

WORK SESSION MINUTES

A work session of the Kirkwood City Council was held on April 14, 2011, at 7:00 a.m. Present were Council Members Biedenstein, Griffin, Jaksetic, Sears, Ward, Yuan, and Mayor McDonnell. Also in attendance were Chief Administrative Officer Mike Brown, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer Georgia Ragland, City Clerk Betty Montano, Public Information Officer Beth von Behren and City Attorney John Hessel.

APPROVAL OF WORK SESSION MINUTES

Motion was made by Council Member Griffin and seconded by Council Member Jaksetic to approve the work session minutes of April 7, 2011. The motion to approve the minutes was unanimously approved.

REVIEW OF DENTAL AND HEALTH INSURANCE RATES

Assistant Chief Administrative Officer Georgia Ragland and Chris Snell of Gallagher Benefit Services were in attendance to present information regarding dental and health insurance rates. A copy of dental and health insurance renewal memos describing options and recommendations was distributed. Some of the issues discussed are as follows:

- Dental Insurance Renewal:
 - The City has contracted with Delta Dental for a number of years
 - Delta Dental has eliminated its Municipal Pool program and is basing its renewal on the city's claim utilization, demographics, current plan design, and network
 - Claims utilization is fairly high
 - The City has been able to keep the rate steady for the past couple of years
 - Gallagher Benefit Services has worked on getting the plan in line with the fiscal year as the council had requested
 - Staff recommends accepting the Delta Dental renewal of current plan (DentaCare 4) for a 22 month period with a premium cost of \$37.17 per month per participant (single) and \$99.04 per month per participant (family)
 - Question was raised on whether or not the deductible should be raised or the percentage the employee contributes raised
 - The City is "grandfathered" into the DentaCare 4 plan and if we were to choose to go with a different Delta Dental plan design we would not be allowed access to this plan afterward
 - Discussion and concerns were made regarding how much comparators pay and require their employees to contribute
- Health Insurance Renewal:
 - Health care is a much more expensive program than dental
 - Staff recommends accepting Option 1 for a 9 month renewal with a premium increase of 1.1% and continuation of division of premium costs between city and employees (as shown in memo from Georgia Ragland)
 - Option 1 increases the prescription drug and emergency room copays
 - Kirkwood is on the higher end of the comparators and only one of two cities that use Anthem Blue Cross
 - Gallagher Benefit Services compared plans and found that there is a very small difference between Anthem Blue Cross and other plans and also found that Anthem Blue Cross's final results were in line with the market
 - Question was raised regarding the number of employees that have moved from the higher plan to the lower plan. The information and numbers was provided in the health insurance handout received at the beginning of the meeting.
 - Question was raised regarding the amount an employee pays in and what kind of incentive there could be to get employees to switch from higher option to lower option
 - Staff has done a great job of getting more employees to change over to the lower option in the past couple of years

ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW OF HOMES

Zoning Administrator Jeremy Knapp, Public Works Director Todd Rehg and Building Commissioner Tony Carvalho were in attendance to present information regarding the architectural review of homes. A power point presentation was presented. Some of the issues discussed are as follows:

- In October 2010 the City Council addressed the draft Architectural Design Guidelines for architectural review of single-family residences
- Staff has continued to fine tune these guidelines in addition to reformatting for the integration with existing Sections 2-531 through 2-540 of the Kirkwood Code of Ordinances, Architectural Review Board (ARB)
- Staff has also established a proposed fee structure and developed an application form for residential review by the ARB
- Some of the points covered in the power point presentation are as follows:
 - Classifications:
 - Preferred Elements vs Discouraged Elements
 - Existing Single-Family Review Process
 - 10 Business Days for Review
 - Reviewed by Building and Engineering Departments
 - Proposed Single-Family Review Process
 - 60 business days for review, from start to finish
 - Proposed Combined ARB Applications by Type
 - Residential Alterations, New Residential, Additions and Combined Commercial
 - Staff Recommended ARB Applications by Type
 - New Residential, Additions and Combined Commercial
 - Landmark Structures:
 - Structures that fall under the provisions of Chapter 2 ½ of the Code of Ordinances will be reviewed by Landmarks Commission
 - Guidelines are designed to be applied by either the ARB or the Landmarks Commission, but the more restrictive applies
 - Fees – Amending Table I of Section 5-109:
 - New Single Family Residence \$150
 - Accessory Structures, additions or alterations \$100
 - Amendment to approved plans \$50
 - What’s Next:
 - Implement changes from discussion, Distribute updated draft to public, Solicit public comments and Adopt legislation
- Discouraged items does not mean they are prohibited
- Architectural Review Board will act as an advisory board only and cannot deny an application
- Variance requests are to be done prior to applying for a building permit
- Authority of the ARB is significantly different from commercial to residential
- An idea was raised to have a separate ARB for commercial and residential
- Council needs to consider whether or not they would like to add “alternates” to the ARB
- The only downside to alternates is having the change in attendance of board members
- Consideration could be made to add two new ARB members instead of alternates, which would allow the group to be split
- The Zoning Code will be changed to clearly explain the new process
- Council unanimously agreed to hold a public meeting “open house” prior to a council meeting to allow citizens and builders to ask questions and receive answers

There being no further business to come before the council, the meeting was adjourned.

Laurie Asche
Deputy City Clerk