

Mayor and Council Work Session
January 21, 2008

Meeting Notes

The Work Session was called to order at approximately 9:00 AM in the Council Chambers in City Hall.

Members in Attendance:

Mayor Bennett, Councilmember Kupferman, Councilmember Young,
Councilmember Hiob

Members Excused:

Councilmember Elliott

Staff Present:

Douglas Miller, City Manager

Notes:

The City Manager reviewed the work session format as opposed to the business meeting format. The Council then discussed potential modifications to the business meeting format. It was the general consensus that there would be only one public comment period at the mid point of the business meeting, but there would be question forms that citizens could fill out. The hope would be that the question forms would allow the City to better respond to citizen inquiries, whether at the meeting or following the meeting.

The City Manager generally reviewed the requirements of the open meetings provisions of State law. He also discussed the exceptions to those provisions.

The Mayor and Council discussed how the Council would communicate both internally and externally. It was the general consensus that matters of major importance would be discussed with the press and with Federal, State, and other local officials through the Mayor's office. It was also the consensus that if a member were asked to give comment on a matter that had not been previously discussed amongst the group, that the member would qualify their comments with a statement that the comments were member's alone and that the comments may not reflect the opinion of the Mayor and Council. It was the general consensus that internal communications would be done via email with copies to all members.

The City Manager announced that the City had received over \$720,000 in a health insurance reimbursement. He reported that the Mayor had suggested that at least \$500,000 of that reimbursement be placed in a "Rainy Day" fund. It was the general consensus that such a fund should be created in the amount suggested. The City Manager also reported that much of the remainder of the reimbursement was needed to fund items in the FY 08 Budget that had either been under funded or not funded at all.

The Council expressed their interest in having a dinner for the volunteers of the City's boards and commissions. It was the general consensus that such a dinner would be held in late winter or early spring and that it would be held at the fire house (if available).

Being no further discussion, the Work Session was adjourned at approximately 9:40 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Douglas R. Miller
City Manager