COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCES/INSURANCE
November 18, 2025 at 6:15 PM

Chairman E. Sapienza called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen E. Sapienza, Kantor, Vincent, T. Sapienza

Absent: Alderman Burkush

Messrs.: V. Prestejohn, P. Bean, M. Varagic

1. HR Reports submitted by Victoria Prestejohn, Human Resources Director:
- Position Summary Report
- Vacancy Requisition Requests & Approvals
- Summary of Arbitrations/Grievances
- SmartShopper Report

2. Communication from the Human Resources Director regarding GLP-1 medications and their associated costs.

Alderman O'Neil: I want to thank the HR Director and Michelle Harrington for taking the time. We met for about an hour and a half a week ago to talk about it. The information is more favorable than it was when we talked about it previously about the save card. But there would be some cost to the city, but it gets the number for the employees cost per month to fall way down. Maybe we can refer it to the next board. There'll be a budget process; this issue is not going away. I know I'm working with Anthem to try to figure out ways to make this work. I hear so many stories about people getting it for almost nothing, and when you try to find out how they got there, they really can't tell you. But I appreciate M. Varagic and his help in trying to figure this out. This is a real issue for people. And if you're not a type two diabetic, but you're on it, the biggest problem is employees were on it for a year, and saw great success with it. I don't know that we have the money. I heard Sharon's report tonight to the Accounts Committee. We're actually doing good in our health insurance line item or health insurance spend. I just hope we can keep this moving forward and continue to talk and continue to try to get information to see if we can make it more affordable for the employees.

Alderman T. Sapienza: Was this presentation put together before the recent price decreases were announced, and does that really matter? I believe those price decreases were for uninsured people.

Victoria Prestejohn, Human Resources Director: Yes, this was prepared before those price decreases were announced. So it is not reflective of that, but it would only be more favorable to all parties.

Alderman T. Sapienza: I'm not the expert, but I only know what I read in the paper. That's why I'm asking.

Chairman E. Sapienza: I guess it's breaking news, as in yesterday.

Phil Bean, USI Insurance Services: It was lowered to as low as $350, but there's also a lower dosage you can get at $150.

Chairman E. Sapienza: And this would be for the cash rate. So even if you are insured, you would still get that rate.

P. Bean: Right. Now if your members go and buy GLP-1 for weight loss outside the plan, whether or not the plan's covering them, you have a cash pay option going direct through either Novo or Lilly, these are the manufacturers. They've reduced the price. You can get these drugs for weight loss as low as $350 for the normal dosage, that's a one month prescription injection. And there's another lower dosage that can be gained for as low as $150. So that is a new development that was just announced yesterday.

Chairman E. Sapienza: And that's regardless of whether or not what health plan you're on, this plan, any plan at all, that's walking in off the street.

P. Bean: That's walking in off the street. You have to have a prescription.

Alderman O'Neil: When you said normal dosage, what do you consider a normal dosage?

P. Bean: It is really what's generally prescribed for weight loss. I am not a physician. I don't know what the dosage number is, per se. But generally, you'd be prescribed for a 30-day prescription.

Mladen Varagic, Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield: So, the way the drugs work is they start you at 1.25mg and you start to go up, and certain folks end up with seven milligrams. So, the starting dose is what it would be on the lower end. And then it kind of goes up.

Alderman O'Neil: What I'm aware of, you start at 2.5mg. A lot of people are at five. What's considered the normal dosage?

M. Varagic: Five. It's where most people feel safe. They don't have a lot of side effects. Once you start going up in the dosage, you will have some serious side effects. And certain folks cannot tolerate those side effects.

Alderman O'Neil: Director, is this something your team can get some information out to the employees? This is a big issue to the employees.

V. Prestejohn: Yes, and certainly I recognize that and our department recognizes that. It is a moving target and we will continue to collect that information, and will certainly reach out to folks as new information comes to light.

Alderman O'Neil: Is that something that can happen next month or so?

V. Prestejohn: I'd say so, yes.

Alderman O'Neil: Alright. Thank you.

Chairman E. Sapienza: So, the question before this board tonight, even though we're not actually taking a vote, is do we want to have it covered under the save card. That's the question that we face, and that's something that we can mull over. This is informational only at this point, but that's the gist of that. Thank you for the information.

*There being no further business, on motion of **Alderman Vincent**, duly seconded by **Alderman T. Sapienza**, it was voted to adjourn.*

A True Record. Attest.

Matthew Normand

Clerk of Committee

Meeting Start Time: 6:15PM
Meeting End Time: 6:22PM
Minutes Prepared By: Michael Intranuovo