

City of Selah
Council Minutes
August 12, 2008

Regular Meeting
Selah Council Chambers
115 West Naches Avenue
Selah, WA 98942

A. Call to Order Mayor Jones called the meeting to order at 4:04pm.

B. Roll Call

Members Present: Summer Derrey, Keith Larson, Denise Nichols, Herb Schmidt, John Tierney

Members Excused: Paul Overby (arrived late in the meeting)

Staff Present: Frank Sweet, City Supervisor; Bob Noe, City Attorney; Stacy Dwarshuis, Police Lieutenant; Jerry Davis, Fire Chief; Joe Henne, Public Works Director; Dennis Davison, Community Planner, Jeff Hagler, Parks & Recreation Director

C. Pledge of Allegiance

Councilwoman Derrey led the Pledge of Allegiance. Parks & Recreation Director Jeff Hagler led the group in prayer.

D. Agenda Changes

City Supervisor Frank Sweet stated Item M – 4 Resolution Authorizing the Mayor To Sign an Agreement between the City of Selah, Selah School District 119 and Selah Community Action Network Regarding a Youth Center was withdrawn from the Agenda.

E. Public Appearances

F. Getting To Know Our Businesses

G. Communications

1. Oral

2. Written

- a. Thank You Card to Selah Police Department from the Arthur Eddy Families
- b. New Vision Investor Notes
- c. YBSA Monthly Report, July 2008

Mayor Jones reviewed written correspondence.

I. Consent Agenda

All items listed with an asterisk (*) were considered as part of the Consent Agenda.

- * 1. Approval of Minutes: Council Meeting July 8, 2008
- * 2. Approval of Claims & Payroll: Payroll Checks Nos. 63963 – 64089 for a total of \$179,980.36 and Claims Checks Nos. 52304 – 52422 for a total of \$183,027.38.
- * 3. Resolution Authorizing the Mayor To Sign the Agreement between the City of Selah and Selah School District Regarding the School Resource Officer

Mayor Jones read the Consent Agenda.

Councilwoman Nichols moved approval of the Consent Agenda. Councilman Schmidt seconded. By voice vote, Consent Agenda was adopted unanimously.

J. Public Hearings

1. Public Hearing To Consider Ordinance of the City of Selah Amending Ordinance Title 11 of Selah Municipal Code Adopting by Reference the 2006 Editions of the International Building Code, International Residential Code, International Energy Conservation Code, International Mechanical Code, International Existing Building Code, International Property Maintenance Code, International Plumbing Code, and International Fire Code as They Now Exist or May Hereafter Be Amended and Making All Changes Necessary to Its Existing Municipal Code To Effectuate the Adoption of the Foregoing International Codes; Providing for Severability; and, Establishing an Effective Date

Councilwoman Nichols asked what changes have been made.

Joe Henne responded that many small things have been changed, for example, now a 2 foot retaining wall can be built without a permit.

Councilman Herb Schmidt noted that's without a permit, and asked if there are limits on walls built with a permit.

Mr. Henne responded there is no limitation, but it would have to be engineered. He noted that insulation requirements and numerous other little changes have been made. He explained that we have to adopt what the state adopts as minimums and if we want to increase the minimums, we have to come before the Council.

Fire Chief Jerry Davis noted hearings are held over the years between adoption of changes in the codes.

Mayor Jones opened the Public Hearing. Seeing no one rise to comment, he closed the Public Hearing and moved on to J-2.

2. Public Hearing To Consider an Ordinance Amending Selah Municipal Code, Title 20, Unified Fee Schedule by Adding Chapter 20.24 the Schedule of Fees Relating to the Issuance of Building Permits, Mechanical Permits, Plumbing Permits, the Abatement of

Dangerous Buildings, Fire Code and Life Safety Permits and Alarm and Fire Extinguishing Systems and Other Inspections and Fees

Public Works Director Joe Henne said the printing had the text jumping boxes, so he handed out new copies. He explained that this ordinance with these same fees was adopted before, but the codifier rejected the format. So this has been redone.

Community Planner Dennis Davison confirmed that the codifier didn't put it in the Code.

Mayor Jones opened the Public Hearing. Seeing no one rise to comment, he closed the Public Hearing and moved on to M-1.

