

MINUTES
WORKING SESSION
CITY COUNCIL
401 WEST WASHINGTON STREET
EAST PEORIA, ILLINOIS

July 17, 2018

Mayor Mingus called the Working Session of the City Council of East Peoria, Illinois to order at 5:00 P.M. with the meeting having been properly noticed.

Upon the roll being called the following answered present: Mayor Mingus, Commissioners Decker, Densberger, Jeffers, and Kahl.

Absent: None.

Mayor Mingus explained that no final action would take place by the City Council at the meeting. He explained that the purpose of the meeting is to have a Working Session regarding changing the form of government. City Attorney Dennis Triggs discussed a handout regarding changing the form of government. He explained that issues in changing the form of government are confusing. He explained that the City Council needs to decide whether the Council would authorize a referendum question about whether the City will change its form of government from Commission Form to Managerial Form. Referendum could be on the November 2018 ballot. He discussed what could happen if a vote to change government is approved.

City Attorney Triggs discussed the document about form of government. He discussed the attributes of commission form of government including the powers of the Mayor and the Commissioners. He discussed the attributes of the Managerial Form of government including powers and duties of the Council, Mayor, and Manager. He discussed other forms of government including Aldermanic, Strong Mayor Form, and "Administrative" (not really a form of government but how the City has been running with a City Administrator under the Commission Form.).

He discussed the timing of the approval of the ordinance and certification to the County Clerk. He discussed the timing for changing and abandonment of form of government and advantages and disadvantages of the Commission Form and Managerial Form.

Mayor Mingus asked for comments from Council. Commissioner Densberger discussed how he feels the Commission Form of government has served the City well. He feels that the disadvantages are real for the Commission Form of government.

Commissioner Decker discussed how the change in form of government discussion came about. He discussed spending monies to look into changing the form of government. He discussed the effectiveness that he has seen in the Commission Form of government.

Commissioner Jeffers discussed his opinion on the form of government. He discussed areas of advantages and disadvantages. He discussed relying on professional staff in the City and giving more power to the City Administrator.

Commissioner Kahl explained that there are advantages and disadvantages to each form of government. He does not feel that a change in the form of government needs to be solely driven by the City Council.

Mayor Mingus discussed citizens needing to know the form of government that they have. He discussed the pitfalls of the Commission Form of government.

Mayor Mingus asked for any comments from the audience.

Jeff Giebelhausen came up to the podium. He feels that there needs to be a change in the form of government. He discussed doing a petition if the City Council does not put a question on the ballot.

Bob Jorgensen discussed communications being difficult. He appreciates the fact that the City Council is here to hear the citizens' concerns. He discussed a mayor and commissioners spending more time than one city manager can spend time.

Don Norbits came up to the podium. He discussed the history of the form of government. He discussed needing a cohesive body giving guidance. He recommended that the citizens do research on the form of government.

Charlie Morgan came up to the podium to discuss changing the form of government. He feels that public should have the choice. He explained that he is not for the change. He does not feel that we need a city manager at a high salary figure. He discussed life experiences and people being able to make common sense decisions.

Mayor Mingus asked for any other comments. There was no response.

Motion by Commissioner Densberger, seconded by Commissioner Kahl; Mr. Mayor, I move you that we adjourn the meeting.

Yeas: Commissioners Decker, Densberger, Jeffers, and Kahl and Mayor Mingus.

Nays: None.

Mayor Mingus declared the motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 6:01 P.M.

/s/ Morgan R. Cadwalader

Morgan R. Cadwalader, City Clerk