

LABOR RELATIONS COMMITTEE

MINUTES

The Labor Relations Committee of the Willmar City Council met on Wednesday, August 29, 2012, in Conference Room #1 at the City Office Building. The meeting was called to order by Chair Steve Ahmann.

Present:	Steve Ahmann	.....	Chair
	Denis Anderson	.....	Member
	Doug Reese	.....	Member
	Tim Johnson	.....	Member
	Charlene Stevens	.....	City Administrator

Others present included Council Members Jim Dokken and Ron Christianson; Mayor Frank Yanish; Labor Attorney Frank Madden; and David Little of the “West Central Tribune.”

Item No. 1 Public Comment (Information Only)

There was no one present for public comment.

Item No. 2. Close Meeting for Attorney/Client Privilege for LELS Arbitration Award

At 4:46 p.m., Council Member Anderson made a motion to go into closed session under Minnesota Statute 13 D.05, subdivision 3 (b) under the attorney/client privilege exception to the Minnesota Open Meeting Law. The motion was seconded by Council Member Reese, and carried.

Item No 3 Close Meeting to Discuss Contract Negotiation Strategies

A closed session was also held to discuss contract negotiation strategies.

Item No. 4 Open Session

At 5:40 p.m. the meeting was reopened and City Clerk Kevin Halliday and City Assessor Pat Erickson joined the meeting.

Item No. 5 Assessing Department Vacancy (Motion)

Mr. Halliday reviewed the state requirements for conducting property assessments and the work he had done on alternatives to filling the vacancy. Mr. Halliday stated that a

partnership with the County was not viable at this time and he had contacted private appraisers who had indicated that they would not be interested in obtaining the necessary certifications to conduct mass appraisals for the City.

Mr. Halliday recommended that the City post the position internally and try to promote someone within the organization and then not fill that subsequent open position. Mr. Halliday also stated that in 2013, the seasonal clerical position for Assessing would be eliminated.

If promoting from within was not viable, Mr. Halliday stated he would return to the Committee with some further options, such as reductions in services.

In response to a question from Chair Ahmann regarding changes in assessing, Ms. Erickson stated that over the years it has become more complex and the desire of citizens to have a better product has increased the demands on staff.

Council Member Anderson made a motion, seconded by Council Member Reese, to approve a promotion within and a restructuring of any subsequent vacancy. The motion carried.

Item No. 6 – Miscellany (Information Only)

City Administrator Stevens distributed a report on overtime to date from the Police, Fire and Public Works Departments as requested by the Chairman Ahmann. In the interest of time, discussion was saved for a future meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m. on a motion by Council Member Anderson, seconded by Council Member Johnson, and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlene Stevens,
City Administrator