

MINUTES
MILWAUKIE CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL SESSION
September 28, 2010

Mayor Ferguson called the special session to order at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Conference Room.

Council Present: Council President Chaimov (via phone), Councilors Deborah Barnes, Joe Loomis, and Susan Stone

Staff Present: Interim City Manager and Recorder Pat DuVal, City Attorney Tim Ramis

Consultant: Greg Prothman

Deliberation on City Manager Selection

Mayor Ferguson introduced the topic and discussed extending an offer to the top candidate.

It was moved by Councilor Stone and seconded by Councilor Loomis to move into Executive Session, to allow Council to talk amongst themselves about the candidates.

Councilor Barnes noted the high frequency of executive sessions called in the last year to discuss the status of the last City Manager and hiring the next City Manager. She noted the community is concerned about conducting the City's business behind closed doors, and strongly urged the Council to remain in a public session.

Councilor Stone noted that the City Charter allows for executive sessions and noted that it was her opinion that there is a professional need to discuss the candidates in an executive session. She suggested that the Council has not had the opportunity to discuss the top candidates and could do so freely in an executive session and then make a formal announcement in a public session, explaining their reasoning for their decision at that time.

Councilor Barnes suggested that Councilor Stone may not feel like she had the opportunity to discuss the candidates because she did not show up for most of the interviews.

Councilor Stone noted that her known obligations kept her from attending the interviews.

Councilors Barnes and Stone commented that the City Manager selection process should be public so everyone can hear the decision.

Councilor Loomis discussed the differences in discussions the Council may have; to discuss pros and cons he would rather have that done in executive session, but if the motion to continue in public session is adopted he intends to only discuss the candidate he supports.

Council President Chaimov stated he is happy to proceed in whatever manner the majority of the Council would like and noted the City Charter provides executive sessions for these types of discussions, although he understands the public's need to follow along.

Mayor Ferguson stated his concern about making negative comments about the candidate's public because if the first choice declines, it could be embarrassing or dissuade the second choice from accepting the City's offer. If the Council could maintain a positive conversation about all three final candidates he thought they could remain in public session.

Council President Chaimov and Councilors Barnes and Loomis all noted that they have only positive comments to make.

Mayor Ferguson called for the vote on the motion to move into an executive session. The vote failed with the following vote: Councilors Stone and Loomis voting "aye", Mayor Ferguson and Councilor Barnes voting "no", and Council President Chaimov abstaining. [2:2:1]

Mr. Ramis noted that the result of the vote is that the motion failed.

Mayor Ferguson then discussed moving on to the conversation about the final candidates.

Councilor Barnes moved and Mayor Ferguson seconded a motion that the Council should extend a negotiated contract proposal, with the assistance of Greg Prothman and the City's Attorney, to the person identified as the top pick for City Manager.

Councilor Loomis modified the motion to include the Mayor in the negotiation.

Mayor Ferguson further modified the motion by noting that a third party attorney will need to negotiate as one of the top candidates is employed by our City Attorney.

Mayor Ferguson called the vote on the motion to extend a negotiated contract proposal, with the assistance of outside legal assistance, Greg Prothman and the Mayor, to the person identified as the top pick for City Manager. Motion passed with the following vote: Mayor Ferguson, Council President Chaimov, Councilors Barnes, Loomis and Stone voting "aye". [5:0]

Mayor Ferguson then proposed that they discuss the Council's top pick.

Council President Chaimov reviewed the selection process and thanked Mr. Prothman; he noted he was looking for a candidate with a depth of city management experience, quality leadership skills and personal ethics, the ability to work cooperatively with key regional partners, and provide the inspired leadership for the staff. We had three outstanding candidates, but in his view Mr. Monahan best exemplifies the qualities he looked for.

Councilor Stone had no comments.

Councilor Loomis thanked Mr. Prothman and Ms. DuVal for being willing to serve. Reviewing the selection process, he stated that he appreciates how well Mr. Monahan knows Milwaukie and has experience and passion for the work.

Councilor Barnes noted that the public comments received at the Pond House meeting about Mr. Monahan suggest that he is the leader we need going forward. She was impressed by his dedication to Milwaukie as our City Attorney. She also commented on Mr. Monahan's professionalism and understanding of others and issues.

Mayor Ferguson commented that all three final candidates would do a great job and asked Mr. Prothman to review how the process arrived at the top three candidates.

Mr. Prothman reviewed the process and discussed a fourth candidate who was selected by another city.

Councilor Barnes moved and Council President Chaimov seconded a motion to propose an offer to Bill Monahan to be the next City Manager. Motion passed with the following vote: Mayor Ferguson, Council President Chaimov, Councilors Barnes, Loomis and Stone voting "aye". [5:0]

Mayor Ferguson adjourned the study session at 6:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Pat DuVal, Recorder