

CITY OF GILLETT
COMMITTEE MEETING
June 17, 2015
Health, Protection, & Licensing Minutes

Alderperson Blaser called the meeting to order at 6:40 pm. Present were Alderpersons Marie Blaser, Deborah Erickson, Nanette Mohr, Marilyn Mueller, Terry Nelson, and William Pecha. Also present were Mayor Irene Drake, Police Chief Jess Keplinger, and Clerk Beth Rank. Public present were Jeff Warrichaiet, and Pat and Russell Strebel.

Roll was taken and the open meeting law had been complied with.

Public Input: William Pecha asked the committee to look at a handout and consider it before making a decision on the Police Department hours. (Handout attached) State Statute 62.13(7n) prohibits 4th class cities from working 12 hour shifts. Blaser asked when the 12 hour shifts started; Pecha answered that the 12 hour shifts started during the grant. Blaser asked why this wasn't addressed to the council when the 12 hour shifts started. Pecha stated he did address it with the then police chief. Drake questioned Attorney Schimid if the handbook could count as a labor agreement and he stated it could; Drake told Pecha he should have called her to discuss his finding with her. Pecha asked the committee to act in the best interest of the City. Drake stated the best interest is to work 12 hour shifts. Pecha stated the City would be non-compliant with the State statutes. Drake stated she thinks we need to stay noncompliant until we have things hashed out. Pecha is worried of the repercussion of not following state statute. Pecha did not ask for the Police Department to decrease hours; he is just asking that the department be compliant with State Statute. Pecha had a conversation with the City attorney and the League attorney. Blaser stated the Police Department could look at working 8 hour shifts or they could look at forming a union. Warrichaiet asked what happens when a union is formed and if it would be another expense for the City. If a union is formed, the expense would be that of the employees. Pecha asked the committee to take the information he presented into consideration upon taking action on the Police Department hours. Mueller stated the reason we meet for variances is because there are many exceptions to the rules. She feels that the committee should look at allowing a fourth dog on occasion providing that proof is shown that the dog is receiving the training needed to become a therapy dog. Mueller feels we should not deny the Strebel's the fourth dog.

Motion by Mohr, second by Erickson to approve the minutes from June 10, 2015, motion carried.

Discussion was had on allowing a variance for Pat Strebel to have four dogs. Motion by Erickson, second by Mohr to allow a variance to allow Pat Strebel to have four dogs with the contingency that they supply proof of therapy dog training and if there is a complaint it needs to be readdressed, motion carried.

Motion by Mohr, second by Erickson to accept the resignation of Lee Posusta effective June 17, 2015, motion carried.

Discussion was had on the Police Department labor agreement. Erickson feels we should go by State Statute. Drake stated we need to talk with Attorney Schmid. Erickson asked Clerk Rank to contact the League attorney and ask for a written legal opinion. A meeting with the City attorney will be set up next week.

Next meeting was not set.

Meeting adjourned at 7:07 pm.

Beth Rank, Clerk