

LICENSING, PERMITS & INSPECTIONS COMMITTEE
JULY 9, 2013

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Jim Brey at 6:30 p.m. The following members were present: Jim Brey, Jill Hennessey, Christopher Able, Jason Sladky and Mike Howe. Absent: None.

Also present: Mayor Justin M. Nickels, Deputy Police Chief Bridget Brennan, Asst. City Attorney Kathleen McDaniel, Building Inspector Rick Schwarz, City Planner David Less, Alderperson Eric Sitkiewitz, Deputy Clerk Deborah Neuser and VonCeil K. Otto.

Chair called for public input. There was none.

The first item on the agenda was a non-renewal hearing for VonCeil K. Otto relative to 2-year operator's license application #35 for 2013-15. Because Ms. Otto was on vacation, she was not served within three days of the hearing. However, Ms. Otto waived her three day notice. Asst. City Attorney McDaniel explained the hearing process.

Deputy Chief Bridget Brennan was sworn in by Asst. City Attorney and provided testimony and read the offenses related to the denial. No one had an questions for D.C. Brennan.

Ms. Otto was asked to provide testimony and she stated she had none.

Alderperson Able made a motion to convene in closed session. Alderperson Brey seconded and upon roll call vote: Able, Brey and Howe voted aye. Sladky and Hennessey voted no. Motion carried to go into closed session.

The committee deliberated in closed session.

Motion by Able, seconded by Hennessey to reconvene in open session. Upon roll call vote: Brey, Able, Sladky, Howe and Hennessey voted aye. Nays, none.

In open session, Moved by Alderperson Able, seconded by Alderperson Hennessey, and unanimously carried to deny the license. Ayes, 5. Nays, none.

Ms. Otto was informed that she can speak during the license approval period at the Common Council meeting on Monday, July 15, 2013. She had no questions.

Deputy Chief Brennan and Asst. City Attorney McDaniel left the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

Next, Committee discussed request by Building Inspector Rick Schwarz for additional employees in the Building Inspection Department.

It was noted that new construction and remodeling have increased and due to the recent hail storm, building projects will continue probably through the end of 2014 as it is estimated that 6,000 homes have been hit. The request is for Bill Jindra, Plumbing Inspector, to become a full-time employee. Mr. Jindra has received his credentials and expects to receive his electrical inspection credentials by the end of the year.. Also, Jim Muenzenmeyer can be used for back up but we must be aware that he needs to spend 90% of his time on transit related duties and he also spends four hours a week on Building and Grounds. The possibility of the Fire

Department helping out and being cross trained was also briefly mentioned.

The Committee also addressed the issue of clerical staff in the Building Inspection Department as they do not want inspectors performing clerical work and we can't let any department be dependent on one individual. Clerical staff does issue some of the permits. New construction and remodeling permits are performed by the Building Inspector. Alderperson Hennessey stated this was the perfect opportunity to cross train our support staff immediately to provide assistance. It was suggested to train someone from the Clerk's Office as they are in the building. They will be here after crunch time and in the long term would be permanent back fill for clerical position in Building Inspection.

Alderperson Hennessey stated that she would not support part time to full time on a permanent basis until we use all our resources.

The budget numbers were available for review and due to the increase in revenue from permit fees, it was noted that funding the full time position should not be a problem. Mayor Nickels mentioned that he will be adding the full time position to his budget next year.

Moved by Alderperson Sladky, seconded and carried by acclamation, to move Bill Jindra to full time inspector with revenue from additional permits this year.

After a short discussion as to how Building Inspection is implementing EPI's recommendations and their inter-office cross training efforts, Ayes, 4. Nays, 1. Alderperson Hennessey voting no.

Alderperson Brey will forward a letter to Personnel for Council to act at their next meeting on July 15, 2013.

The meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Brey, Chairperson
by: Deborah Neuser, Deputy Clerk