

Meeting Minutes for the Citizens' Commission on Elected Officials Compensation
April 08, 2015 at 4:00 p.m. Columbus City
Hall, Conference Room 225

Attendance:

- Chester C. Christie, Commission Chair
- Kristen Easterday, Commissioner
- Dawn Tyler Lee, Commissioner
- Marchelle E. Moore, Esq., Commissioner
- William Murdock, Commissioner
- Andrea Blevins, Columbus City Clerk (absent)
- Josh Cox, Chief Counsel, Columbus City Attorney Richard C. Pfeiffer, Jr. (absent)
- Ken Paul, Chief of Staff to Council President Andrew J. Ginther
- Rory McGuinness, Special Assistant to Mayor Michael B. Coleman
- Nichole Brandon, Director, Columbus Department of Human Resources
- Jacquilla Bass, Deputy Director, Columbus Department of Human Resources (absent)
- Greg Beaverson, Compensation Manager, Columbus Department of Human Resources

Mr. Christie called the third meeting of the Commission to order.

Mr. Murdock made a motion, seconded by Ms. Tyler Lee, for adoption of the Minutes for the March 25th meeting.

- Yeas – 5
- Nays – 0
- Motion carried

Mr. Paul gave a status update on salary survey responses and the data collected. Mr. Beaverson added that 13 of the cities had responded giving the survey at 43% response rate. Ms. Easterday asked when the 'reply by' date was. Mr. Beaverson responded the date was Friday, April 10th, and a reminder would be sent to the remaining cities prior to that date.

Mr. Christie asked if the U.S. Conference of Mayors or the National League of Cities (NLC) had replied to the Commission's request for information. Mr. Paul responded that the Conference of Mayors had not responded, and the NLC did not have any information.

Mr. Paul gave an update on the status of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) report. Mr. Paul reported that Mr. Cox from the City Attorney's office will offer an opinion at the next meeting and address, legally, what makes the most sense when considering CPI. Mr. Paul stated that after reaching out to the City Auditor's office, it was suggested that it would be best to seek outside Council and that contact had been initiated with Dr. Bill Lafayette. Mr. Murdock stated it would be nice to know which CPI are typically used for human resource purposes. Mr. Paul responded that Dr. Lafayette's goal for his presentation is to outline the base definition, what it is referred to in the public domain, and then possible options to consider and a recommendation of which CPI to use.

Mr. Paul asked if the Commission would like to have another city that has been through the process give a presentation. Mr. Paul stated that Phoenix, Arizona was willing to have a teleconference. Ms. Moore stated that it would be helpful, and the Commission agreed.

Mr. Paul summarized a handout of questions to spark potential discussion and feedback on how staff should frame and present the data collected to the Commission. Mr. Christie asked if there were any questions the Commission did not want to take into consideration. The Commission did not have any to remove from the list. Mr. Christie asked if there were any additional questions the Commission wanted to add. Ms. Tyler Lee stated that other questions may naturally come to the surface after sifting through and analyzing the data and that this list looked like a great start. Mr. Christie stated it would be good to reach out to another city that had been through the process and ask what considerations used when when analyzing data.

Mr. Paul reported that a mailing address and phone number have been added to the Commission website. Mr. Paul then gave a summary of the correspondence received and the responses given.

Mr. Christie asked about the timeline of the Commission and asked whether it would meet the April 24th deadline for the recommendations. Mr. Paul responded that staff will be pressed to receive the information as quickly as possible, but would rather be right than by the deadline. Mr. Christie stated the Commission would be in a better position next meeting to attempt to establish a better deadline for recommendations. Ms. Moore requested the City Attorney's office to offer an opinion regarding the timeframes and as to whether City Council needs to take action to extend the Commission's work. Mr. Paul added that initial conversations had also been had with the City Attorney's office.

The Commission scheduled their next meeting for Thursday, April 30th at 4:00 p.m. and tentatively scheduled the next public hearing for Wednesday, May 6th at 10:00 a.m.

Mr. Christie thanked the staff for their work, competence, due diligence, and adjourned the meeting.