

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

5:45 p.m., Tuesday, January 10, 2012

The regular meeting of the Personnel Committee was held at 5:45 p.m., Tuesday, January 10, 2012 in the Conference Room in City Hall, 1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, South Carolina. Attending the meeting were Councilmembers Bettelli, Stone and Thomas, City Administrator Tucker, Assistant to the Administrator Dziuban and City Clerk Copeland; a quorum was present to conduct business.

1. Past Chair Thomas called the meeting to order and acknowledged that the press and public had been duly notified of the meeting in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

2. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Councilmember Stone nominated Councilmember Thomas as Chair for 2012; Councilmember Bettelli seconded and the vote was unanimous for Chair Thomas.

Councilmember Stone nominated Councilmember Bettelli as Vice Chair for 2012; Chair Thomas seconded and the vote was unanimous for Councilmember Bettelli.

3. Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes

MOTION: Councilmember Bettelli moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of November 28, 2011 as submitted; Councilmember Stone seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. **Citizens' Comments** – None

5. Old Business

Councilmember Bettelli recounted that the motion to appoint Jim Covington to the ATAX Committee had been contingent upon his affiliation with the vacation rental industry; this was verified and Mr. Covington's appointment was confirmed.

6. New Business

Consideration of Municipal Judge

Administrator Tucker explained that Judge Harper, who was appointed to serve through December 31, 2012, tendered her resignation effective December 31, 2011; therefore, the City needs to fill Judge Harper's unexpired term. Two (2) persons have expressed interest in serving; they are Michael Molony, the current Livability Court judge, and Dan Slotchiver, the current City Prosecutor. They will be the candidates under consideration unless a member of the Committee knows some other judge with municipal experience to consider or the Committee wants the Administrator to solicit additional qualified persons. Both Judge Molony and Mr. Slotchiver are qualified to fill the position; Judge Molony has substituted for Judge Harper in the past year when she has been out of town or ill with no additional compensation from the City. If Judge Molony were selected, the City would be asking that handle both the municipal and livability courts.

Via electronic mail, Administrator Tucker had forwarded to the Committee members the resumes of both parties for review prior to this meeting. The Administrator recommended that the Committee go into Executive Session if the members want to discuss individual qualifications and merits of those qualifications.

Councilmember Stone noted that Judge Harper's resignation and the City's vacancy have been public, but not publicized, which concerned him; he, therefore, posed the question of whether or not the City should have formal solicitation for the position. By way of follow-up, he asked how long the formal hiring process typically took.

The Administrator remarked that the City has not had to consider the appointment of a new municipal judge in quite some time; Judge Harper has been re-appointed over and over for almost thirty (30) years. Administrator Tucker indicated that it is unusual for a municipality the size of the Isle of Palms to go through a competitive process in hiring a judge. If the Committee wants to extend the time and to encourage other applicants, the Administrator expressed the opinion that Judge Molony would continue to serve both courts. Administrator Tucker stated that her primary concern was the importance of the City's having someone who is familiar with municipal court work; experience makes for a more efficient court. In the present situation, both interested parties have experience in the City's municipal court, and, based on that, the transition should be relatively seamless.

Queries could be extended to judges serving in Mount Pleasant and Sullivan's Island to determine if there is interest in the part-time position here; the Administrator also noted that most of the local judges already have full-time positions and may not be interested in another part-time position.

A key concern for the City is keeping up with court cases and not getting a backlog; the Administrator was pleased to note that the Isle of Palms is one of the few municipal governments in the area that does not have a case backlog.

Judge Molony came to be the Livability judge not through any solicitation, but as the result of a conversation due to his experience with livability court in another jurisdiction.

Responding to Chair Thomas' query, Administrator Tucker stated that the judges are paid a salary, and the combined budgeted salaries are twenty-three thousand dollars (\$23,000). If Judge Molony is selected, the City will need to select an Assistant Judge to fill-in when Judge Molony is unavailable.

MOTION: Councilmember Stone moved to go into Executive Session at 6 p.m. to discuss personnel matters; Councilmember Bettelli seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

The Committee returned to regular session at 6:13 p.m.; Chair Thomas reported that no votes and no action had taken place in Executive Session.

MOTION: Councilmember Stone moved to recommend to City Council the appointment of Michael Molony as Municipal Judge and Dan Slotchiver as Assistant Municipal Judge; Councilmember Bettelli seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

7. Miscellaneous Business

Employee of the Month

Administrator Tucker reported that, prior to leaving office, Councilmember Piening recommended that Laura McLellan be recognized as "Employee of the Month." He commented that, in his term on Council, he was frequently in City Hall after normal business hours and had often found Laura still working, but she was always positive and upbeat and more than willing to assist him in any way. He expressed how she appeared to be adept at multi-tasking, which is certainly a requirement for her position. The Administrator noted that it is unusual for a member of General Government to be acknowledged in this way, but she added that she agreed with Dr. Piening's recommendation.

MOTION: Councilmember Stone moved to recognize Laura McLellan as Employee of the Month; Councilmember Bettelli seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Administrator Tucker informed the Committee that the information she provides to City Council for her evaluation is being assembled, and she anticipates having it in their hands by the end of the month.

Next Meeting Date: 9 a.m., Thursday, February 2, 2012 in the Conference Room of City Hall.

8. Executive Session – not needed

9. Adjourn

MOTION: Councilmember Stone moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:20 p.m.; Councilmember Bettelli seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted:

Marie Copeland
City Clerk