

PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MINUTES

May 4, 2015

The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Groat at 6:00 p.m. Mrs. Groat explained that the meeting for April 27, 2015 was rescheduled for tonight.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Deborah Groat, Henk Berbee, Nevin Taylor

OTHERS PRESENT: Tim Aslaner

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes for the meeting on February 23, 2015 were approved as presented.

AGENDA:

Council Rules of Procedure: Mrs. Groat said the rule that they need to discuss is Rule 19. She said it was the recommendation of this committee that we add an additional paragraph that states "Each committee shall meet a minimum of 9 times each year, and each meeting's agenda shall contain an item for hearing of citizens, which will precede the remaining agenda items, if any."

Mrs. Groat did not think that Council as a whole liked having a set minimum. Mr. Berbee said he can agree with that to a point, but we do want to give the public an opportunity to speak. He said you could do nine times in a row and then skip three times, because you do not have any agenda items. Mr. Berbee suggested we change the addition to six times per year and only one month in between holding meetings. He said even if you do not have an agenda, you still give the general public an opportunity to meet.

Mrs. Groat asked Mr. Aslaner how we would phrase what Mr. Berbee suggested. Mr. Aslaner said "each committee shall meet a minimum of 6 times per year, with no more than two months elapsing between meetings." He said this would mean the committees have to meet at least every other month. Mr. Berbee and Mrs. Groat agreed with Mr. Aslaner.

Mr. Berbee said this committee met 11 out of 12 times last year. Mrs. Groat said it is because we had a solid agenda. Mrs. Groat asked Mr. Berbee and Mr. Aslaner what they thought of the rest of this amendment, which states "each meeting's agenda shall contain an item for hearing of citizens, which will precede the remaining agenda items, if any." She did not hear any negative comments from the Council on this part of the amendment. She asked how Mr. Berbee and Mr. Aslaner felt about letting that statement stand in the amendment. They said they agreed with leaving that in.

Mrs. Groat rephrased what will be brought to council as an amendment. "Each committee shall meet a minimum of six times per calendar year, with no more than two months elapsing between meetings, and each meeting's agenda shall contain an item for hearing of citizens, which will precede the remaining agenda items, if any."

Mrs. Groat explained the changes to Mr. Taylor, when he arrived.

Mrs. Groat asked Mr. Taylor if he would want to reconsider Rule 1.1. Mr. Taylor said no, as long as we read it out loud we are ok. Mr. Aslaner said for the record, he still believes that is a secret vote, and that we could be taking a risk that the vote could be rendered invalid.

Mayor/President Compensation: Mrs. Groat said the committee needs to either agree with Finance Committee's recommendation or decide on an amendment to that amount or change the amount to zero. Mrs. Groat asked how we amend the amount in the ordinance, because if Mr. Berbee and Mr. Taylor agree to an amount then it will be a 2 to 1 vote. Mr. Aslaner asked whether the pending ordinance has been tabled. Mr. Berbee and Mrs. Groat said it had. Mr. Aslaner questioned if the ordinance was sponsored by the Finance Committee. Mr. Berbee said correct. Mrs. Groat said it is currently set at \$125.00 per month. Mr. Aslaner said since it is tabled, if this committee tonight decides it wants to keep the ordinance intact at \$125.00 then the committee does not need to do anything. He said the three committee members should vote on that issue. Mr. Aslaner said if the committee would like it to be anything other than \$125.00, then a motion to amend can be made, and Mrs. Groat can issue her dissenting opinion.

Mr. Taylor said this committee needs to make a recommendation, only because we were asked to readdress it. He said our readdress could be we agree with Finance, or no we think compensation should be \$50.00 per month. Mr. Taylor said he has mixed feeling on which way it should be, he said without thinking, it should be a little fee each month. He suggested with Council salary increase going through, he would like to set it at \$50.00 or zero for the first year and then readdress it. He said we do not know how things will be done. Mr. Emery looked at this and thought they should be compensated but he does not know how things will run either. Mr. Taylor asked for Mr. Aslaner's opinion regarding compensation. Mr. Taylor said he is afraid if we set it at zero, whoever gets that title does not go out and make the efforts and we do not have that public contact. He said then we look bad for not being where we should be. Mrs. Groat said you cannot get in anybody's head and make them be more professional than they are already going to be. She said no matter how much money you give that person, there is no guarantee that they are going to step forward and do the right thing. Mr. Taylor said he would agree with Mrs. Groat.

