



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 Pete Karas, Alderman Sandy Weidner,
Alderman Aron Wisneski*

Monday, August 21, 2006

5:00 PM

City Hall, Room 103

Call to order and Roll Call

Alderman James Spangenberg called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

PRESENT: James T. Spangenberg, Thomas Friedel, Pete Karas, Sandy Weidner and Aron Wisneski

Approval of the minutes for the August 7, 2006 meeting. to Approve the Minutes

1. **06-2342** Subject: Communication from the City Attorney submitting the claim of Colleen & Mike Wilson for consideration.

Recommendation of the Finance & Personnel Committee of 08-21-06: The claim be denied.

Colleen & Mike Wilson, 4421 Wright Av, claim reimbursement in the amount of \$334.09 for replacing four tires that were gummed up with fresh tar used during DPW street crack filling operations in their area on Wright Avenue the week of June 5, 2006. The DPW crews placed cones and signs in the street to warn traffic from driving through the area while the tar hardens. Therefore, the City denies any negligence.

Fiscal Note: N/A
Rob Weber, City Attorney, appeared before the committee. The claimants are requesting reimbursement for four new tires because they were gummed up with fresh tar. Because the road was clearly marked to stay to the right, the City denies any negligence.
Recommended For Denial

2. **06-2233** Subject: Communication from Countryside Humane Society, Inc. submitting a contract Animal Control for 2007-2008.

Recommendation of the Finance & Personnel Committee 07-24-06: The item be deferred.

Recommendation of the Board of Health 08-08-06: That the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized and directed to sign a two-year contract with Countryside Humane Society, Inc. for animal control services for 2007-08.

Recommendation of the Finance & Personnel Committee 08-21-06: That the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized and directed to sign a two-year contract with Countryside Humane Society, Inc. for animal control services for 2007-08.

Fiscal Note: \$165,220.00 for 2007 with an increase that shall not exceed 3% for 2008.

Janelle Grammer, Public Health Administrator and Marilyn Benson, Vice President of Countryside Humane Society appeared before the Committee. Countryside Humane Society, Inc. submitted their renewal contract for 2007 and 2008. There is a 3% increase for both years. Janelle justifies the 3% increase because of the cost to the City if they handled animal shelter. The services from Countryside Humane Society is housing animals, investigation of bite cases, picking up feral animals, and rabies cases.

Recommended For Approval

3. [06-2363](#)

Subject: Request of the Board of Cemetery Commissioners to conduct Saturday burials.

Recommendation of the Board of Cemetery Commission July 17, 2006: Approve

Recommendation of the Finance and Personnel Committee August 21, 2006: The Board of Cemetery Commission be granted permission to allow Saturday burials at Mound and Graceland Cemetery and that the additional fee be incurred by the user of the service.

Fiscal note: The City's subsidy to reinstate Saturday burials would be approximately \$28,453 annually.

Donnie Snow, Director of Parks Recreation and Cultural Services, Scott Letteney, Deputy City Attorney, Steve Bedard, Cemetery Supervisor, David Brown, Interim Finance Director, Alderman Gregory Holding, and Sharon Baldukas, president of the Cemetery Commission for Mound and Graceland Cemetery appeared before the Committee. Donnie Snow stated that the contract ending August 14, 2002 and beginning August 15, 2002 shows no reduction in fees with the removal of Saturday burial because it was an existing 5-year contract and if projected out from 2002 with a 3% increase for each year the City would have realized approximately \$20,000 in savings. Had the Saturday burial been kept it would have been an additional 20 to 30 thousand dollars more added on to the existing contract. To date, when requested, Saturday burial had been accommodated with the cost incurred by the user.

Sharon Baldukas stated a survey was conducted at the end of 2005. There was satisfaction with cemetery services and 50% of the funeral home directors requested Saturday burial. The Cemetery Commission's goal is to see that Mound and Graceland Cemetery be self-sustaining. Cemetery revenues have decreased 25% continually since 2000, said Baldukas. The adjustment in fees is \$820 to purchase and \$820 to open and close a grave, \$1,065 for non-residents, an additional \$200 fee is being proposed for Saturday burials up to 12:00pm by the Cemetery Commission. The Cemetery Commission request that the Bruce Company's contract be reviewed.

The Committee request Bruce Company itemize the additional fee of \$700 for the Saturday burial, and that the Attorney's Office check to see if the contract can be renegotiated for the additional Saturday burial fee. Bruce Company's contract expires August 2008.

Recommended For Approval

4. [06-2364](#)

Subject: Letter from Chief of Police Spenner, requesting authorization to accept the donation of one Motorola Centracom from Jon Formhals.

(Also referred to License & Welfare Committee.)

Recommendation from the Finance & Personnel Committee 08-21-06: The Chief of Police granted permission to accept a donation of a Motorola Centracom Radio Console from Jon Formhals. An appropriate letter of thanks be sent.

Fiscal Note: N/A

The Committee approves accepting the donation of the Motorola Centracom radio console from Jon Formhals.

Recommended For Approval

Miscellaneous Business

None

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m. The next scheduled meeting of this Committee is at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, September 11, 2006 at City Hall, Room 103.

Respectfully submitted,

**Alderman James Spangenberg, Chairman
Finance and Personnel Committee**