

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE
April 5, 2018

MEMBERS PRESENT

Chairman Vota
Alderman Burtle
Alderman Dorchinecz
Alderman Olive

ALSO PRESENT

Mayor Barry
Alderman Jones
Alderman Walters
Brian Hile
Aaron Reimann
Chase Dickey
Greg Fuersteneau
Andrea Ebert
Cindy Brown
Owen Lasswell

Chairman Vota called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER

Chairman Vota opened the meeting to discuss the unanswered questions and concerns regarding this proposed position.

Mr. Fursteneau informed the Committee why he is pursuing the School Resource Officer position for the Taylorville School District. He named some communities that utilize the SRO stating the communities realize the positive effect of improving the school climate and allows the Officer to build a relationship with the students. Additionally, we would like to see this begin in the High School and Junior High and then the Elementary schools as needed.

Chief Hile explained 25% of schools in America display this position in their schools. He discussed the need to shine a positive light on police, as when called to a scene, usually is regarded as a negative. The SRO would reflect the positive and not the negative. Building relationships with the students would be a positive influence.

Chairman Vota explained the research he has completed in reference to the position of the SRO as requested. He stated that specialized training is required. Finding a revenue source to finance the salary and hidden costs such as benefits which would include health insurance, work compensation and pension requirements is needed. As the Taylorville School District is countywide he suggested research be done to see if others are willing to help in the cost to fill this position rather than place the financial burden only on the City taxpayer. The Chairman is in support as were the Aldermen present; however, these are questions that need to be addressed before moving forward.

Mr. Fursteneau explained the school would pay the SRO's salary per diem for 176 days out of the year. This funding would not come from a Grant, but rather the Tort Fund which is primarily used for insurance, legal and safety matters. The SRO would fall under the safety category.

Chairman Vota suggested a raise in tuition cost of \$25 - \$50 to those students attending the schools to help finance the position in order to keep their children safe. Many taxpayers do not have children in the school system and should not be liable for this extra cost.

Mr. Fursteneau stated that 59% of the children attending the public school system in Taylorville are in the poverty level line which allows for free lunches and tuition.

Chairman Vota received a letter from the Police Union which reflected their disagreement of the position as they believe this would cause the department to be short staffed. They support helping the children, but would like to see a full staff and allow for other officers to have an opportunity in helping in this area. Chairman Vota asked the Union representative if they had researched all that is needed to fulfill the requirements for the SRO position. They had not.

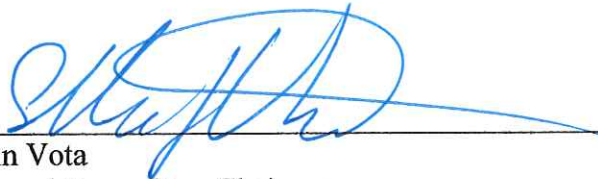
After much discussion the consensus is that all of the Aldermen present are in support of helping with concerns of safety and the students. One of the Chairman's concerns is that there are too many discussions taking place outside of City Hall regarding the SRO issue. The issue was tabled until next month.

EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK

Chairman Vota informed the Committee regarding the need to review and update the Employee Handbook and asked each Alderman review the information they received. Chairman Vota suggests this item be discussed in more detail next month. Human Resources Manager Brown interjected there are many policies which have been updated, however, need to be inserted into the handbook.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Alderman Dorchinecz and seconded by Alderman Olive to adjourn.
Montion carried 4-0. The meeting adjourned at 6:57p.m.



Martin Vota
Personnel Committee Chairman