

Roll Call

A special meeting of the Kalamazoo City Commission was held on Monday, November 28, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. in the City Commission Chambers at City Hall. The purpose of the meeting was to consider the recommendation from the City Attorney Recruitment Subcommittee regarding the finalists for the City Attorney position and the next steps in the process.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Mayor David Anderson
Vice Mayor Don Cooney
Qianna Decker
Jeanne Hess
Stephanie Hoffman
Chris Praedel

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Esteven Juarez *

Also present were City Manager Jim Ritsema, City Attorney Clyde Robinson, and City Clerk Scott Borling.

Commissioner Excused

Vice Mayor Cooney, seconded by Commissioner Hoffman, moved to excuse the absence of Commissioner Juarez. With a voice vote this motion passed.

Adoption of the Agenda

By unanimous consent the City Commission adopted its meeting agenda as presented.

Communications

An opportunity was given for communications, but no communications were offered.

Public Comments

Next, an opportunity was given for general public comments, but no comments were offered.

2022-00

Discussion of City
Attorney Finalists and
Scheduling of Interviews

Jeff Mueller, Search Facilitator from the Michigan Municipal League, provided an overview of the recruitment process for the City Attorney position. Mr. Mueller stated the proposed next steps were a meet-and-greet event on Wednesday, November 30th to introduce candidates to the community and formal interviews with the City Commission on Thursday, December 1st. Mr. Mueller stated the December 1st meeting would start at 8:30 a.m., with the first interview scheduled to begin at 9:00.

*Commissioner Juarez arrived at 5:37 p.m.

In response to questions from City Commissioners, Mr. Mueller provided the following information:

- recruiting candidates is difficult right now; people do not want to move because of high mortgage rates.
- all three applicants submitted their applications during the last week the position was open.
- the three applicants are good candidates. Each applicant went through a one-hour screening call and an in-depth background search.

- across the board it has been hard to find good municipal attorney candidates. As a result, some jurisdictions were choosing to hire legal counsel on a contractual basis.

In response to a question from Mayor Anderson, City Manager Ritsema pointed out the recommended action language was to hold the meet-and-greet at "City Hall," which would allow flexibility regarding the specific room used for that event.

Commissioner Hess, seconded by Commissioner Juarez, moved to approve a recommendation from the City Attorney Recruitment Subcommittee to schedule interviews with three finalists for the City Attorney position: William Kim, Julianne Pastula, and James Porter; and to schedule a public meet and greet session with the candidates on Wednesday, November 30, 2022 at 4:00 pm in City Hall; and to schedule a special City Commission meeting on Thursday, December 1, 2022 at 8:30 am in the City Commission Chambers of City Hall for the purpose of conducting the interviews and to take such other actions as the Commission deems appropriate.

Prior to a vote on the motion, Mayor Anderson thanked Human Resources and Labor Relations Director Shelly Dusek for her work with the recruitment process.

With a roll call vote this motion passed unanimously.

AYES: Commissioners Decker, Hess, Hoffman, Juarez, Praedel, Vice Mayor Cooney, Mayor Anderson

NAYS: None

Vice Mayor Cooney, seconded by Commissioner Decker, moved that the City Commission go into closed session to consider attorney-client privileged material exempt from disclosure by state or federal statute.

Prior to a vote on the motion, Mayor Anderson announced the Commission would not be returning to open session.

With a roll call vote this motion passed unanimously.

AYES: Commissioners Decker, Hess, Hoffman, Juarez, Praedel, Vice Mayor Cooney, Mayor Anderson

NAYS: None

The meeting adjourned at 5:48 p.m.

Scott A. Borling
City Clerk

Approved by the City Commission on: _____

2022-00

Discussion of City
Attorney Finalists and
Scheduling of Interviews
(cont'd)

Closed Session

Adjournment