

MINUTES AD HOC COMMITTEE MEETING
REYNOLDSBURG CITY COUNCIL
April 4, 2016

President Doug Joseph called the meeting to order at 8:15 PM

PRESENT: Joseph, Cotner, Long, Skinner, Cicak, Luzader, Spalding
ABSENT: Clemens

Approval of Minutes

- a. City Council – Ad Hoc Committee Meeting – March 21, 2016
Minutes held until next meeting.

Approval of Agenda

Agenda stands approved.

Ad Hoc Committee to Review Chapter 160 & Council Rules

CHANGES IN THE CHAPTER 160.03 SALARY SCHEDULE.

Council President Joseph: We did get a document from the Auditor explaining where these new expenditures would be coming from.

Councilman Long: Thank you President Joseph, and the Auditor and his Staff for putting together the memos. I believe our question was what the direct impact was of any changes that we would make to Chapter 160, and I believe that the Human Resources Director went ahead and put together the actual numbers in comparison to that. You will notice by her memo that they are showing a General Fund impact of \$161,275.00. Adding in the Medicare and the PERS, it is \$185,467.00, that is equal to our changes that we are discussing to make to Chapter 160.

Council President Joseph: Any questions or comments on that? We will maintain this in the Committee for further review, until the point where we want to make a recommendation. So, if there are any further questions on this, even from the public, we will entertain them next week.

RESULT:	REFERRED TO AD HOC COMMITTEE M	Next: 4/11/2016 7:45 PM
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Council Rules

Council President Joseph: The Clerk did not have an opportunity to work on those changes, so this evening we will have no discussion, unless there is discussion on previous.

Councilman Long: President Joseph, I know that there is going to be an item that is going to take a lot more discussion than just kicking around semantics, as far as wording the different sections. And I know that some have discussed the possibility of Council combining committee night and council night together so that not only us, but the other members of the administration are not required to come here four times a month. Maybe the other members of the Committee

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could just start giving some thought so that when we do get to a position to start discussing that, we are already in a position to make our opinions known.

Council President Joseph: Yes, I know that was also something that was suggested by the Mayor. Some of the pros and cons that I have looked at on that include, as has been mentioned by reducing to two meetings a month, it would require less time that people would have to be here to discuss things, but the flip side is that it takes away more opportunity for the public to see things that are being proposed, it gives Council less opportunity to ask questions, but this is obviously something that we need to have additional discussion on. Give it some thought. I know I had the Clerk checking to see whether that is unusual to meet four meetings. I know you said that it really is a mixture of both. Correct?

Ms. Beggerow: There are more that meet twice a month.

Council President Joseph: If Council only wants to be here twice a month to publicly review and ask questions, and things like that.

Councilman Spalding: In support of what Chris is saying, I guess what I want to know is, when are we going to talk about this?

Council President Joseph: Right now if you would like.

Councilman Spalding: I think it would be great. Let's talk about it right now. I think it is a very important issue, and I think it should be tonight.

Council President Joseph: If you have something to contribute, add it to the floor.

Councilman Spalding: I think it definitely should go to two meetings, and here are a couple of reasons why... many times, when we have committee meetings, it can be almost like a race to see how fast we can get out of here. And for any of us to come here and sit for fifteen to twenty minutes, I think is absurd. We all have better things to do. We can combine these things. Maybe we start at 7:00 and not at 7:30. There is nothing golden about 7:30. Maybe we move it to 7:00 and squeeze that time in to where we are possibly still getting out at 8:00, or even worse case, 8:30. I think we could use better time, concentrated time, and really be a service to all the employees who have to come. It is something that makes nothing but good sense to me.

Council President Joseph: Other comments?

Councilman Skinner: Aren't we required to start at 7:30?

Council President Joseph: No, that is in the Rules and can be changed.

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Councilman Skinner: So we could amend that. It is not a bad idea. One thought that I had is that you could conduct the Council meeting at a starting point, and then stack the Committee meetings after that so that you have a full week that things would be discussed after.

Council President Joseph: Actually you would have two.

Councilman Skinner: Correct: So you would have two full weeks.

Council President Joseph: The only problem with that is that anything that needed to be passed as an emergency would have to wait two weeks instead of a single week to pass it, unless we scheduled a special council meeting.

Councilman Skinner: We would just have to know that we may have to have a special council meeting. But, at least we are doing that less frequently.

Council President Joseph: If we do set it up that we are only meeting twice a month, that changes everybody's schedules. Right now people now, Members of Council know that Mondays are dedicated for Council and Committees. But, if all of a sudden we are meeting the first two Mondays, or every other Monday, or something like that, and then something does come up, and people are making other plans, we may not have quorums, to make things happen. So, it is something to think about that right now, Members of Council, when you run for office in this City, you run with the idea that I am dedicating Monday evenings to City business. And, if we are here to think, ok, we have better things to do, that is not really my view. We do not run here with the idea that I want half the time off to do my own business. If we are running for a city position, one night a week is not a lot to ask for as a part time body. Going to two meetings a month is even more part time, and it runs into problems I site. Good points. Yes, Mr. Cotner.