K. New Business

L. Old Business

M. Resolutions

1. Resolution Authorizing the Mayor To Sign a Restoration and Sewer System Connection Agreement for Public Utilities with Mary Clark

Public Works Director Joe Henne addressed Resolution M-1 stating he has been trying to secure easements to move the sewer line that Public Works plans to run out to Speyers Road. Mary Clark is asking for a free sewer hookup in exchange for granting the easement.

Councilman Keith Larson asked if we would have the right to force her to give an easement if the City said no.

City Attorney Bob Noe we could claim eminent domain, but it would cost us. He said this was a negotiated resolution of the problem. Joe Henne noted it has been done before, for example when they put in Lookout Point reservoir.

Councilwoman Nichols asked if Mary Clark is the only property owner up there.

Joe Henne responded no, noting that both Chuck Johnson & Jean Owens own property out there. In response to a question from Councilman Tierney, Mr. Henne said Ms. Clark is in the County and would be required to annex in or get an Outside Utility Agreement to tie into the sewer line.

Councilman Schmidt moved and Councilwoman Derrey seconded to approve the Resolution Authorizing the Mayor To Sign a Restoration and Sewer System Connection Agreement for Public Utilities with Mary Clark. Roll was called: Council Member Schmidt – yes; Council Member Larson – yes; Council Member Nichols – yes; Council Member Derrey – yes; Council Member Tierney – yes; Council Member Jorgensen. Support was unanimous.

2. Resolution Approving Payment to Columbia Asphalt & Gravel, Inc. for Work Performed through July 31, 2008

City Supervisor Frank Sweet recommended adoption of M-2. He reported things are progressing well on the North Wenas property.

Councilwoman Derrey moved and Councilman Tierney seconded to approve the Resolution Approving Payment to Columbia Asphalt & Gravel, Inc. for Work Performed through July 31, 2008. Roll was called: Council Member Schmidt – yes; Council Member Larson – yes; Council Member Nichols – yes; Council Member Derrey – yes; Council Member Tierney – yes; Council Member Jorgensen. Support was unanimous.

- * 3. Resolution Authorizing the Mayor To Sign the Agreement between the City of Selah and Selah School District Regarding the School Resource Officer

N. Ordinances

- 1. Ordinance of the City of Selah Amending Ordinance Title 11 of Selah Municipal Code Adopting by Reference the 2006 Editions of the International Building Code, International Residential Code, International Energy Conservation Code, International Mechanical Code, International Existing Building Code, International Property Maintenance Code, International Plumbing Code, and International Fire Code as They Now Exist or May Hereafter Be Amended and Making All Changes Necessary to Its Existing Municipal Code To Effectuate the Adoption of the Foregoing International Codes; Providing for Severability; and, Establishing an Effective Date

Councilwoman Derrey moved and Councilman Larson seconded to approve the Ordinance of the City of Selah Amending Ordinance Title 11 of Selah Municipal Code Adopting by Reference the 2006 Editions of the International Building Code, International Residential Code, International Energy Conservation Code, International Mechanical Code, International Existing Building Code, International Property Maintenance Code, International Plumbing Code, and International Fire Code as They Now Exist or May Hereafter Be Amended and Making All Changes Necessary to Its Existing Municipal Code To Effectuate the Adoption of the Foregoing International Codes; Providing for Severability; and, Establishing an Effective Date. Roll was called: Council Member Schmidt – yes; Council Member Larson – yes; Council Member Nichols – yes; Council Member Derrey – yes; Council Member Tierney – yes; Council Member Jorgensen. Support was unanimous.

- 2. Ordinance Amending Selah Municipal Code, Title 20, Unified Fee Schedule by Adding Chapter 20.24 the Schedule of Fees Relating to the Issuance of Building Permits, Mechanical Permits, Plumbing Permits, the Abatement of Dangerous Buildings, Fire Code and Life Safety Permits and Alarm and Fire Extinguishing Systems and Other Inspections and Fees

Councilman Larson moved and Councilman Schmidt seconded to approve the Ordinance of the City of Selah Amending Selah Municipal Code, Title 20, Unified Fee Schedule by Adding Chapter 20.24 the Schedule of Fees Relating to the Issuance of Building Permits, Mechanical Permits, Plumbing Permits, the Abatement of Dangerous Buildings and other Inspections and Fees. Roll was called: Council Member Schmidt – yes; Council Member Larson – yes; Member Nichols – yes; Council Member Derrey – yes; Council Member Tierney – yes; Council Member Jorgensen. Support was unanimous.