Mr. Aslaner said Finance made the suggestion with \$125.00 per month or \$1,500.00 per year. The President of Council then asked the Public Affairs Committee to take a look at it, to help articulate what exactly the President of Council will be doing. He said if the Public Affairs Committee thinks it should be something else then they would make an amendment at the next City Council meeting. Mrs. Groat said Public Affairs then has the choice to let it stand or amend Finance Committee's suggestion.

Mrs. Groat asked Mr. Aslaner for his opinion. Mr. Aslaner said he sees what the Mayor does now, and understands that we have a very proactive, outgoing Mayor. He does think that the Council President/Mayor will have additional duties that the current Council President does not have. He said he agrees with what has been proposed. Mrs. Groat said she is not arguing money. She said whatever Mr. Taylor does now, the President/Mayor is going to have to do 1½ times more of the amount of work before she says he has earned it. Mr. Aslaner said we could, however, make the argument that the current Council President should be receiving additional

compensation. Mrs. Groat said but we have not. Mrs. Groat said compensation should be zero, because it is not about the money. Mr. Taylor said with the raise for Council going through, he has a hard time saying yes to the \$125.00. Mr. Berbee read the minutes from the Finance Committee, where the amount of compensation was discussed. Mrs. Groat said she thinks we need to review the compensation yearly, because some of these items are seasonal. Mr. Berbee asked who the face of Marysville is, Mayor Gore, and when he is gone who will be the face of the City. Mr. Aslaner said Mayor Gore goes way beyond the call of duty, and he is not sure if the new Mayor or the City Manager or both combined would be obligated to go to all of these functions. He said a lot of the things that Mayor Gore does now is for the purpose of public service. Mayor Gore attends a lot of events that are really not expected of the Mayor. Mr. Aslaner said who knows if the new Mayor is going to want to do that, but there are a lot of functions that the new Mayor and City Manager are going to have to attend.

Mr. Aslaner said in his opinion the Mayor is going to have more work and more duties than the other six council members. Mrs. Groat said we are giving out a raise with no quantification. Mrs. Groat is worried that the people who will run for president will be in it just for the money. Mrs. Groat said she was not for the increase in pay, but we have shown an increase in work load, so that justifies the increase. Mr. Taylor said when we are looking at money, we need to look at adding a budget for public relation type of activities. Mrs. Groat said she does not have a problem discussing that when the budget process starts.

Mr. Berbee said it has been a struggle with deciding on an amount. Mr. Rausch said he would be ok with \$100.00 per month. Mr. Reams was not at the Finance meeting, but Mr. Berbee had a conversation with him, and he was ok with \$200.00. It came to a consensus that the amount is \$125.00 per month. Mrs. Groat said she will prepare a minority report. Mr. Taylor said Finance's recommendation is too high for him to be comfortable. Mrs. Groat said no matter the amount that we decide, we need to review it in a year. The rest of the committee members agreed. Mr. Taylor said he would support Mrs. Groat's suggestion for a \$1.00 and also Mr. Berbee's recommendation for \$50.00. Mr. Aslaner said we need to have a recommendation for Council.

Mrs. Groat said the Public Affairs Committee will make an amendment that states the salary shall be \$50.00 per month, and it will be reviewed annually prior to the budget. Mr. Taylor said he would make that motion. Mr. Aslaner said he will get with Mrs. Jones on the proposed amendment.

Citizen Comments: No citizens were in attendance.

Mr. Berbee said the next meeting is May 18, 2015. Mrs. Groat said we could cancel this meeting unless we have any agenda items that are brought to the Public Affairs Committee.

The meeting adjourned at 6:46 p.m.