

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE SESSION OF
THE CITY OF HERRIN COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF HERRIN, ILLINOIS HELD IN THE
COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF CITY HALL ON
APRIL 27, 2009 AT 6:44 P.M.

Mayor Ritter called the executive session to order at 6:44 p.m. The City Clerk called the roll and the following were present:

VICTOR RITTER.....	Mayor
MARLENE SIMPSON.....	City Clerk
MARK BROWN.....	Treasurer
PATRICIA McMEEN.....	City Attorney
LARRY LIPE.....	City Engineer
ERNIE GWALTNEY.....	Alderman Ward I
LIZ ISSLER.....	Alderman Ward I
ROBERT CRAIG..... (absent).....	Alderman Ward II
DEON McGUIRE.....	Alderman Ward II
SAM SHEMWELL.....	Alderman Ward III
MARILYN ORSO.....	Alderman Ward III
MARILYN RUPPEL.....	Alderman Ward IV
BILL SIZEMORE.....	Alderman Ward IV

Mayor Ritter called the meeting to order and he referred to a letter that had been sent to each council member concerning the hiring of Thomas E. Somers, P.E. He continued to talk that he feels that the time has come that we should have a person in the public works department with an engineering background. He reiterated that Joe Lapinski has done a wonderful job since he has been superintendent and had even offered Joe to continue on his job if he would be willing to do so. At which time Joe said he was ready to retire.

Mayor Ritter would like to propose that on May 11, 2009 that he appoint Thomas E. Somers P.E. as public works director with the consent of the council. He also said the he knows that within executive session there cannot be a vote taken but would like to get a consensus of the council before May 11, 2009.

If there is support for the hiring of Thomas E. Somers, P.E. he would probably begin his duties on June 1, 2009. He will be living in Herrin, he does have a home located in Sesser, however, it is for sale at this time.

Questions were asked by several Alderman concerning the status of Lawrence A. Lipe and Associates Engineering Firm. At which time Mayor Ritter stated that Coy Cockrum is working on many projects and he is very important to the City of Herrin and that he will be working with Tom. He did say that there would have to be some equipment purchased for Tom's office. For instance, a laser printer and possibly some computer software. He went onto say that if we do hire Tom Somers that there will be a savings to the community because he would be able to be involved with some of the projects that are ongoing since he has knowledge of them.

Question was also asked if he is involved with projects, would it be feasible at some point to hire a superintendent also. Mayor Ritter said that he would like to be able to do that possibly within a year or sooner.

Questions were asked why this particular position was not put in the newspaper and resumes taken. The Mayor said because it was his appointment and every Mayor before him had made that choice and he felt he should be able to do that also.

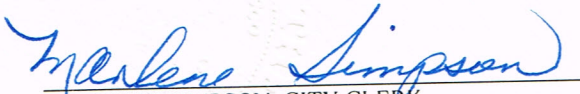
Again, Mayor Ritter asked the council if he could just get a consensus of their feelings if he brought this appointment to the agenda on May 11, 2009, even though we cannot take a vote because he does not want to embarrass anyone regarding this situation.

The council agreed that it was his appointment and that they would accept his choice for public works director.

Being no further business before the executive session, the session adjourned at 7:35 p.m.


VICTOR M. RITTER, MAYOR

ATTEST:


MARLENE SIMPSON, CITY CLERK