- 3. Ordinance Creating Municipal Code Section 21.07.035 Requiring Signage in Addition to other Notice Requirements for Certain Land Use Applications

Community Planner Dennis Davison explained that this Ordinance is the result of concerns the Council expressed about requiring posting of signs at property designated for land use change. He explained that it would be a requirement of the applicant to put up these signs at least 20 days in advance of a Public Hearing. He enumerated other requirements, and called Council Members' attention to the sign being held up at the front of the room. He said the City will make the signs, but the applicant will reimburse the City for that expense as a part of the fees to be paid.

Councilman Tierney noted he did not see any penalty in the ordinance.

Mr. Davison said if proponents don't comply, their project will not proceed. However, if we find we need them, we may come back with monetary penalties.

Councilwoman Nichols expressed her appreciation for the Planner's effort.

Mr. Davison said for most postings, we will have the sign there for a period of 20 days.

Councilman Keith Larson asked for clarification, are proponents required to get signs from the City, noting he would not support that if the signs were cost-prohibitive.

City Supervisor Frank Sweet clarified that the signs will cost under \$100.

Councilman Schmidt said Yakima has been doing this for some time. He also expressed appreciation for staff following up on this.

Councilman Schmidt moved and Councilwoman Derrey seconded to approve the Ordinance Creating Municipal Code Section 21.07.035 Requiring Signage In Addition To Other Notice Requirements For Certain Land Use Applications. Roll was called: Council Member Schmidt – yes; Council Member Larson – yes; Council Member Nichols – yes; Council Member Derrey – yes; Council Member Tierney – yes; Council Member Jorgensen. Support was unanimous.

O. Communications

1. Oral

P. Reports/Announcements

1. Mayor
2. Council Members
3. Boards
4. Departmental

- a. Selah Bus Ridership Report for the week of June 16th – Inside the City Exclusively
- b. Basin Disposal, Inc. - Quarterly Recycle Data

Parks & Rec Director Jeff Hagler reported that this is the last week the pool is open, and they've had a tough year with the mechanical aspects of the pool.

Mayor Jones asked about attendance.

Mr. Hagler responded that it's down somewhat and noted that he'll have a report at the next meeting. He stated Wixson Park is scheduled next Tuesday (August 19) for the 181st battalion 9:30 - 3:00.

Councilman Tierney announced that it is set up at 7:00am, and the military personnel will not be in uniform. He said dignitaries will be recognized between 10 and 10:30. He asked Mayor Jones if he could attend.

Mayor Jones said yes, but then remembered that he will be out of town all next week. Mayor Pro Tem Larson will check his schedule. Mr. Tierney asked that the lawn not be watered the night before.

Police Lieutenant Stacy Dwarshuis reported that last week Doc Hastings was in town and led an informal discussion at the police facility. He thanked Councilwoman Derrey, Councilman Overby, and City Supervisor Sweet for their attendance. He said he got a chance to meet the new Superintendent Dr. Deborah Howard. He further reported that National Night Out block parties worked out well. He thanked Councilwoman Derrey for her graffiti removal.

Councilwoman Derrey thanked Stacy Dwarshuis and Councilman Jorgensen for their contributions. She said Relay for Life was a huge success, bringing in over \$40,000.

Councilman Overby came into the meeting. He reiterated what Lieutenant Dwarshuis said that the Hastings reception was great. He said SWAC (the Solid Waste Advisory Committee) will be meeting this week, and he will have a report at the next meeting.

City Supervisor Frank Sweet noted Steve Wheatley from Basin Disposal will be here for study session prior to the August 26 meeting.

Councilman Schmidt expressed his concern that there are tall weeds and debris around the City. He suggested police make a list as they patrol. He said one area is at 14th & Heritage on the corner and another is on Crestview.

Frank Sweet said that the house on Crestview was foreclosed and has been sold.

Mayor Jones said he believes that whoever holds the paper on any property should keep it up. He asked all to let him or Frank know when they see problems.

Councilman Schmidt said he heard very positive comments about the block watch party in his neighborhood.

Mayor Jones said block parties provide a great opportunity to get to know your neighbors.

Councilman Tierney said he just returned from 15 days on the west side, and noted the City of Seattle is selling their high-tech restrooms on e-bay. He said he is glad to be back.

Chief Davis reported that yesterday was a high impact back-to-back alarms. He stated that he attended Chief Packer's funeral in Lakewood. He noted he will be on vacation the next two weeks, and Deputy Chief Gary Hanna will cover for him.