Councilman Cotner: I think it is more of an issue for the City staff that comes, in my opinion. I totally agree with you that once a week is no problem at all, and I am sure most of us are spending more than just one night a week working on Council business. I know many of us are in and out of the building frequently, or making phone calls. So it is definitely more time than one night a week for most of us. What I see the value in the change is, not making everyone come, because they are all here before 7:30. I usually walk in at 7:25, and they are waiting. Everybody is here at 7:00. They spend so much of their time as staff that has to be here and be available. I am concerned that their time could be used a little more effectively, then it is so much our time. I would have no problem still meeting every Monday night. I agree with you and I have become accustomed to that over the years and I know Monday night is Council. But, I think there is value in saying, "Why are we making everyone else come here?" And, my other thing is, if we were filling this room on an even somewhat regular basis, I would not think there would be any reason to change. But, considering that we do not have a strong attendance, I do not know that it hurts us that much to try a change and give the Staff and opportunity to be more effective and useful with their time. That is where I would see more of the value, as opposed to us having to come more than once a week. Again, I am use to it. Do not get me wrong, I love that fifth Monday, it is kind of a bonus. But, I can see the value because of everyone else that

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has to be here. I would love to find a way that we could maybe accommodate that. I think most of us could get a quorum to meet on an emergency basis.

Councilman Long: Thank you President Joseph. By the way, I agree one hundred percent with both of you. We all entered into this elected office. Over the years we have noticed some elected officials who take the job a little bit more seriously than others. I have heard the discussions and in the back of my mind, the concern is for the individuals that are forced to be here every Monday night. And, as Councilman Spalding pointed out, there are some Council meetings where we are in and out of here in about four minutes. And, to make individuals who work 8 to 5, stay after work for two to two and a half hours after work to stay for a Council meeting, and for the meeting to last five to ten minutes, does not do justice to the respect of their time. As far as Councilman Skinner's comment, we currently now, do hold meetings at the completion of the previous meeting. We would have the ability to conduct our Committee meetings prior to the Council meetings, and that Council meeting would then be available for immediate referral for emergency legislation at the meeting. And without a set time on it, it would be started as soon as the Committee meeting were completed. Whether it is first and third Monday, second and fourth. The other two elected bodies in our city only meet once a month, Truro Township and the Reynoldsburg School Board. We are the only body here that meets four times a month.

Council President Joseph: Mayor, since this would effect a lot of your staff, have you done any kind of analysis as far as what kind of savings we would see by reducing the amount of time your people would have to be here on those extra two nights? My concern is the reaction will be that the politicians are spending less time on the business of the City. If you could point to actual savings, by not having City employees sitting here waiting for a question to be asked, which may or may not come, have you done a saving analysis?

Mayor McCloud: No. My directors do not earn overtime.

Council President Joseph: So they are just here and are not getting compensated.

Mayor McCloud: Yes. Mr. Skinner.

Councilman Skinner: We probably do not know what extra expense we are incurring with power and heat, is there any way to determine. I would think that would be a savings to the City.

Council President Joseph: I think it would be a savings, but I think it would be nominal.

Councilman Skinner: I have missed three meetings, one when was when my father fell, one when my sister was in a wreck, and one when I was sworn into the United States Supreme Court. I am here all the time. I have been to all of the Special Council meetings. I do not mind continuing that, but I am sensitive to what has been recommended. I also agree that I think we would have a quorum, almost everyone up here lives and works in the City, or is retired. I think

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it is worth considering. I think it is worth trying. And, if it becomes a problem, we could always amend the Rules again.

Council President Joseph: Other questions or comments on this?

Councilman Spalding: So that I am clear, will we vote on this next week?

Council President Joseph: If the Committee decides to adopt this, it will be part of the final report. This is an Ad Hoc Committee. We are not sending things out as decisions that are necessarily being made. A final report will be approved at the final meeting on the 26th, and if this body wants to include that, it will be included at that time, along with everything else we have discussed, the 160 changes, the other Council Rules. It will be part of a final package. Other questions on this or other parts of the Rules.

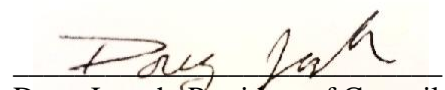
Attorney Hood: President Joseph, I am trying to get language to you for the Rules. If there is something that you don't understand, or that could sound better, I could submit some language to you personally, or the Ad Hoc.

Council President Joseph: We will have two more weeks of general discussion, and then on the 25th, we will have our final report. We can have everything we want in it at that time. We can debate it, discuss it, amend it, do whatever we want with it at that time. And then approve the final document at that time.

Referred to next Ad Hoc Committee meeting scheduled for 4/11/2016.

Adjournment


April L. Beggerow, Clerk of Council


Doug Joseph, President of Council