

**ORTONVILLE CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP MINUTES**  
**WORKSHOP MEETING**  
**CITY OFFICE MEETING ROOM**  
**315 Madison Avenue, Ortonville, MN**  
**Monday, December 15, 2008**  
**6:00 P.M.**

**CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL:**

Mayor Blair Johnson called the Workshop Meeting of the Ortonville City Council to order at 6:00 P.M. Roll Call was taken with the following Present: Mayor Johnson, Nick Anderson, Craig Randleman, Steve Berkner, Bob Meyer, John Cunningham, and Mike Dorry. Staff Present: City Administrator David Lang, Deputy City Clerk Susan Lundell. Media Present: Mike Swenson (*Ortonville Independent*). Others Present: None.

**DISCUSSION: CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES**

A discussion was held regarding a proposal to combine the Street and Utility Committees into one Infrastructure Committee. Pros and cons of combining the Committees were considered and the consensus of the Council was that combining the Committees may be more efficient and would improve communications regarding utility issues. Nick Anderson who is on both the Utility Committee and Street Committee spoke in favor of combining the two committees. All three members of the Utility Committee are in favor of the consolidation. It was decided that the combining of the two Committees would be considered and acted upon at the first meeting in January.

**DISCUSSION: HUMAN RESOURCES, TRAINING & PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT**

Mayor Johnson noted under the current set-up Personnel Committee members, who are employees, could vote on pay raises and benefits. Johnson stated having the employees and committee members vote on the pay raises makes for an awkward situation. Mike Dorry likes the current set-up and stated that meeting with the employees improves communications. Nick Anderson noted that Big Stone County has a set-up similar to what is being proposed whereby a Human Resources Committee is made up of 3 voting Council Members with the City Administrator as a non-voting ex-officio member. A separate Employee Advisory Committee consisting of five employees including two department heads would also be created. Craig Randleman spoke in favor of restructuring this committee function. Nick Anderson felt that employees should not vote on some human resource issues. It was decided that the restructuring of the Personnel Committee and the creation of a Human Resources Employee Advisory Committee be considered at the first meeting in January.

**DISCUSSION: PUBLIC SAFETY**

The Council discussed the need for creating a Public Safety Committee comprised of the Police Chief, Fire Chief, Ambulance Director and 2 appointed citizens. Clerk-Administrator Lang was asked to contact the three entities to see if they already have public safety meetings where they meet together.

**DISCUSSION: BUDGET AND LEGISLATION**

Council Members discussed expanding the scope of the Budget Committee to include Legislative issues. The Council will consider official action regarding this issue at its first meeting in January.

**DISCUSSION: ORTONVILLE AREA HEALTH SERVICES BOARD**

Because OAHS is approximately ten times as large as the City Government, and is in the process of the Hospital Rebuild Project, it was proposed to add two additional Council Members to the OAHS Board for a total of three Council Members. Mike Dorry, who serves on the Hospital Board, feels OAHS is running very smoothly with the current structure. He stated currently he attends up to 9 OAHS Board meetings per month and asked whether other Council Members would want to attend that many additional meetings. Craig Randleman felt that routine contact has been fairly minimal and it behooves the Council to be more in tune with what goes on with OAHS.

Discussion and questions followed. The consensus of the Council was to leave the number of Council Members serving on the OAHS Board at one and to ask Hospital Administrator Rick Ash to make periodic presentations to the City Council.

**Mayor Johnson adjourned the meeting at 6:55 P. M.**

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

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Blair Johnson  
Mayor

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David A. Lang  
Clerk-Administrator