

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Monday, May 23, 2022

CALL TO ORDER AND DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

A special meeting of the City Council of the City of Olivia, Minnesota, was called to order by Mayor Hawkinson at 9:22 a.m. for the purpose of interviewing finance director finalists.

Council Members Present: Jon Hawkinson, Tom Kalahar, Blanca Ferguson, and George Ebbers.

Council Members Absent: Landon Padrnos

Others present: Gary Weiers, Executive Search Consultant with David Drown & Associates; Ashley Feldewerd, Interim Finance Staffer with Abdo Financial Services; Jason Murray, Financial Advisor with David Drown & Associates; Dan Coughlin, City Administrator; Amber Dale, Finance Director Finalist; and Tesa Tomaschett, Finance Director Finalist.

Finance Director Interviews

After receiving some initial input and instruction from Gary Weiers, the Council and its accounting & finance consultant staff conducted interviews of two finalists for the finance director position. Each finalist interview was allocated 45 minutes on the schedule.

The interview portion of the meeting concluded at approximately 11:05 a.m. After a brief break, the interview panel shared their thoughts regarding the two individuals they had just interviewed. It was the unanimous consensus of the panelists that Tesa Tomaschett was their choice to fill the current finance director vacancy.

Gary Weiers advised the group that with a very tight labor market and having someone of Tomaschett's considerable skill in the mix, he advised that if the Council was so inclined, they should set up a special negotiation committee that could iron out the details of an employment contract. He said they could execute a formal contract with Tomaschett as long as it fell within the parameters set in advance by the Council. Weiers said this would allow Tomaschett to serve notice to her present employer without delay, and hopefully speed up the timeframe of her start date. The Council indicated that they were supportive of the suggestion offered by Weiers.

The group then discussed options for what limits would be provided to the negotiation committee in the areas of initial wage rate, vacation accrual and telework options.

Motion by Kalahar, second by Ebbers: To authorize the Mayor, City Administrator and Executive Search Consultant Weiers to serve as a formal employment negotiation committee; and allow them to establish and execute an employment agreement on behalf of the City with Tomaschett as long as the contract terms were within the limits the Council had discussed. Motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to be acted on, and with the consent of the City Council, Mayor Hawkinson declared the meeting adjourned at 11:19 a.m. He and the Council thanked the staff and consultant staff for their assistance with conducting the finance director search process.

Attest:


Dan Coughlin, City Administrator


Jon Hawkinson, Mayor