Public Works Director Joe Henne reminded the Council that he previously talked about TIB application for sidewalks. He said he had Huibregtse score out his application, and they came up with 55 points, explaining that you usually don't get funding under 61 points. So, instead of spending \$3-4,000 on the

application, he said he'd rather spend it on asphalt, so will be bringing an item back to the Council. He asked Council Members to bring back their Comprehensive Water Plan Books so that revisions can be inserted.

Community Planner Dennis Davison reported that construction is intensifying on North Wenas, and they've been reviewing development proposals. He further reported that the Planning Commission is working on updating the stormwater documents. He reported that Cherry Blossom Ridge received the Hearing Examiner's recommendation of approval today with 33 conditions. He noted the appeal on 503 Southern is currently scheduled for September 15, but there has been some discussion of delaying that until the 605 appeal is through Superior Court. He said until that discussion is confirmed, he will proceed with the process to get it heard on the 15th.

The City Supervisor asked the Administrative Assistant to bring the Council up to speed on plans for Shelley Shultz. She noted she has a card on her desk for any Council Members or department heads to sign, and they would also be welcome to make a donation toward a money tree. She invited those attending to get together for cake at 4:00pm Friday, August 15.

Mayor Jones noted Council Members have received their Preliminary Budget Schedules. He asked the Council to let Frank know if there are conflicts, predicting it's going to be slim. He reported they've finished Veterans Park and will hold the dedication at noon on November 10. He stated he will meet with VFW representatives in September. He stated he will be gone next week to Calgary and on to Hanna.

City Supervisor Frank Sweet announced there will be a 15-minute session on litigation and 15 minutes on real estate.

Council moved into Executive Session at 4:53.

Q. Executive Session

1. Executive Session for Litigation – 15 minutes
2. Executive Session for Real Estate – 15 minutes

Mayor Jones reconvened the meeting at 5:23, stating there will be no action.

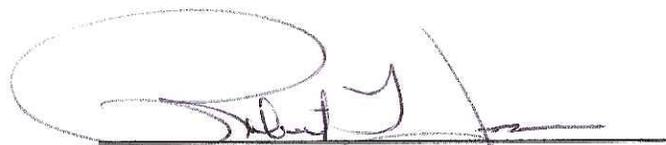
R. Adjournment

Council Member Overby moved, and Council Member Larson seconded that the meeting be adjourned. By voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 5:24pm.


Paul Overby, Council Member


Denise Nichols, Council Member

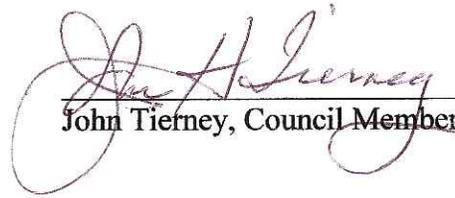

Robert L. Jones, Mayor


Summer Derrey, Council Member


Herb Schmidt, Council Member



Keith Larson, Council Member

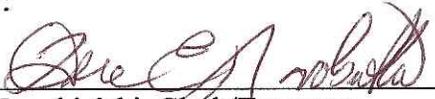


John Tierney, Council Member



Kevin Jorgensen, Council Member

ATTEST:



Dale E. Novobielski, Clerk/Treasurer

Selah City Council
Study Session
2:30pm
August 12, 2008

Bruce Reim, Canfield & Assoc. Risk Manager introduced himself to the Mayor and City Council Members. He passed around a handout and a sign-in sheet, noting that his job is to help to lower risks for officials. He explained that Selah is part of Cities Insurance Association of Washington (CIAW) pool which helps to keep costs down because when you have a claim, the money comes out of a pool rather than from increasing that individual town's rate. He said in addition to municipalities, they also cover approximately 80% of schools, counties, fire districts, and non-profits. He explained that these workshops help to head-off claims, and his company provides them at no cost, as part of policy. He noted that he will lead a discussion on board liability today, to bring it home to Selah. He urged participants to ask questions. Council Members Denise Nichols, Kevin Jorgensen, John Tierney, Summer Derrey, Keith Larson, Mayor Bob Jones and City Supervisor Frank Sweet introduced themselves to Mr. Reim. Mr. Reim noted that he serves as the Mayor Pro Tem on Ephrata's City Council. As he began the workshop, he said it is important to remember he is not a lawyer, and the City Attorney is the appropriate resource for law questions.

