



City of Freeport

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

February 4, 2020, 6:00 PM
Council Chambers, Freeport City Hall

Council Members Present: Mayor Russ Barley, Councilwoman Amanda Green, Councilwoman Elizabeth Brannon, Councilman Eddie Farris, Councilman William "Boots" McCormick, Councilwoman Elizabeth Haffner

Staff Members Present: City Attorney Clay Adkinson, Interim City Clerk Lori Cox

1. Meeting Called to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Russ Barley in the Council Chambers of Freeport City Hall.

2. City Manager Candidates

Mayor Barley stated the purpose of the meeting was to select candidates for telephone interviews and turned the meeting over the Mr. Buz Eddy with the Florida League of Cities.

Mr. Eddy stated that he had reviewed 29 resumes, and the parameters he has used for other cities was applied to these candidates. His search was narrowed down to 9 top candidates. One of the top candidates had withdrawn his name as an applicant and left the top candidate number at 8.

Mr. Eddy recommended that the next step should be to schedule a Special Meeting and to have 15-minute telephone interviews with the individuals.

Mr. Eddy offered to compile the questions or stated that the Council could come up with their own selection of questions. He urged Council to ask all the candidates the same questions.

Mr. Eddy stated that the main objective tonight was for Council to determine their top choices and to set a date for interviews.

Jay Odom asked Mr. Eddy if the City had advertised the salary range for the position.

Mr. Eddy explained that the salary was not advertised because this is a contracted position and candidates will prefer to negotiate benefits differently.

Discussion ensued with Mr. Eddy over the highlighted candidates' qualifications, longevity and current job situations.

Council agreed to share their top candidates and to look for commonality.

Council candidates were in no order and were as follows:

Councilwoman Green: Woerner, Owens, Owen, Grover

Councilwoman Brannon: Woerner, Ruder, Owens, Owen, Garner

Councilman Farris: Owen, Ruder, Owens, Grover, Woerner

Councilman McCormick: Daly, Garner, Ruder, Owen, Owens

Councilwoman Haffner: Woerner, Burr, Owen, Owens

Mayor Barley: Woerner, Owens, Daly

Mr. Eddy felt that the Council had a good consensus and noted the candidate points as; Ruder (4), Woerner (5), Owens (6), Owen (5),

Grover (2), Garner (2), Daly (2), Burr (1).

Mr. Eddy suggested that Council could take just the top four to select for telephone interviews.

City Attorney Adkinson suggested selecting the top four, and then open discussion to other candidates that Council feels should be included.

Council consensus was to go with the top four and come back for other candidates if necessary.

Ronnie Bell inquired about the background check process.

Adkinson explained that preliminary background check and drug screening would be done prior to making a hire.

Adkinson requested Council to send questions to the Clerk one week in advance and offered to provide Council with additional pre-approved questions. He also suggested that the Clerk ask the questions to the candidates to provide consistency.

Moved by: Councilwoman Brannon

Seconded by: Councilwoman Haffner

Motion: To approve Ruder, Woerner, Owens, and Owen for telephone interviews.

Ayes (5): Councilwoman Green, Councilwoman Brannon, Councilman Farris, Councilman McCormick, and Councilwoman Haffner

Carried (5 to 0)

Moved by: Councilwoman Haffner
Seconded by: Councilman Farris

Motion: To set a Special Meeting for Wednesday, February 19, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. and to have the Clerk contact the applicants.

Ayes (5): Councilwoman Green, Councilwoman Brannon, Councilman Farris, Councilman McCormick, and Councilwoman Haffner

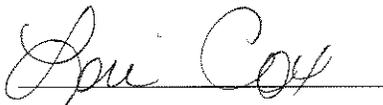
Carried (5 to 0)

3. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Mayor Barley at 6:38 p.m.



Mayor



Interim City Clerk

