

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**  
THURSDAY, January 27, 2011

Committee of the Whole met at City Hall on Thursday, January 27, 2011, at 5:15 p.m. in the Common Council Chambers.

Present: Mayor Justin M. Nickels, Alderpersons Jill Hennessey, Scott McMeans, James N. Brey, Christopher Able, Jason Sladky, Alex J. Olson, Nicholas P. Levendusky, Allan Schema, Matt Kadow and Dave Soeldner.

Absent: None.

Also present: Asst. Dir. of Public Works/City Engineer Greg Minikel, Interim Asst. Parks Director Jeremy Crees, Asst. Recreation Director Denise Larson, Supt. Wastewater Treatment Facility Brian Helminger, DPW Business Manager Michael Huck, Deputy City Clerk Deborah Neuser, and various other city employees.

Council President Dave Soeldner called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

Committee discussed Parks and Recreation Department organization and management and Council President Dave Soeldner is asking Committee to decide whether or not to fill the Parks and Recreation director position. It was noted that Parks and Recreation Committee voted 3 - 2 to fill the position. All the alderpersons voiced their concerns whether it be to hire a director to lead the department or reorganize the department with a department manager. During a lengthy discussion, various options were discussed with everyone agreeing that Parks and Recreation needs supervision.

Moved by Kadow, second by Able to fill the Park and Recreation Director position.

Discussion followed.

Upon a vote, motion failed. Ayes, 5. Nays, 6.

Reorganizational strategies were discussed. It was decided that more information was needed in the form of a department flow chart. Mayor Nickels was asked to provide it to the Committee members.

Moved by Kadow, second by Sladky to refer back to oversight committee (Parks and Recreation).

Moved by Kadow to amend his motion to refer back to Committee of the Whole. Second by Schema. Ayes, 11. Nays, 0. Item referred back to Committee of the Whole.

It was decided Committee of the Whole will meet again after the Mayor provides the needed

organizational charts.

Committee discussed gradual depletion occurring in Wastewater Treatment Fund as it relates to the 2011 budget. Alderperson McMeans, Chair of Finance, along with Brian Helminger, Supt. Wastewater Treatment Facility, gave an update on the discrepancy in the Wastewater Treatment Fund balance and answered questions. It was noted that the auditor will have a report finalized next week. Committee will discuss the matter further after the report is received.

Committee discussed at length resolution (11-020) amending Council Rule 2 changing Co-Chairperson to Vice-Chairperson and having the Council President make (standing) committee appointments subject to the approval of the Common Council. The results of a survey of various cities as to committee appointments were shared with the Committee by Mayor Nickels. After analyzing the pros and cons it was noted that a better time to bring this rule change forth might be with the next election cycle for Mayor.

Moved by Brey, seconded by Olson to adopt the resolution.

Moved by Kadow, seconded by Sladky to strike the words "and having the Council President make committee appointments subject to the approval of the Common Council" from the resolution.

After lengthy discussion, Alderperson Brey called the question.

Mayor Nickels advised that a two-thirds vote is required to change a Council Rule (per Council Rule 12).

Upon a vote, the amendment to the resolution was accepted by acclamation. Ayes, 9. Nays, 2.

Upon a vote, the Committee's recommendation to adopt the resolution, as amended, was unanimously accepted by acclamation. Ayes, 11. Nays, 0.

Moved by Alderperson Sladky, seconded by Alderperson Kadow, meeting adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

Alderperson Dave Soeldner, Chairperson  
Committee of the Whole

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by: Deborah A. Neuser  
Deputy City Clerk