

Special City Commission Meeting (Wednesday, November 1, 2023)

Generated by Hayden Page on Wednesday, November 1, 2023

A. MEETING OPENER

Procedural: 1. Call to Order - Roll Call

Meeting called to order at 1:05pm.

In Attendance:

City Commission - Commissioner Huggins, Commissioner Redman, Vice Mayor Hendrix, Mayor Stegall

City Staff: City Attorney Maines

Absent - Commissioner Sirmones, Interim City Clerk Page

B. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER

Action, Discussion, Procedural: 1. City Manager Applicant Interview Process

Recommended Action: Motion to appoint _____ as City Manager, with a start date of Thursday, November 9, 2023, the first day of the new pay period.

City Attorney Maines suggested that the Mayor set the record for the applicants who had originally been selected (Mark Meyers, Brian Reagan, and Angie Whisnant) and to briefly explain what has transpired up until this meeting.

Mayor Stegall explains that there were originally 3 applicants selected, and two of them had reached out to City Hall informing the staff that they had selected a position elsewhere, and that they appreciated the consideration, and did state that the remaining applicant was Brian Reagan.

Vice Mayor Hendrix stated that in light of the events that brought the selection down to just one, that a bigger interview pool is needed for this position. Commissioner Redman agrees with Vice Mayor Hendrix and reflected that the City had received 22-23 applications total.

Commissioner Redman suggested that the City readvertises, and Vice Mayor Hendrix stated that was the suggestion she was planning to propose. Vice Mayor Hendrix stated that out of the 23 applicants, only 2 of them had governmental experience.

City Attorney Maines stated that one of the applicants was appointed as City Manager in the City of Jasper, Florida just a couple of days ago.

City Attorney Maines stated that the other applicant also received another job in her current state of Illinois.

Commissioner Huggins did state that he does agree with the rest of the board to readvertise, but also stated that they should conduct the interview with the one applicant today for an equal opportunity. Commissioner Huggins did state that he would like to interview, and then also readvertise.

Commissioner Redman asked if the board should wait until more applicants are received. City Attorney Maines provided insight regarding this question, and that in light of the matter, that the interview done today could have different ramifications that could pose a problem for the board, with possible refinements to the process.

Commissioner Huggins asked if the meeting today was necessary, in that the City could have contacted the applicant to inform them that they were still being interviewed but at a later date, and both Vice Mayor Hendrix and City Attorney Maines stated that because this meeting was a special meeting that was legally advertised, and that a single board member cannot summarily make the decision to cancel the meeting, it has to be a consensus among the board.

City Attorney Maines stated that whatever the board decides to do today, it needs to be talked amongst the entire board, to come to a collective conclusive decision.

Motion to reject all applications received to date was made by Vice Mayor Hendrix. Motion seconded by Commissioner Redman. Unanimous approval. Motion carried.

City Attorney Maines clarifies that in her discussion with a commissioner earlier this week, if an applicant is able to reapply after the application was rejected, and the answer is yes, all applicants that have applied once before can reapply for the same position.

The board is understanding of the clarification of City Attorney Maines and is on the same page, in agreement.

Vice Mayor Hendrix suggests that the board sets a special meeting for every 15 days once advertised, with no closing date, to get the board together to check for any viable candidates, and if none are found, then to continue on with the search.

City Attorney Maines stated that the attorney does not need to be present at the special meetings, because the board will be reviewing applications, and not selecting or interviewing a city manager.

The board wishes to keep the salary range the same at \$75,000-\$85,000 and not to adjust up or down.

Vice Mayor Hendrix stated that the ordinance states that the city manager is required to live in the city limits, and there have been waivers, and if the person can timely commute, then there is no issue, and with the lack of available housing, it would not be a suitable requirement.

City Attorney Maines stated that the advertisement be reworded to state that the requirement to live in the city limits can be waived by decision of the board, to avoid losing any prospective applicants because of that requirement.

Motion to authorize the Mayor to cancel any special meeting pertaining to the City Manager selection process was made by Vice Mayor Hendrix. Seconded by Commissioner Redman. Unanimous approval.

Motion to readvertise the City Manager position, keeping the salary range the same, and modify the language to state that residency requirement may be waived by the board. Seconded by Commissioner Redman. Unanimous approval. Motion carried.

Motion to leave the position of City Manager open ended, and to have the Commission review applications every 15 days and to hold special meetings, excluding holidays and weekends made by Vice Mayor Hendrix. Seconded by Commissioner Redman. Unanimous approval. Motion carried.

Vice Mayor Hendrix questioned if the Board needed to have questions ready for each applicant, and Commissioner Redman stated that in the past, each commissioner had 2-3 questions that they would ask each candidate.

City Attorney Maines suggested that the City reaches out to the labor attorney, Dena Sokolow, to request a list of questions to avoid overstepping.

City Attorney Maines suggested that Interim City Clerk Page circulate all questions to himself from board and vice versa.

Motion to set a special meeting for the City Manager application review to be held on Wednesday, November 15th at 4pm, Thursday, November 30th at 4pm, and Friday, December 15th at 4pm, and to set more special meetings at a later meeting was made by Vice Mayor Hendrix. Seconded by Commissioner Redman. Unanimous approval. Motion carried.

C. ADJOURNMENT

Action: 1. Adjourn

Recommended Action: Motion to adjourn special meeting.

Motion to adjourn special meeting was made by Commissioner Redman. Seconded by Vice Mayor Hendrix. Unanimous approval. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30pm.