He gave an over-view of topics to be considered: Liability / Minimizing Risk, Open Public Meeting Act, Executive Sessions, Leadership Team roles, what staff needs to know and what elected officials need to know. He promised to cover team roles, noting elected, appointed, employed, and/or volunteers need to know the rules in order to make things run smoothly.

He said civil rights, employment, discrimination, law enforcement liability and land use are all common issues. He said it is important to make sure zoning and codes are right before, not after, the fact. He stressed that growth is good, but it needs to happen the way we want it to.

He explained that we have Liability Insurance because of the "feasance" issues. He explained we try to avoid making decisions contrary to law (malfeasance), avoid wrongful performance of an act or stepping out of the law (misfeasance) as well as avoid omitting something (nonfeasance). He said his company provides damage control as well as advice on ways to change the error. He noted liability insurance covers everyone working for the City, commissions, Council, staff, volunteers.

Keith Larson asked for an example of wrongful performance.

Mr. Reim said that's what happens if you have a law and try to reinvent it. He used a land-use example.

John Tierney stated that Canfield would still stand behind us liability-wise.

Mr. Reim said yes, and you should follow your attorney's advice. However he noted if you chose to disregard the lawyer's advice, and you were wrong and the lawyer was right, you can be held responsible. He stressed that Council Members or City officials who do not take lawyer's advice may be liable. He said you can bet developers are watching what you are doing. Council Members are part time, and they are the Supreme Court who make the decisions. If the attorney is steering you down the wrong road, get another attorney.

He stated Canfield has 130 employees working with as many as 15 cases at any one time. He recommended the Council use Canfield for help with development of policy, procedures, and as a source for advice on codes, zones or statutes. He said elected officials are the eyes and ears of the community. He recommended that when people have issues, Council Members should

say, "How can I help?" not "What can I do?" From there, Council Members should report that concern to Frank or Bob. He reminded the Council that they only have power as a group, not individually.

He covered the Open Public Meeting Act, noting all meetings with the Council as a governing body are open and public, regular public meetings, the public is invited to attend and observe, but the Mayor and Council are not required to take public input. He noted that not covered under the Open Public Meeting Act are decisions affecting only individuals, groups such as fact-gathering committee meetings or other advisory groups that have no decision-making powers. He said it is very important not to give the public the perception that we're doing anything wrong. Social gatherings are excluded as long as no action or discussion takes place; however, Council Members should be very careful not to gather or appear to be having a discussion.

John Tierney asked if you can discuss business if you don't have a quorum.

Mr. Reim suggested the Council Members should be very careful of public perception, because they don't want to give anyone a reason to suspect them. He reiterated that the body of a Council's work takes place in Council Chambers. He further advised that email can create a majority.

Mr. Tierney said courts can subpoena individual computers as well as City computers.

Keith Larson asked what constitutes a social gathering.

Mr. Reim suggested that no one should throw a party for the Council. He suggested at a large party Council Members should sit at separate tables. He stressed that once the public identifies that perception of Council Members "being in cahoots," it's almost impossible to stop the perception. He advised them to be careful with their emails and their phone calls. He suggested they can talk to City Supervisor Frank Sweet to gather facts.

Denise Nichols asked about several Council Members talking on the steps after a Council Meeting discussing an issue or not.

Mr. Reim responded if somebody drives by, what do they think? You could be discussing just about anything, but the perception is that you are doing something wrong.

John Tierney noted he and two other Council Members are Kiwanians.

Mr. Reims urged them to be careful about sitting together or talking as a group. Again, he urged Council Members to try to make sure they don't heat up a public perception.

He next addressed the problem of disorderly meetings.

Mayor Jones said if there is an issue lots of people come. He cited an example where he had ruled that there would be no input from the audience and one lady kept interrupting.

Mr. Reims said it's important to control your meeting in advance by having expectations/protocol in writing. He noted a meeting can be moved if it is disrupted. He suggested putting the "hot-button" issues up front in the agenda, and perhaps recess for a few minutes after consideration of the issue in open session to give audience members a chance to leave.

What if we mess up? What if the Open Public Meetings Act is violated? He said if that happens, any action is null and void, including the passages of resolutions and ordinances. He noted, if a decision is wrong, throw it out, redo it, but if you go against lawyer and City Supervisor, you may

end up in a lawsuit. He said the civil fine is only \$100, but prevailing parties can also recover expenses and attorney fees.

Councilman Tierney asked if that would be a Council Members' personal liability.

