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January 15, 2008

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE
ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The Committee on Information Technology held a meeting on January 15, 2008, with Chairman Bruce Desmond presiding and Committee Members Aldermen William Roche and Robert Trane also present and voting. Also present were CIO Karthik Viswanathan, Personnel Director Richard Tranfaglia and Purchasing Director Rositha Durham.

Diesel Generator for City Hall

Mr. Viswanathan told the members that the city examined a proposal for an emergency backup generator a few years ago and, after an analysis by Honeywell, the cost was determined to be approximately \$432,000 for City Hall. Mr. Viswanathan explained that the data center and communications room are the 2 primary areas for backup. There are 61 servers, covered by uninterruptible power supplies (UPS) capable of supplying power for up to 1.5 hours, however, the bulk of the switches would not be protected. The phones at City Hall are on Cisco and would stay up for about 30 minutes. Each PC has its own UPS with about 1 hour of backup power. The power requirement to keep the UPS devices running would be 93,000 watts. Eliminating individual UPS's and plugging workstations into an alternate source would substantially lower that figure. Installing an emergency backup generator would require some electrical work, including new wiring, and some servers would need to be reconfigured. Additionally, sources of funding would need to be identified. Mr. Viswanathan will work on developing a plan for implementation.

Chairman Desmond stated that he is concerned about keeping city communications open in the event of a power outage and he asked Mr. Viswanathan to check if the diesel supplied power is "dirty".

Pay for on-call personnel

Mr. Tranfaglia examined the positions of both union and non-union employees within the Information Technology Department and determined that the only employee on-call is a non-union employee. A survey performed of other communities indicated that many cities outsource the work at rate of \$50 per hour while those using their own personnel give the employee compensatory time rather than money.

Chairman Desmond stated that presently, the on-call person does not get compensated and he asked if a plan could be developed to correct this inequity. Mr. Tranfaglia suggested reclassifying the position to raise the salary compensatory with the additional responsibility and then building in a compensation provision. Mr. Tranfaglia noted however, that since there is only one on-call person, that employee would never be able to take any compensatory time, therefore, the IT Department should add another person to department.

No Papers were acted on.

Alderman Bruce M. Desmond, Chairman
Committee on Information Technology

COMMITTEE REPORT

Report of the Committee on Information
Technology, January 15, 2008

In Board of Aldermen

Clerk