

CITY OF COUNTRYSIDE

*803 Joliet Road
Countryside, IL 60525
www.countryside-il.org*



Meeting Minutes

Human Resources Committee

Thursday, January 16, 2025

6:45 PM

Council Chambers

Committee Members

Chairman – Alderman Thomas Mikolyzk

Member – Alderman Tom Frohlich

Member – Alderman Scott Musillami

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Mikolyzk called the meeting to order at 6:45 PM.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Chairman Mikolyzk, Alderman Frohlich, and Alderman Musillami

Also Present: Alderman Benson, Alderman Von Drasek, Public Works Superintendent Serna, Deputy Clerk Cordova, and City Administrator Paul

3. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – NOVEMBER 4, 2024.

4.a. The minutes of the meeting were previously distributed to the members of the Human Resources Committee.

Alderman Musillami moved to approve the minutes from November 4, 2024 seconded by Alderman Frohlich and carried unanimously.

5. BUSINESS FROM THE COMMITTEE FOR DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION, AND IF SO DETERMINED, ACTION UPON:

5. a. Consideration to promote Benjamin Strohl to Mechanic and hire a Maintenance Worker 1.

City Administrator Paul stated that Rich Richter who was the DPW Mechanic gave his two week notice and his last day is tomorrow.

Public Works Superintendent Serna posted the opening and job description in the Public Works Department. Mr. Serna only had one individual interested in the position and that was Benjamin Strohl. Mr. Strohl is a trained mechanic and his previous jobs have been with two car dealerships and we believe he is qualified for this position. We are recommending promoting within rather than hiring from outside if that is approved by the committee. We would then begin the process of recruiting another maintenance worker.

Public Works Superintendent Serna stated that Mr. Strohl is a very hardworking man. I believe that Mr. Strohl will fit in nicely in that position. He has some knowledge in diesel trucks and possibly some welding.

Chairman Mikolyzk asked if we had to go before the City Council or can we just approve it in this committee. City Administrator Paul stated that we could just approve it.

Alderman Frohlich asked if Mr. Strohl was hired recently. City Administrator Paul stated that he has been with Public Works for two and a half years.

Chairman Mikolyzk asked for a motion to promote Benjamin Strohl to Mechanic and also hire a Maintenance Worker 1. Alderman Frohlich agreed with the motion and Alderman Musillami seconded the motion, the motion carried unanimously.

5. b. Consideration to create a part-time Engineer position.

City Administrator Paul stated that City Engineer, John Fitzgerald retired as of 12/31/24. Novotny Engineers has appointed Angel Hernandez as our new City Engineer. Although Angel is a very capable engineer, he does lack the history of Countryside and its infrastructure. Hiring Mr. Fitzgerald in a part time capacity will allow for the coordination between the City and Novotny Engineers and not lose all the knowledge Mr. Fitzgerald has.

This position will assist the Building Official with property maintenance issues, work on updating our codes, work with staff on grant applications and administration and assist Public Works Superintendent Serna with the coordination of all the upcoming State projects on 55th Street, Lagrange Road, and the intersection of Brainard and Joliet Road.

Staff is recommending creating a part time engineer position. He would work approximately 20 hours a week. We are recommending a pay rate of \$90 an hour. When Mr. Fitzgerald worked for Novotny we were paying him \$180 an hour for his services.

Chairman Mikolyzk asked if we were still paying Mr. Hernandez. City Administrator Paul said we would still employ Mr. Hernandez. Mr. Fitzgerald would help us to fill out the grant applications and Mr. Hernandez would be handling the engineering plans. If we agree to this position does it have to be approved at City Council? City Administrator Paul stated that it would have to go to City Council. It is a new position and it is not in the budget. We will be reducing the budget for engineering services.

Chairman Mikolyzk asked for a motion to create a part time engineer position. Alderman Musillami made the motion and the motion was seconded by Alderman Frohlich, and the motion carried unanimously.

6. OTHER COMMITTEE

None.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Alderman Frohlich made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Alderman Musillami, and carried unanimously.

Chairman Mikolyzk declared the meeting adjourned at 6:56 p.m.

APPROVED:

Chairman Tom Mikolyzk

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