Mr. Reims responded that it can be. He said his company would be willing to work with them, but if you knowingly and purposefully go against the lawyer, then you are on your own. If you are consciously doing what you believe is right, and you just make a mistake, then we're behind you. He advised, if you think your attorney is wrong, wait.

Frank Sweet said the City usually uses Municipal Research as a second opinion.

Mr. Reim said the transaction of business is a meeting, a consent agenda is a "meeting." He asked if Selah holds Executive Sessions. He discussed the advantages of having Executive Sessions the half hour before the meeting, because it limits the time and shows action in the regular meeting. He said that allows deliberation before a vote, and doesn't require interested parties to wait until the end of the meeting to see what action is taken. He cited the reasons a group can hold Executive Sessions: to discuss real estate, personnel, qualifications of an applicant for appointment to elective office, or litigation or potential litigation. He said complaints or charges of fraud against an employee can be held in a public meeting if the employee requests that the meeting be open. He advised the Council to be sure to get that request in writing. He said in any instance you need to let the employee know that the discussion will take place and give them a choice. He noted many Councils do not even allow pens and paper in Executive Session.

Keith Larson said if the Council discusses issues or complaints about an employee, that means the Mayor or Frank needs to go to that employee and explain that the Council is going to have an Executive Session regarding a complaint about his/her performance.

Mr. Reim said if that is not done and something leaks out and the employee finds out that his record has been discussed, then he becomes aware that his rights have been violated.

John Tierney asked what if an employee is discussed in a public meeting.

Mr. Reim responded that you should still let him/her know and give him/her a choice for follow-up discussion, an opportunity to be there, to be part of the discussion in Executive Session or open meeting. He said if the Council is evaluating the application or reviewing qualifications of an applicant, the public is invited. The Council can then go into Executive Session to discuss, but must decide final action in public meeting. The same applies with appointment to an office. He cautioned not to even take a straw poll or consensus. Mayor shouldn't ask "Is everybody ok with this?" however, he can ask, "Is everybody ready to go back into open session?"

Bruce Reim said it is appropriate to discuss with legal counsel issues of potential litigation in executive session. He clarified for Council Member Schmidt that land use discussions should happen at the Planning Commission level in a public meeting. The Executive Session for the Council should be reserved for discussion of potential litigation with legal counsel.

He said the Mayor should publically announce that the Council is going into Executive Session to discuss whatever topic, and will be back at whatever time. He said you can't resume the open meeting early, because audience participants may have left the building. But, he said you can extend the Executive Session longer than originally announced. A representative should announce that extension to the public.

Mr. Reim suggested that the Council should not be too hasty in its adoption of a position after coming out of Executive Session. He said it's a good idea to explain your decision-making before the audience.

He said it's important that contracts and mutual aid agreements be written and describe and clarify in detail financial responsibilities, party liabilities and insurance.

He clarified the Leadership Team roles: the Council is the governing body and the agency Staff manages and carries out. He stated the Council can't supervise after making the decision. The Mayor, City Supervisor and the Department Heads make recommendations, and then carry out policy made by Council. The Council sets the budget, but the supervision is carried out by the staff.

Keith Larson asked how a Council Member should handle a situation where an employee comes to him complaining about another employee or supervisor. Mr. Reim suggested the Council Member's best response is, "I don't want to hear it." It's important to make sure the chain of command is followed. He said you don't want everybody afraid of Council Members because they are micro-managing.

John Tierney asked how the Council should handle expenditures in excess of an approved budget.

Bruce Reim responded that the Council should make budget adjustments before hand. He noted finances can be shifted within the department's accounts.

Councilman Tierney said you shouldn't micro-manage the budget.

Mr. Reim said, "You cannot not do indirectly what you cannot do directly." You have to follow due process. You want to have input. You don't want surprises. Nobody likes surprises. Everybody needs to have the same information. He said Staff can be an enormous help and urged Council Members to share the credit, and give people a pat on the back. Let people know they are appreciated. He noted people are rarely fired for inability to do the job; they are fired because they can't get along. He advised Council Members to be careful about campaigning in the workplace and to avoid public criticism of each other, support the majority. Do not direct employees.

Stay within your ordinances or get rid of them.

Discuss your concerns with the Mayor and City Supervisor.

Define your duties and roles and stay within those definitions.

Show appreciation for good work.

Put your policies in writing.

Minutes should reflect what is actually said in the meetings.

He concluded his presentation at 3:53, praising the quality of the Department Heads he met with earlier in the day.