

MINUTES
GENERAL COUNSEL COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING OF OCTOBER 25, 2016

Present: Councilwoman and Chairwoman Mary Bartolotta, Councilwoman Kleckowski, Councilman Daley, Councilman Nocera, and Councilwoman Salafia. Staff: Deputy General Counsel Kori Wisneski, Kathie Morey, Director of Human Resources.

Members of the Public: Fire Union President, Christopher Augeri; Fire Chief Kronenberger; and Deputy Fire Chief Al Leary.

Call to Order:

Meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Public Comment:

No one from the public spoke at the Meeting.

Approval of Minutes:

Councilman Daley made a MOTION to approve the Minutes from the September 8, 2016 Regular Meeting. The Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Salafia. The Motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

A. Fire Union Tentative Agreement

Councilman Daley made a MOTION to recommend the approval of the contract. The Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Bartolotta. Discussion ensued.

Attorney Wisneski summarized the Executive Summary that she provided to Council discussing an overview of changes in the proposed Fire contract. She also directed the Commission to the financial analysis in the Executive Summary regarding the costs and savings of those proposed changes. There were some questions directed to the Fire Chief regarding his calculations for the savings related to the technical rescue teams. There was also some questions on the calculation of the wage increases, which will be addressed further at the F&G meeting in which Finance Director, Carl Erlacher, will be present.

Councilwoman Salafia expressed her concerns that there were no changes in the insurance provisions and that the wage increases seemed high. Some discussion ensued about the fact that the City negotiated a reopener for next year so that it can globally address insurance issues and that the proposed wage increases over the life of this contract took into consideration that the fire wage increases over the past 5 years have been lower than the average negotiated rate across the state and several of those years were tied to CPI, which has been lower than normal recently.

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Councilwoman Salafia and Councilwoman Bartolotta stated that they would support a recommendation at this level, but had not made up their minds regarding support when it goes to the Council in November. They would require further clarification on the costs of the contract at the F&G meeting. Chief Kronenberger offered to discuss his calculations with them if they so desired.

Councilwoman Kleckowski noted two typographical errors and cited to old language that had not been changed, but that she would like to see changed. Attorney Wisneski explained that the TA is what was agreed upon by the City's negotiating representatives and the Union and that further substantive changes could not be made at this point.

Councilman Daley expressed his support for the TA. He commended both the City's negotiating team and the Union for a fair contract, which will maintain a good morale amongst our hard-working employees while balancing the tax-payers' interests.

The Commission called for a vote and the Motion passed unanimously.

Old Business: None

Other

A. Vacancy Report: Report dated 10/24/16 was reviewed – No action required.

B. Legal Bills: None

Before adjourning, HR Director, Kathleen Morey expressed her thanks for what has been a very rewarding career at the City. She informed the Commission that Friday would be her last day and that she would be retiring to spend more time with her husband, family, and grandchildren. All commission members expressed their gratitude for her work over the years and offered well-wishes. Councilman Daley reiterated his appreciation for Director Morey's service and wished her all the best in her retirement.

Adjournment:

MOTION to Adjourn by Councilman Daley. The Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Salafia. Motion was unanimous and meeting ended at 8:03 p.m.