

City of Ansonia
Board of Alderman
Salary Committee

Special Meeting
Erlingheuser Room
Monday, December 16, 2013
7:00 P.M.

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ANSONIA, CONNECTICUT

Aldermen Present

David Brian Blackwell Jr, R-7
Joan Radin, R-5
Matthew Edo, R-6
Charlie Stowe, R-1
Joseph Jeanette, D-3
Denise Hunt, D-3
Phil Tripp, R-2

Aldermen Absent

None

Others Present

Corporation Council K. Blake
Acting Comptroller R. Bshara

Call to Order

Chairman Blackwell called the Ansonia Salary Committee to Order. All Rose, pledged allegiance to the flag. Chairman Blackwell took a roll call attendance, and a quorum was declared present, (7) Present (0) absent.

Public Session

Chairman Blackwell Called the public session to order. Chairman Blackwell asked if anyone from the public wished to speak.

Attorney John Sponheimer Stood up and addressed the committee as the attorney representing the incoming City Clerk, Beth Lynch. In summary Attorney Sponheimer asked the committee that while restructuring the way the City Clerk is compensated he would like the committee to keep in mind the salary of the current City Clerk, approx. \$75,000.00 per year, plus the fees which when broken down over a sixteen (16) year period equate to approximately an additional \$20,000.00 per year, totaling approximately \$95,000.00 per year. Attorney Sponheimer stated that it was his clients (Lynch) understanding that this would be the salary she would assume when she decided to run for City Clerk. Attorney Sponheimer asked the committee to consider the current clerks salary and also the Town Clerk of the City of Derby's salary (approx. \$76,000.00) when making a decision. Attorney Sponheimer asked the committee to consider a fair salary of \$75,000.00 - \$80,000.00 per year as a flat salary for the City Clerk Position.

Alderman Stowe asked at this point if anyone had any proposals. Chairman Blackwell stated that we will address proposals following Public session.

Alderman Radin addressed Attorney Sponheimer at this time. In summary Alderman Radin stated that the current City Clerk was working with no set salary and that the City of Ansonia was working with an antiquated system that most towns and cities have abandoned. Alderman Radin stated the \$75,000.00 figure we were working with was a figure given to the committee by the cities acting Comptroller Rich Bshara as a "take home figure" but that figure is not what is in the cities actual budget. Bshara stated that this is a hybrid system where the City Clerk was getting a set salary of approx. \$27,000.00 per year out of the city budget and the rest of her salary was made up of the collection of fees. Alderman Radin stated that there are going to be a lot of unhappy people, including herself, if the starting salary for the City Clerk is \$75,000.00 to \$90,000.00 per year. Corporation Council Kevin Blake stated that Derby's Town Clerk salary is based off of the salary of Derby's Assessor, they are the same. Alderman Radin stated we are Ansonia, not Derby.

Chairman Blackwell asked if anyone else from the public wished to speak, no one chose to speak, public session was closed.

Consideration of the Salary

In summary Chairman Blackwell asked the committee to entertain salaries of other cities/towns with similar demographics that have elected, non-union, Clerks. Chairman Blackwell also confirmed with acting Comptroller Bshara that Lynch was receiving a city pension as to where the current City Clerk was not. Chairman Blackwell at this time put a recommendation on the table of \$72,000.00 per year with all fees being turned over to the city. Chairman Blackwell also asked Attorney Sponheimer if this figure were to stand, would Beth Lynch promote an assistant City Clerk from within the current City Clerk office and not exercise her powers to promote from the outside. This would give the city the flexibility to leave one of the current four (4) positions within city clerk's office open and cut the manpower down to three (3). The city would then apply that savings toward the salary of the incoming City Clerk and Assistant City Clerk's salaries. After Attorney Sponheimer Conferred with Lynch, they agreed to promote from within the office if the salary was set at \$72,000.00. For the record Attorney Sponheimer stated even though a salary of \$72,000.00 was fair, he hoped the board would be more fair.

At this time Alderman Tripp made a motion to set the salary for the City Clerk of Ansonia at \$72,000.00, this was seconded by Alderman Edo. A roll call vote went as follows:

Alderman Radin, R-5 / No

Alderman Edo, R-6 / Yes

Alderman Stowe, R-1 / Yes

Alderman Tripp, R-2 / Yes

Alderman Hunt, D-3 / Yes

Alderman Jeanette, D-3 / Yes

Alderman Blackwell, R-7 / Yes

Motion passed 6-1.

Adjournment

Alderman Stowe made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Alderman Jeanette; all in favor, so carried.

Respectfully Submitted

Alderman David Brian Blackwell Jr, Chairman
Ansonia Board of Alderman Salary Committee

Please note these minutes are written in brief.