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October 25, 2006

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
ON LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

The Committee on Legislative Matters convened on October 25, 2006 with Chairman Thomas Taylor presiding and Committee Members Aldermen Bruce Desmond, Rebekah Gewirtz, Maryann Heuston, Sean O'Donovan, Walter Pero, Denise Provost, William Roche, Dennis Sullivan, Robert Trane and William White also present and voting. Also present were Mayor Joe Curtatone, John Gannon, Robert Collins, Matt Buckley and Frank Wright from the Law Office, Michael Lambert from the Mayor's Office, Finance Director Ed Bean, Personnel Director Richard Tranfaglia, Jesse Burke from Somerstat, Tom Bent and Sheila Tracy from the Municipal Compensation Advisory Board, and other interested parties.

The committee received and reviewed information requested at the last meeting.

RESOLUTIONS:

Chairman Taylor's resolution **that the administration begin implementing and planning an evaluation process as the next phase of the compensation review process** was passed.

Chairman Taylor's resolution **that the administration set up an in-house personnel review committee to deal with salaries, scale, job descriptions, qualifications, etc.** was passed.

An amendment by Alderman Roche **that the review only include Executive and managerial positions**, was passed.

An amendment by Alderman Heuston **that the review committee be comprised of the Mayor, Personnel Director and Finance Director**, was passed.

Chairman Taylor's resolution that the salary for Aldermen be set at \$22,500 was defeated on a roll call vote of 4 in favor to 7 against. (For the record, Alderman Pero noted that the current salary for aldermen is approximately \$18,910 when the stipend is included).

Chairman Taylor's motion to approve the study passed on a roll call vote of 7 in favor to 4 against.

Alderman Roche made and withdrew a motion that any alderman who voted against accepting the study not take the raise, if and when it goes through. Alderman Gerwartz stated that she would like a continuation of the dialog on this matter.

Alderman Roche moved for reconsideration of the prior vote to approve the study and reconsideration passed.

Alderman White said that he is uncomfortable with voting on ranges for salaries as it could jeopardize the budget process. Mr. Gannon told the members that the committee should send some direction to the mayor regarding this matter.

Alderman Roche motion *that the City Solicitor draft an ordinance requiring a 2/3 vote of the Board of Aldermen to change a salary ordinance* was passed.

Chairman Taylor made and withdrew a motion to accept and place the study on file and to send resolutions to the Administration and to instruct the City Solicitor to prepare an ordinance for same.

Changes to positions governed by ordinance:

Alderman White's resolution *to add the position of City Clerk to the ordinance category* was passed.

Alderman White's resolution *to add the position Environmental Programs Manager to the ordinance category* was passed.

Alderman White's resolution *to add the position Labor Counsel to the ordinance category* was passed.

Alderman White's resolution *to add the position Director of Human Rights to the ordinance category* was passed.

Alderman Roche's motion to accept the Positions by Category Ordinance listing, as amended was passed.

Chairman Taylor's motion to accept the study and place it on file was passed.

Chairman Taylor's motion to forward the resolutions to the Administration and to instruct the City Solicitor to prepare an ordinance for this item was passed.

Mayor Curtatone stated that the intent of the study is to set maximum ranges and he said there should be no expectation that lower salaries would be increased to the minimum levels of a particular salary range. He also said that the aldermen would defeat the purpose of the ranges if they pass an ordinance requiring a 2/3 vote of the Board to set ordinance salaries, on a case by case basis. The mayor believes that such action would politicize the process. As an alternative, the mayor suggested that if an increase is in excess of a certain percentage, then it might be acceptable to require a 2/3 vote of the Board. He asked, however, that initially, for the 1st round, at least, this not be the case, as some salaries need to be adjusted upward to get them to where they should be.

Alderman Roche's motion to reconsider his earlier 2/3 motion was passed.

Alderman White's motion *that when ordinances are enacted governing salaries, any salary increase beyond 5% shall require a 2/3 vote of the Board of Alderman* was passed.

The committee discussed matters before it and took action on the following item:

181974: Communication from Mayor - Requesting approval of the Municipal Compensation Advisory Board's Wage and Classification Study.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be placed on file

VOTE: Roll Call Vote: 11 in favor, 0 against

Alderman Thomas F. Taylor, Chairman
Committee on Legislative Matters

COMMITTEE REPORT

Report of the Committee of the Whole on
Legislative Matters, October 25, 2006

In Board of Aldermen

Clerk