

**MINUTES**  
**ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Thursday, April 14, 2016**  
**Committee Room 207**  
**5:00 p.m.**

**Members Present:** Council President Tom DeWane, Council Vice-President Mark Steuer, Ald. Jerry Wiezbiskie, Ald. Guy Zima, Ald. Andy Nicholson

**Others Present:** Ald. Nennig, Ald. Scannell, City Attorney Vanessa Chavez, DPW Director Steve Grenier, Chief of Staff Andy Rosendahl, Bill Meindl

1. **Call to order.** The meeting was called to order by Council President Tom DeWane on Thursday, April 14<sup>th</sup> at approx. 5:00 pm. Alders Steuer, Wiezbiskie, and Zima were present.
2. **Approval of the agenda.** Motion made by Ald. Steuer, seconded by Ald. Wiezbiskie to approve the agenda. Motion carried.
3. **Approval of the minutes of the March 12, 2015 Advisory Committee meeting.** Motion by Ald. Wiezbiskie seconded by Ald. Steuer to approve the minutes of the March 12, 2015 Advisory Committee meeting as submitted. Motion carried.
4. **Request by Ald. Zima, that the Advisory Committee review and possibly change the City's policy regarding communications for referrals from the public.**

Ald. Tom DeWane turned the floor over to Ald. Zima.

Ald. Zima stated he believes they are almost done with drafting the policy and asked Ald. Nennig. Ald. Nennig responded that it is almost done and only one sentence needed to be removed. Discussion regarding the policy begins between the Alders., with Ald. Nennig stating that he discussed the policy/ordinance with Attorney Mueller then later with Attorney Wachewicz.

Ald. Zima stated that we have never had staff review communications before and said that's why he objected to the line that was in the policy and why he wanted it removed. Ald. Nennig is in agreement with him.

Discussion continued regarding the policy and past practices.

Ald. Steuer asked Ald. Zima if he has examples of communications being rejected. He provided a couple of examples regarding historical issues, but said there has not been anything real recent.

Discussion continued regarding communications and citizens being able to voice what is on their minds.

Ald. Tom DeWane asked Atty. Chavez to speak about the policy. She stated that some wording of the policy may have been confusing so she made some changes. The policy now states that communications will be forwarded to council or committees. She had a copy of the policy if anyone was interested in reading it.

**Motion made by Ald. Zima to refer to staff, his request that the Advisory Committee review and possibly change the City's policy regarding communications for referrals from the public. Staff to prepare appropriate policy for all citizens to submit communications to the Mayor and Common Council and be distributed to appropriate committees. Seconded by Ald. Steuer. Motion carried.**

**5. Request by Ald. Tim DeWane, in fairness to fellow Council members, to review outbursts from the crowd/attendees, with possible action.**

Ald. Tom DeWane spoke on behalf of Ald. Tim DeWane since he wasn't able to attend. He stated that Ald. Tim DeWane would like to see people removed from meetings after the second warning, following an outburst.

Ald. Nicholson asked how the severity of a person's outburst would be determined, adding that people speak their minds and can be very passionate. He said some people's outbursts may be offensive because of how they speak. He thinks they should leave it up to the Mayor regarding removing people from Common Council meetings.

Ald. Zima stated in all his years it's never been very problematic; people always remained very orderly. He said sometimes they have heated discussions but said that's why we have Roberts Rules. Ald. Zima recalled only one instance of having people removed from Council a year ago, with Atty. Mueller's approval.

Ald. Tom DeWane asked Atty. Chavez if they could remove someone from a meeting. Atty. Chavez responded that it's up to the Mayor to decide if someone should be removed.

Discussion continued regarding having disruptive citizens removed from Council and Committee meetings.

Ald. Nicholson questioned if the chairman of a meeting has the right to remove a disruptive person from the building. Ald. Zima stated that he believes from speaking with Atty. Mueller that you cannot have someone removed from the building, but you can have someone removed from within earshot of the meeting.

Atty. Chavez stated that you cannot make someone leave the building unless it is a safety concern. They can ask someone to leave a meeting. If they refuse to leave and continue to be disruptive, they would have to have a police officer escort them out.

Discussion continued regarding removing a disruptive citizen from a meeting or the building.

**Motion made by Ald. Steuer to receive and place on file the request by Ald. Tim DeWane, in fairness to fellow Council members, to review outbursts from the crowd/attendees, with possible action. Seconded by Ald. Wiezbiskie. Motion carried.**

**6. Request by Ald. Zima, on behalf of the residents of Green Bay, that the Public Works Department make a comprehensive study of the storm water sewer system in Green Bay and further that the department provide for the council consideration an estimate of the cost of the updating our sewer system to resolve the ongoing water problems that continue to plague numerous neighborhoods. (also referred to I&S)**

Ald. Zima stated that the study was already completed and the Department of Public Works has provided the study to I & S. He asked Steve Grenier if he would like to share main points of the study.

S. Grenier summarized the report stating it recommended hiring an engineering firm to review and design possible needed changes. He stated this is the highest priority project in his department right now.

Discussion continued regarding the city development and redevelopment causing the problems for the water to drain or run off.

