

Minutes

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

June 8, 2000 7:30 a.m.

Present: Commissioners Bernard Kramer, Ronald Pezze, and Jocelyn Bubolz

Absent: Jerome C. Hudy

Also present: Director of Human Resources Tamara Potkay, HR Secretary Pat Herrmann, Mark C. Lake, Gregory Kessler, Reporter Luke Klink (for the "Milwaukee Journal/Sentinel")

Chairperson Bernard Kramer called the Civil Service Commission Meeting of June 8, 2000 to order at 7:45 a.m.

EMPLOYEE COMMUNICATION

Commissioner Kramer opened the meeting by referring to documents distributed to Civil Service Commissioners. Documents included a 6/5/00 memo from the Assistant Director of Planning for the City of New Berlin and a 6/5/00 memo from a New Berlin City Associate Planner. Documents also included letters dated 1/28/00 and 5/25/00 from City Attorney Paul Reilly to the Common Council regarding authority as an Alderperson and a general administrative policy on harassment in the workplace.

Commissioner Kramer mentioned allegations that an alderperson's actions described in the above mentioned memos caused two civil service employees to feel threatened in their jobs and write up complaints. The employees indicated that the alderperson's actions affected their ability to perform their job duties. It was also mentioned that the Human Resources Department had received similar verbal complaints from other employees. Commissioners asked questions and received input. Given the documentation provided, the Commission felt there might have been a violation of Chapter 4 and of a general administrative policy. The Commission felt that the City Attorney should be consulted.

Motion by Commissioner Pezze that the Civil Service Commission communicate to the Common Council that the Commission is addressing issues involving potential violations of Civil Service rules and New Berlin administrative policy. The Civil Service Commission requests that members of the Common Council be mindful of limitations of aldermanic powers and comply with directives stated in City Attorney Reilly's January 28, 2000 and May 25, 2000 communications attached hereto. Seconded by Commissioner Kramer and passed unanimously.

Motion by Commissioner Pezze to prepare a letter to the City Attorney indicating, based upon information the Civil Service Commission has received, that there appears to have been violations of Chapter 4 "Civil Service Rules" and a city General Administrative Policy. We will request in our letter that the City Attorney work with the Civil Service Commission to direct the Commission in the appropriate handling of these potential violations and to research whether the conduct alleged may give rise to violations of state or federal laws. We would also like to request a meeting between the Civil Service Commission and City Attorney Reilly to discuss potential issues and future handling of this matter at the earliest possible date. Seconded by Commissioner Bubolz and passed unanimously.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting date will be set after the Civil Service Commission receives a response from City Attorney Paul Reilly.

Motion by Commissioner Kramer to adjourn at 9:10 a.m. Seconded by Commissioner Pezze and carried unanimously.

Jocelyn Bubolz, Secretary
Civil Service Commission