

## **Excerpt, Albany City Council Minutes, July 19, 2010**

### **7-1. Council Health Benefits**

(File #720-40)

The City Manager reported that currently Council Members are eligible for enrollment in the City's health insurance programs, which include Kaiser and Blue Shield and the City pays the premium.

An option could be if the Council Member shows proof of health insurance coverage that they be offered the same benefit as employees. This benefit is the single Kaiser rate contributed to his/her deferred compensation retirement account, which is called an "in-lieu contribution".

The Social & Economic Justice (SEJC) Commission has raised the idea that the City Council look at adjusting the City's contribution for Council Member health care premiums to be consistent with the cap on the contribution for employees.

The following people spoke: Brian Parsley, SEJC; Clay Larson, Albany resident; Caryl O'Keefe, Albany resident; Francesco Papalia, Albany resident.

A summary of the Council comments is as follows: It was stated that the savings would only be \$3,000 and believe this is a tough job with a lot of hours and the benefit should not change. Agreed that the Council should be eligible for the "in-lieu contribution". Believe that the benefits should be equitable and if the employees have a cap then so should the Council. It was stated that the Council is no more important than an employee and believe it is a question of equity and that the Council is elected to serve the City. Asked that staff prepare a study to show what benefits are given to Council in other cities and it also include a fiscal analysis.

#### **MOTION:**

It was moved by Mayor Wile, seconded by Council Member Atkinson to direct staff to prepare a survey and study from other cities to come back to Council in September.

AYES: Council Members Atkinson, Lieber, Thomsen, Vice-Mayor Javandel & Mayor Wile

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried and so ordered.

#### **MOTION:**

Moved by Council Member Lieber, seconded by Council Member Atkinson to move forward on the option to include Council for the "in-lieu contribution", with proof of health insurance coverage.

AYES: Council Members Atkinson, Lieber, Vice-Mayor Javandel & Mayor Wile

NOES: Council Member Thomsen

ABSENT: None

Motion carried and so ordered.