno and Assistant City Manager Barry Krumstok will attend training.

Alderman D' Astice: What about emails?

Mr. Macholl: Nothing has changed. The Act talks about communication through an electronic means. Should one Alderman copy an email to more than one other Alderman they could be in violation of the Open Meetings Act.

Mayor Nelson: The issue is whether they have a discussion via these means.

Alderman Pitzferro: If I email Ms. Phillips and copy the Council, is that a violation?

Ms. Phillips: No, not in and of itself.

Alderman Judd: Do the free first 50 pages have to be in hard copy.

Mr. Macholl: If the requestor asks for a hard copy, that is what we have to provide.

2) Police Records Management Contract

Chief Scanlan: Updated Council on the status of contracts with New World and Advanced Public Safety (APS). Would like to get out of original contract with New World and APS and enter into a contract with IDNetworks.

Alderman D' Astice: Do we have a 90 day out on any of the contracts?

Chief Scanlan: Yes, with New World.

Mr. Macholl: It does have a 90 day cancellation provision.

Alderman D' Astice: The APS one?

Mr. Macholl: It is a series of 1 year contracts. We can simply not appropriate for the APS contract in 2011.

Alderman Buske: Recalls that New World wanted us to originally pay for the 5 years up front and we ended up paying a yearly fee for 5 years.

Chief Scanlan: Right now Northwest Central Dispatch (NWCD) data does not interface with our software. A clerk has to enter the information from NWCD one item at a time and the officers are sometimes not getting the data in a timely manner. IDNetworks software will work with NWCD and the data will flow more freely.

Alderman Lusk: Is the New World data proprietary to them?

Chief Scanlan: IDNetworks would charge us \$15,000 to move the data.

Alderman Lusk: The New World software is outdated?

Chief Scanlan: Yes and we are still paying for it. We are supposed to be Version 8.1 and we are still at 7.9.

Alderman Lusk: We should ask for some of that money back. We are not getting what we are paying for.

Chief Scanlan: Agrees. That is why he has not paid the current invoice.

Alderman Lusk: Are you confident with IDNetworks?

Chief Scanlan: IDNetworks works with NWCD.

Alderman Lusk: The costs are firm?

Chief Scanlan: IDNetworks, as of today, has lowered their costs. New World has come back with another offer, but the savings are nominal.

Alderman Lusk: Has no problem with this, but does not want to hear in 6 months that we will have to purchase something else.

Chief Scanlan: He does recall buying software that we have dealt with that we have not had some issue with. He does believe that New World is charging us too much money for the product.

Alderman Pitzafarro: Everything makes perfect sense. Where are we at in this process?

Mr. Macholl: Has not made contact with anyone. Reviewed New World contract a few weeks ago and reviewed the APS contract a few days ago. He has not been actively involved.

Alderman Pitzafarro: Does Chief Scanlan think that Mr. Macholl will have to get involved.

Chief Scanlan: Believes that he might.

Alderman Pitzafarro: We should have some leverage as we are paying for something that we were supposed to have received and we did not.

Mayor Nelson: It sounds like the no-brainer of the century. Recommends Staff and Mr. Macholl get us out of this.

Alderman D'Astice: Concurs with Mayor Nelson.

Alderman Judd: Believes that this is three separate issues: The New World contract that we should get out of, the contract with APS that we should also get out of, and finalize a contract with IDNetworks. Can this all be resolved by February 15th and if not, why?

Mr. Macholl: It does not sound like that will happen based on Chief Scanlan's conversations with New World and APS. We could stop payments to APS, but that does not mean that they won't sue us.

Mayor Nelson: We want Staff to act quickly to resolve these issues.

3) Digitizing Records

Ms. Phillips: We do spend a lot of money putting records on microfilm or microfiche especially in our Community Development Department. We have looked at digitizing these records in house. The cost is not huge and they can digitize the records that we can fund. Our biggest concern is the records in Community Development. They can be large blueprints.

Alderman Buske: Was anything budgeted for this?

Ms. Phillips: Community Development and Police have some annual funds, as well as Human Resources, approximately \$23,000.

Alderman Pitzafarro: What do we spend on microfiche?

Ms. Phillips: The equipment we have to view the microfiche is very outdated. The costs of microfiche and digitizing are similar. The savings come in the storing of the data.

Alderman Lusk: Staff is not proposing to spend more than the \$23,000?

Ms. Phillips: Not for this year.

