

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
Minutes of Rossford Committee of the Whole Meeting
Held October 3, 2011

The meeting was called to order by President of Council Larry Oberdorf and was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: Mackinnon, Oberdorf, Eckel, Marquette, Hermes, Scott, and Duricek all present.

Mr. Oberdorf explained that the purpose of the meeting is to discuss a restructuring of the standing committees of council as initiated by Councilmen Scott and Duricek. He then turned the meeting over to Mr. Scott

Mr. Scott passed out several papers to council showing the current standing committees, sample committees from different communities throughout the state, and a proposed standing committee list for Rossford. He then outlined his own thoughts on standing committees. He felt that the Marina committee does not need be a separate committee but could be folded into a Parks and Recreation committee and that there needs to be a separate council committee to handle planning and zoning thus eliminating the void between the planning commission and council. This committee would also be charged with looking at future needs. He would keep Budget and Public Safety as separate committees, possibly combine Economic Development with Planning and Zoning, create a Street and Buildings committee which would include storm water issues, and add an Employee/Community Relations committee to look at various contracts and negotiations.

Mr. Marquette commented that he did not see any committee to deal with utilities, the landfill, or the environment. He feels the people on the current planning commission and BZA work very hard and would not like to see them replaced. Mr. Scott said they would not be replaced but that the council committee would interact with them. Mr. Ciecka said the planning commission applies the municipal code and amending those rules is not part of their focus.

Mayor Verbosky then gave a lengthy description of zoning issues regarding the annexation of the Crossroads

Mr. Duricek presented council with a list he had compiled of various names of different council committees throughout the state and talked about making city facilities issues part of a Building committee.

Mrs. Eckel agreed with Mr. Marquette that the Planning Commission and BZA are good committees composed of dedicated, involved citizens. She stated that the current Recreation committee struggles with attendance and perhaps combining some of these committees as well as expanding the duties of some of the department heads would help.

Mr. Scott said this discussion is part of creating a new model for committees to carry the city into the future.

Mr. Oberdorf thinks that combining the Marina and Recreation committees would be a major mistake but does see the value of creating a Facility committee.

Mrs. Eckel agreed that combining those committees would be a bad idea as both have a lot of community involvement as to complaints.

Mr. Oberdorf asked Mr. Scott to clarify what the Employee/Community Relation committee would do. Mr. Scott said they would handle wage re-openers, relations with the RBA, library, and school. Mr. Oberdorf responded that getting a committee involved with wages would be mistake due to lack of expertise and that they would not meet very often during a year. Mr. Marquette said he thought it was deemed illegal when council had a negotiating committee and was told by Mr. Ciecka it was due to an untenable position as part of a legislative body.

Mr. Duricek said when we leave TARTA some council committee will have to work on the public transportation issue and thus a transportation committee will be needed.

Mrs. Eckel thought that if Parks is taken out of the Recreation responsibility that possibly we would need a facilities director.

Mr. Hermes said he does not feel that any council member should be involved in employee relations and that community relations is all their job. He said adding municipal codes examination to the Judiciary committee would include planning and zoning duties and that he thinks we can keep the existing committee names but just change or add to their duties. He said we one of the committees to be responsible for sustainability issues such as recycling and electric usage.

Mr. Mackinnon suggested adding sustainability and environmental issues to the Streets and Building committee.

Mr. Scott still feels that the Planning and Zoning committee needs to have more of a forward vision and maybe could be added to the Economic Development committee.

Mayor Verbosky thinks a part-time assistant will be needed soon for Mr. Kovasevic which would facilitate combining Parks and Recreation. He also thinks there needs to be more communication between council and the planning commission and some joint meetings between Economic Development and the planning commission.

Mr. Hermes suggested retaining four committees – Budget, Public Works, Public Safety, Economic Development – and then revamp three by adding insurance issues to the Budget committee, changing Judiciary to a Building, Planning and Zoning committee, and having a Marina/Sustainability committee.

Mr. Duricek would like to see Economic Development, Planning and Zoning together and said we still need a committee for Transportation.

Mr. Oberdorf said a Transportation committee would become a extremely busy committee in the near future and agreed with Mr. Scott that it probably needs to be its own committee.

Mr. Marquette suggested that Judiciary could lose insurance and add building and grounds to their responsibilities.

Mrs. Eckel recommended putting Transportation together with Marina, putting storm water in Public Works, and adding insurance to the Budget committee.

Mr. Oberdorf said this has been a tremendous amount of material to digest and that he would prefer another meeting take place with interaction between council members.

Mr. Scott agreed it was best to think about and then come back together.

Mr. Duricek agrees with Mr. Scott and said we should have a separate Transportation committee and move Marina to a Facilities committee.

Mr. Hermes said he will need to be convinced that a Transportation committee is needed and said he does not feel it is the city's responsibility to provide public transportation to which Mr. Oberdorf asked if we don't have a implied responsibility and Mr. Hermes said no, that if there is a need the public will demand it.

Another meeting will be scheduled for October 17th at 7:00pm.

Mayor Verbosky offered a final comment regarding a Transportation committee saying 2012 will definitely be an issue for transportation due to the legislative action on getting out of TARTA. He suggested that a special committee on Transportation be created for 2012 as opposed to a permanent standing committee.

Mr. Scott moved and Mr. Duricek seconded the motion to adjourn. All ayes. Motion carried.

Larry Oberdorf
President of Council

Robert P. Watrol
Clerk of Council