**Motion made by Ald. Steuer to receive and place on file the request by Ald. Zima, on behalf of the residents of Green Bay, that the Public Works Department make a comprehensive study of the storm water sewer system in Green Bay and further that the department provide for the council consideration an estimate of the cost of the**

**updating our sewer system to resolve the ongoing water problems that continue to plague numerous neighborhoods. (also referred to I &S). Seconded by Ald. Zima.  
Motion carried**

#### **7. Request by Ald. Tom DeWane to review snow plowing procedures.**

Ald. Tom DeWane stated that this was really a request submitted by Ald. Nicholson and turned the floor over to him.

Ald. Nicholson stated that his understanding of the snow plowing procedures in recent years is that the city starts plowing in the inner city and works their way to the outer areas and asks S. Grenier if that is correct. S. Grenier responded that it is not necessarily correct.

S. Grenier stated that when we have a snow fall, it is referred to as a full plow event. He said the City has about 85 pieces of equipment that responds and employees respond to roll call and receive their assignments. He shared a sample of a roll call sheet which is 8 pages in length. He then described how the roll call and equipment is broken down and how they plow. He said primary routes are done first which would be main infrastructure, routes to hospitals and schools. S. Grenier then handed out maps to the Alders and discussed how the plowing system is set up and what the plow drivers do to clear the roads after a snow fall event.

Discussion continued regarding plowing, the routes and primary roads.

S. Grenier stated what he has provided is assuming there are no employees on vacation or out sick and that all equipment is in good working order. He added that things do happen; equipment breaks or people are out. He said once staff has completed plowing their route, they are re-assigned to the unplowed routes nearby.

Discussion began about the snow fall event in late December. S. Grenier said there were issues with receiving 15 inches of wet, heavy snow, while the ground was still warm and accompanied by high winds. He said there was difficulty with clearing the roads and chains had to be put on the wheels so their equipment could get traction.

Ald. Zima stated that he is happy with the snow plowing procedures and the fact that they have the same guys assigned to the same routes. He said they do an excellent job. He had a question regarding plowing alleys, stating that it seems they don't get done. S. Grenier stated that alleys do get plowed but it may not look like it because of the way alleys are designed. He said since there are no curbs, they are inverted and because of the design of alleys, the blades are flat and the snow and ice collect in the "V" in the middle of the alley.

Ald. Zima stated he would like to see them go back to clean up the alley ways better. S. Grenier said they have to log how much salt is used and expressed concern with using too much salt. He stated that in the future, salt usage will begin to be limited/regulated because of run off into waterways. He added that we have a lot of fresh water ways so run off is a concern and said sand doesn't help with snow removal.

Discussion continued regarding snow removal in alleys. Comment was made that there is limited space for the equipment to move and with the design of the alley pavement, it is difficult to get down into the "V". Discussion also included grading the streets to remove ice and chunks.

Ald. Steuer stated that snow removal in his district has been more than adequate. He said the biggest complaint he received is that the snow plows push snow back onto the sidewalks. He questioned if the plowing routes are consistent on the amount of time it takes to clear, and if they are equal. S. Grenier responded that they are equal and the standard time to clear is 10 and 12 hrs. He said approximately 3 hrs are spent on primaries, leaving the remainder of the time to clear the rest of the city. He added, that is assuming that there are no vacations, sickness or equipment malfunctions.

**Motion made by Ald. Nicholson to refer to I&S the request by Ald. Tom DeWane to review snow plowing procedures. Report to Committee following meeting with operators. Seconded by Ald. Steuer. Motion carried.**

#### **8. Discussion on City Council President choosing members of the standing committees.**

Ald. Zima stated that he feels it is intrusion for the administration to appointment the standing committees, adding that there should be a separation. It's always been his thought that the Council President and Vice President should be the one's making the appointments, which is how it's done at the county. He feels it should not be the prerogative of the Mayor to switch around committees as he sees fit. He proposes a policy be made allowing the Council President and Vice President to make the appointments.

Atty. Chavez states that she checked into it and it cannot be done by policy. It has to be done by ordinance.

Ald. Wiezbiskie believes the committees are put together based on the person's knowledge, which he feels is the most important factor. He feels it should be a decision based on a discussion between the Council President and the Mayor.

Ald. Nicholson stated that it's really common sense and up to the character of the person. He said some give the departments whatever they want and there are others that say no.

Ald. Zima stated that what it really comes down to is separation of powers.

Ald. Steuer stated that they are all elected and they all take their position seriously. He is in agreement with Ald. Zima and said he and Ald. Tom DeWane will be meeting to talk and go over a number of things.

Ald. Wiezbiskie stated that he's been pleased with the committee assignments and said they should be more concerned about the only requirement to run for Alderperson is that you are 18 and not a convicted felon. He feels the Mayor should have input also, stating that he's still the leader and he should be involved.

**Motion made by Ald. Zima to establish by ordinance that the Council President in consultation with the Vice President appoint the slate of nominees for standing committees. Seconded by Ald. Nicholson. Motion carried.**

There being no further business, motion by Ald. Zima to adjourn, seconded by Ald. Nicholson. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Deanna DeBruler