



MINUTES
Elected Officers Compensation Commission
Thursday, March 21, 2013

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 12:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Commissioner Patricia Curran, Chair
Commissioner Cassie Alley, Vice Chair
Commissioner Brian T. Huggler
Commissioner Don LeDuc
Commissioner Liisa Speaker

OTHERS PRESENT

Lindsay Green, Council Staff
Don Kulhanek, Law
Councilmember Carol Wood

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

BUSINESS SESSION

Municipal Comparatives Report

Lindsay Green explained to the Commission she was waiting for material from the other municipalities for the comparative report.

Reports, Presentations, Commission Questions and Discussion

Commissioner Curran welcomed Councilmember Wood to the meeting and asked her to begin her presentation.

Councilmember Wood stated that she was not here in her role as President of Council, but as Councilmember. She wanted to provide the Commission with some information she felt was important as they are making their decision. Councilmember Wood passed out a packet of material and explained to the Commissioners what the material consisted of. First was the resolution passed by eight member of Council when the item of reducing the number of meetings was put on the ballot. Within the resolution it indicated the on the Monday evening Council did not meet as a Council meeting they would meet as a Committee of the Whole. This was passed by the entire Council.

The next document was the Council Committee and Board & Commissions Assignments. As explained to the Commission not only do Council members attend Council meetings, Committee of the Whole meetings, but they are also assigned Committee meeting. Council is also required sometimes by State Salute and by ordinance to sit on a variety of Boards & Commissions. These Boards sometimes also require subcommittee meeting. As an example Councilmember Wood is on Tri-County and Chair of that Board this year. We are required by the State to be on the Transportation Planning Commission Board in order to receive our Federal and State road dollars. This Board holds an Executive Committee meeting once a month for hour and half. She sits on the Transportation Subcommittee and this meets once a month for approximately an hour and half. There is the full Commission meeting once a month and that is a two hour meeting. This is just one example of a Board that a Council member is responsible for including their Council position.

The next document was the schedule for the Budget Hearing for the month of April and May. Councilmember Wood explained to the Commissioners that during this time of the year we hold Council meeting every week. We also hold a Committee of the Whole meeting before the Council meeting and again after the Council meeting. What that means is every Monday night for two months you are attending a Budget Hearing and Council meeting from 5:30 pm to approximately 10:00 pm.

The last document given to the Commissioners was Councilmember Wood's one month schedule of meeting involving Council, outside Boards & Commissions, and community events.

Councilmember Wood explained what the number of support staff working for Council was when she took office in 2000 and how that number has decreased to two and the internal auditor. Much of the research is now the responsibility of individual Council members on an issue. She also explained during these difficult budget years as employee have been asked to take furlough days that Council members have volunteer to return a portion of their pay each year to equal the same number of furlough day employees were forced to take.

Commissioner Speaker questioned whether the time line presented included phone calls from constituents. Councilmember Wood said that she did not include the amount of time spent returning calls or emails. Depending on any given day and what the issue is that Council or the City is dealing with will determine how much time it may take to follow-up on an issue.

Commissioner Speaker asked about reading material and preparing for meeting. Councilmember Wood explained again that is the also the responsibility of the Council member to be informed about issues. Sometimes it requires attending meeting you are not assigned to but you attend in order to have a better understanding of the issue.

Commissioner Alley asked about healthcare especially when looking at the unions. Councilmember Wood explained that a few years back the EOCC decided to take healthcare away from Council members and we no longer have that benefit. With regard to employee and healthcare over the year employees have agreed to enter into memorandums of understanding with the Administration and have been paying more for healthcare.

Commissioner LeDuc questioned some of the Financial Health Team finding and asked Councilmember Wood for her opinion. Councilmember Wood stated she was unsure as to whether the deficit was \$9,000,000 or not due to how the Administration looks at the budget. For last four or five years employees have had to take furlough days but this \$9,000,000 did not factor that into the budget. There are always choices as to whether to pay for one program or another and during these difficult times each must be examined to determine what service it is giving to the taxpayers.

Commissioner LeDuc asked Councilmember Wood thoughts on moving the pension system over to MERS. Councilmember Wood explained that serving on the both retirement system boards this was discuss at their meetings briefly this week. It is difficult to compare systems when you are not comparing apples to apples. Many of our plans have different multipliers for different bargaining groups and it far more complex than just turn our system over to someone else.

Commissioner Speaker asked if as President is there more work, such as events that you are required to attend. Councilmember Wood stated yes. As President you are often asked to make presentation or attend event, along with your duties with the overseeing staff.

Commissioner Huggler stated you indicated you are here representing yourself what is it you would like the Commission to do. Councilmember Wood explained based on the challenges we as a City are facing it is irresponsible to expect or ask for more money, but I hope the Commission will review the material I presented and see that this is more than a Monday night every other week. I would hope you would leave our pay the same.

Commissioner Huggler asked whether you have talked to other Councilmembers about this. Councilmember Wood indicated that she had discussed it with some and they were of the same feeling.

Commissioner Curran thanked Councilmember Wood for her presentation and said she thought it was very useful.

Commissioner Curran asked Ms. Green whether we heard from other Council members who wished to address the Commission today. Ms. Green stated no.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Commission Member Comments

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 1:04 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lindsay Green, Recording Secretary

Lansing City Council

Approved by the Commission on: 3-28-13