

WORK SESSION

MARCH 18, 2008

A Work Session of the Arcadia City Council was held on March 18, 2009, at 5:00 p.m. in the Margaret Way Building at 23 North Polk Avenue. Council members attending were Goodman, Fazzone, Johnson, Heine, and Dixon. Also in attendance were Administrator Strube, Attorney Holloman, Special Projects Hewett, and Recorder Bauman.

Mayor Goodman called the Work Session to order and stated the purpose of the Work Session is to review the City Charter and Ordinances in order to adjust roles of elected and appointed officials to achieve desired expectations.

Administrator Strube stated that Chapter 2 of the code book addresses officers of the City and Administration.

Councilman Fazzone asked exactly what the Council was meeting to do. Mayor Goodman stated the Council had previously agreed to retain the present form of government, but to review the City Charter and Ordinances in order to help it function more efficiently. She noted that the Council may only need to amend the section regarding the Administrator. Councilman Fazzone noted that using a public committee for this review process was suggested at a previous meeting.

Mr. Bob Allen, a previous City Councilman and County Commissioner addressed the Council to suggest that the Council form an advisory committee and that each Council member select one or two people to serve on the committee. After their review the committee would then bring their suggestions to the Council in the form of a report. Mr. Allen believes that the Council has all the power it needs at this time.

Mayor Goodman acknowledged Mr. Allen's opinion noting that there are others who have a different opinion. She noted that the issue was brought to discussion because others feel that the Council should be involved in the hiring and firing of department heads. Mayor Goodman stated the system could stay as it is with the understanding that the Council can only do what they are empowered to do. Mayor Goodman noted that she has no objection to appointing a committee for reviewing the Charter and Ordinances if that is what the Council desires.

Councilman Heine stated he is in favor of the idea of appointing a committee to review the Charter and Ordinances; however he does not see the need for a lot of change. Councilman Heine stated if the Administrator is not making the Council happy, then fire him. He feels the Council has all the "teeth" they need in the Charter. Heine then moved to appoint a committee to review the Charter and Ordinances; seconded by Fazzone.

Attorney Holloman addressed the Council stating that an attorney would need to be present when the committee was reviewing and suggesting changes in the Ordinances and

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Charter in order to tell the group what could be done by ordinance or referendum. He stated to meet without an attorney would be futile. Attorney Holloman then stated that he has resigned and would not be available to be the attorney for the committee.

Councilman Dixon stated that the Council has voted to stay with the current form of government and he feels that before the Council reviews or revises anything they should wait until a new attorney is hired and possibly a new administrator. He does not see the need to continue with the 5:00 p.m. Work Sessions.

Councilman Heine stated that based on Council's discussion he will rescind his motion and will wait until a new attorney is hired, but at that time, a committee should be appointed. Fazzone also rescinded his second.

Councilman Johnson stated he would like to wait until a new administrator and attorney are hired. He stated that he is not sure that the Council knows exactly what changes they want to make and he feels that they need to be more specific. He believes that the areas of concerns need to be addressed noting that the Charter is good, but the procedures are not being followed.

Mr. Gary Frierson, a member of the Public, addressed the Council and stated that internal politics have nothing to do with the Charter.

Mayor Goodman stated that if this is what the people want then she is fine with it as long as the constituents understand what the Council's limitations are. She agreed with Councilman Johnson that communication and procedures are needed. She stated that the line of communication needs to be clear and followed.

Councilman Dixon stated for the record, he was not saying there should not be some changes as he has seen some things that need to be reviewed. At this time he is not comfortable with reviewing, revising, or amending anything until the new attorney and administrator are in place. At that time he will suggest areas that he feels need to be reviewed.

Mayor Goodman then read from the City Code Book, Chapter 2, Division 2, - City Administrator.

Councilman Johnson stated if changes need to be made the public should have the right to give input. Johnson then moved to discontinue any work on change to the Charter or Code until a new attorney and administrator are in place and to discontinue the 5:00 pm Work Sessions on this subject; seconded Dixon and carried.

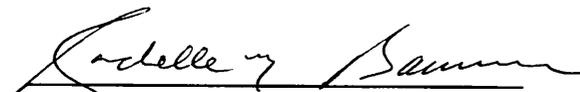
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Administrator Strube reminded the Council that any committee would need to take minutes and would be governed by the Sunshine Law noting that this would be an additional expense to the City. He feels that the Council should be as specific as possible, this would make the committee's job easier and more cost efficient. He stated the current Code has the best flexibility noting that if the Administrator section was in the Charter any change to it would need to go before the voters. He noted that the authority to appoint department heads is usually the role of the Administrator; however the Council could take another look at this. He also noted that when the Council advertises for a new administrator, they will be telling the candidates what form of government the City operates under. He stated that there are many areas, such as budget that the Council will be addressing with the candidates. Administrator Strube mentioned that the City is looking at a loss of \$170,000.00 in tax revenue based on the implementation of Amendment 1.

Councilman Johnson believes the issue has more to do with procedures and not the Charter noting that most of the citizens' complaints he receives are procedural in nature. He asked Administrator Strube to jot down duties and procedures while doing his day-to-day work. He also stated there needs to be a pamphlet or brochure created to give to individuals and business informing them of the rules and procedures to be followed for meeting various City requirements.

Mayor Goodman stated that the motion to discontinue discussion on this issue will be read by Recorder Baumann in the 6:00 p.m. Regular Meeting of the Arcadia City Council.

The Workshop was adjourned.


CITY RECORDER


PRESIDENT