

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

March 10, 2025 - 6:56 PM

**Community Room
933 Michigan Avenue, Stevens Point, WI**

OR

Zoom Teleconferencing

MINUTES

Discussion and Possible Action on:

1. Roll Call.

Present:

Ald. Kneebone, Broderick, Lang, Guthrie, Steinmetz.

Others Present:

Mayor Wiza, Clerk Yenter, HR Manager Frasch, Chief Kussow, Assistant Chief Gemza, C/T Ladick, Deputy C/T Peterson, Tax Specialist Pagel, Admin. Assistant Church, Director Kivela, Director Lemke, Attorney Beveridge, Director Beduhn, Ald. Christianson, Keymer, Birr, Shuda, Buse, Morrow.

2. Request from Alderperson Guthrie: Discussion and possible action on the creation of a City Administrator position.

Jim Paine, Mayor of Superior, Wisconsin, spoke about Superior's experience of going down the path of hiring a City Administrator. He spoke about common misconceptions about the effects of a City Administrator and the struggles associated with adding the position. Mr. Paine shared that in Superior, Wisconsin, they determined that it would cost more money without meaningful change while reducing the public's access to government. Mr. Paine was asked to provide the study that he spoke of via email to the City Clerk's office.

JB Moody, Chief of the Stevens Point Fire Department, asked about the current deficiencies or inefficiencies present that a City Administrator would be correcting. He spoke for the directors present and maintained that there were too many unknowns on the topic to make an informed decision regarding the change. He spoke about the current department heads and the pride they feel in addressing the concerns of City residents.

Liz McDonald, 1760 Strongs Avenue, spoke about informing the public about such a large change in the governance of the City and recommended a public meeting or referendum. She shared that her taxes have increased in the past few years and referenced the City not being able to afford a new position. Ms. McDonald spoke about the current and past Mayors who have led the City and shared her hopes that the request for a City Administrator was not a reaction to what some may perceive as a difficulty in working with the current Mayor.

Cheyenne Antell, 3925 Doolittle Drive, spoke about their financial, representational, and efficiency concerns with a City Administrator. She questioned where the money for the funding would come from and the financial and social impact of a part-time Mayor. Ms. Antell shared her desire for full-time representation when voting for the mayoral position and for someone who can connect the city government with constituents and businesses while building community trust. She spoke about efficiency in leadership and the opportunity for more things to fall through the cracks with more "cooks in the kitchen."

Shaun Morrow, District Eleven Alderperson, spoke about canvassing his district, asking them their thoughts on hiring an administrator. He shared that two people were in favor while everyone else was staunchly opposed. Even those who did not like the current mayor were in favor of voting for their representative. He spoke about the separation of power and the checks and balances that the City has.

Andrew Halverson, 501 Wilshire Boulevard, spoke about being in favor of a City Administrator but not in favor of how the process is being gone about. He spoke about the changes that would have to be made to other elected positions and how the City Administrator position would have to be structured in order to succeed. Mr. Halverson made note of the positions that remain unfilled in the City, noting police officers in particular, and the need for a comprehensive approach rather than a selective approach.

Bill Bushman, 5516 Elmwood Avenue, spoke about not being convinced that there is a clear need for this position, only generalities given regarding efficiencies. He spoke about the minimal budget that the City has and the other projects that need tax-dollar funding.

Keith Kedrowski, 1536 Water Street, spoke about possible personal and political motivations regarding the creation of a City Administrator position.

Dave Iden spoke about the negative repercussions of changing the mayoral position to accommodate a City Administrator. He spoke about the lack of accountability and the cost the position creation would place on taxpayers.

Marc Christianson, District One Alderperson, shared that the study referenced by Mayor Paine was done by a professor from Oshkosh who spoke before the council about the City Administrator position. He spoke about hybrid ways that governments

can be structured and reiterated that the discussion is ongoing without a specific plan being set for how a City Administrator would be integrated.

Bill Bushman, 5516 Elmwood Avenue, reiterated that he likes innovation but doesn't see the purpose in taking time to fix something he doesn't see as broken.

Carol Molepske, 2125 Clark Street, spoke against adding another layer of government and losing the power of her vote.

Attorney Beveridge gave an overview of what was provided in the packet, spoke about procedures relating to addressing conflict, and gave insight into the ordinances pertaining to the discussion.

3. Adjournment.

Adjourned at 8:25 p.m.