Alderman D'Astice: We are being told that there is \$23,000 in the budget, but he does not think there is anything in the budget, especially with the loss of revenue. He will not support.

Ms. Phillips: We will not spend any money until the end of the year.

Alderman D'Astice: Then this should be brought up closer to the end of the year.

Alderman Judd: If we do not do this what happens to the records at the end of the year.

Ms. Phillips: The records would be stored.

Alderman Judd: Something like this would be helpful for both the Police and Fire.

Chief Stewart: Most commercial buildings are already digitized. If the information was there we would access it.

Alderman Judd: Is okay with doing an even swap dollar wise and digitizing what we can this year.

Alderman Adams: Are these documents going to be saved in a common format.

Ms. Phillips: They will be in a TIFF format.

Alderman Larsen: Have you explored any other vendors?

Ms. Phillips: We have not. We were just looking for an initial cost.

4) Road Funds

Mr. Vogt: Provided information on the City's roadway maintenance and capital improvement fund operations.

Alderman Lusk: Staff wants to take a little time and evaluate the roads and come back with a recommendation?

Mr. Vogt: For both 2010 and at least the next 5 years.

Alderman Buske: Under the Motor Fuel Tax, if we don't get a grant to cover the lights on Algonquin he would be against doing them at this time and using the money for local roads.

Mr. Vogt: That certainly could be done at the pleasure of the Council.

Mayor Nelson: Thinks a rolling 5-year plan is a great idea.

Alderman Buske: How much is our revenue stream down?

Ms. Phillips: Sales tax is down 7% from 2008 to 2009. The Property tax is not down.

5) Proposed Fuel Purchase for 2010

Mr. Vogt: Last year we got into a bulk fuel purchase from Palatine Oil.

Mr. Hartnett: We saved about \$16,000 last year going thru this bulk fuel purchase. A Resolution will be brought before Council next week to purchase from Palatine Oil.

Alderman Judd: Voiced concern about the risk involved in this. Has Staff talked with Palatine Oil about Put contract?

Mr. Hartnett: The company is not able to do those now.

Mayor Nelson: It might be interesting to do some research and see what the experts have to say.

Alderman Lusk: What is a Put contract?

Alderman Judd: It's an option that gives you the right to sell at a certain level.

6) Fire Station 17 Design

Chief Stewart: Reviewed design with the Council and presented an overview before going out for the bidding process.

Alderman Lusk: We have time before we have to start using this grant money?

Chief Stewart: Correct. We have until September 2012 to complete the project.

Alderman Lusk: The glass doors on the bays, are they efficient?

Chief Stewart: Anything we use would be energy efficient. They would let in natural light. Options could be looked at. They don't need to be glass doors.

Alderman Lusk: Metal doors may be more economical.

Chief Stewart: Station 16 has 3 panes of glass in the bay doors.

Alderman Lusk: She is not opposed to the 3-bay design, but thinks that it may be a real difficult year to build something that is not really necessary.

Chief Stewart: It would truly make it a drive-thru facility. The third bay would add about \$150,000 to the overall cost. The expense would be more costly should we add in the future.

Alderman Judd: 3 dorm rooms for how many people?

Chief Stewart: 5 people.

Alderman Judd: The ultimate goal is to have 3 fully staffed stations?

Chief Stewart: We would like to have a building that could accommodate that.

Alderman Judd: Part of the driving factor behind this was the redevelopment of Twelve Oaks?

Chief Stewart: That was part of it, but also the call volume and response times in the southern part of town.

Alderman Judd: Is not 100% sold on this. The feedback from residents in his Ward is not positive.

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Alderman Pitzferro: Is against this fire station right now. He has also gotten negative responses in his Ward on this fire station.

Chief Stewart: Feels that in order for Council to make the best decision he should go out and get the most current bids.

Alderman D'Astice: Was not on the Council when this was going on, but was watching and remembers hearing things about a basement and some special green roof. Are there other components that they should be aware of?

Chief Stewart: The most current bids do not include a basement and metal roof.

Alderman Buske: Was on the Fire Committee when talks first started. This station was originally supposed to be a jump station during the day. It has become very grandeur. Feels the glass doors would be a very bad idea.

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting adjourned at 9:27p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Lisa M. Hinman, City Clerk

January 19, 2010 Committee of the Whole Minutes approved by Council at the January 26, 2010 Council Meeting.



Lisa M. Hinman, City Clerk