



City of Racine

Meeting Minutes

City Hall
730 Washington Ave.
Racine, WI 53403
www.cityofracine.org

Finance and Personnel Committee

*Chairman James T. Spangenberg, Vice Chair Thomas Friedel,
Alderman Thomas M. Sollman, Alderman Pete Karas,
Alderman Jarvis Finley*

Monday, February 13, 2006

5:00 PM

City Hall, Room 103

1. **The meeting was called to order by Alderman James Spangenberg at 5:01 p.m. in Room 103, City Hall.**

2. Members present: Alderman James Spangenberg, Chairman
Alderman Thomas Friedel, Vice Chairman
Alderman Thomas Sollman
Alderman Jarvis Finley

Excused: Alderman Peter Karas

Also present: David Brown, Terry Parker, and Julie Anastasio

3. **Approval of Minutes for the January 23, 2006 Meeting.**

4. [06-1499](#) Subject: Communication from the Chairman of South Eastern Area of Narcotics Anonymous requesting the use of the Racine Community Centers at reduced rates for the year 2006.

Recommendation: That the item be deferred.

Fiscal Note: N/A

Mr. Victor Hill, Chairperson of the Activities of Unity Subcommittee, appeared before the Committee. The agency plans events for fund raising and relaying the message for recovery of addicts. Funds are utilized for Narcotics Anonymous hot line; hospitals and institutions; and public information. The Committee recommends deferring the item so that Mr. Hill can speak with the Director of Parks and Recreation regarding specifics of the item.

5. [06-1455](#) Subject: Communication from the Executive Director of Downtown Racine Corporation requesting the Parks and Recreation Commission and the City of Racine waive the fees for DRC for five years.

Recommendation: That the Parks & Recreation and Cultural Services establish policy guidelines for all users of Monument Square; that no fees be charged for the use of Monument Square; that there be no admission fees or closed off areas for entrance; that there be a \$300 deposit refundable upon cleanup of the square and that established guideline policies by the Parks & Recreation and Cultural Services be followed.

Fiscal Note: N/A

Mayor Gary Becker appeared before the Committee. He recommends that Monument Square go back to the "Commons Law" making the town's square free for all users. A permit will be required to control the number of groups utilizing the square. The groups shall clean up after themselves with no cost to the City. A deposit, Hold Harmless Agreement, and proof of insurance would be necessary. The Mayor requests that there be no restrictions on the area, that it should be open to the whole community. The Committee recommends that a policy be established by the Parks & Recreation & Cultural Services Department.

6. [06-1484](#) Subject: Communication from the Chief of Police wishing to apply for the 2006 U.S. Department of Justice Edward Byrne Memorial, Justice Assistance Grant (JAG). Grant Control No. 2006-003.
- Recommendation: That the Racine Police Chief be granted permission to apply for the U.S. Department of Justice Edward Byrne Memorial, Justice Assistance Grant (JAG). Grant Control No. 2006-003.
- Fiscal Note: The total grant will be in conjunction with Racine County Sheriff's Department and the City of Racine's share will be \$30,000.
- Police Chief David Spenner appeared before the Committee. He requested permission to apply for the grant that has been applied for yearly. The money will be utilized for mobile data computers for squad cars and replacement of neighborhood security cameras.*
7. [06-1497](#) Subject: Communication from the Manager of Recreation & Cultural Services requesting permission to accept a \$12,000 donation for the "Back-to-School/Stay-in-School" festival.
- Recommendation: That the Manager of Recreation & Cultural Services be granted permission to accept a \$12,000 donation for the 2005 "Back-to-School/Stay-in-School" festival which purchased backpacks and school supplies for Racine children.
- Fiscal Note: The donation will help fund shortfalls in the program.
- Donnie Snow, Director of Park & Recreation and Cultural Services, appeared before the Committee. His request is that the City accepts the \$12,000 donation for the 2005 Stay-in School/Back-to-School. The donor request to be kept anonymous.*
8. [06-1490](#) Subject: Communication from the Human Resource's Coordinator requesting to enter into an agreement with Security Benefit Group to establish a Section 457 Deferred Compensation plan.
- Recommendation: That the City of Racine enters into an agreement with Security Benefit Group to establish a Section 457 Deferred Compensation plan opens to all City of Racine employees.
- Fiscal Note: No cost to the City of Racine.
- Julie Anastasio appeared before the Committee. A VEBA plan is for the police officers so that when they retire, instead of receiving a check for their accumulated sick leave, it will go into a VEBA Account. This would offset health insurance premiums in their retirement years. They also wanted their deferred compensation plan offered at the same time so security benefits would have both a VEBA and a Deferred Comp plan in tandem. They would waive fees for the VEBA if they also had the deferred comp plan. There will be no charge to the City. The Deferred comp plan is for all city employees.*

9. [06-1505](#) Subject: Communication from the Human Resource's Coordinator requesting to enter into an agreement with Security Benefit Group to establish a 501{c} 9 VEBA Trust also know as a Voluntary Employee's Beneficiary Association plan.

Recommendation: That the City of Racine enters into an agreement with Security Benefit Group to establish a 501 {c} 9 VEBA Trust also known as a Voluntary Employee's Beneficiary Association plan that is open only to members of the Racine Police Association.

Fiscal Note: All sick leave payout at retirement for Racine Police Association members will be deposited in these accounts on a pretax basis. The savings towards the City will be 7.65%.

Julie Anastasio appeared before the Committee. The Voluntary Employees' Beneficiary Association Plan (VEBA) is only for the Racine Police Association. The City and Police officers will gain a savings in this plan. These are pre-taxed dollars when it comes to withholding. The Police officers will not have a choice to go into the program. All of their sick leave dollars will go into this account and the money will be utilized for health insurance premiums. The City's savings will be 7.65%.

10. **Miscellaneous Business**
None.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 5:44 p.m. The next scheduled meeting of this Committee is at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, February 27, 2006.

Respectfully submitted,
Alderman James Spangenberg, Chairman
Finance & Personnel Committee