

CITY OF HAMPTON
Minutes, Special Council Meeting
Tuesday, July 10th, 2018, 6:00pm
5784 Navarre Ave., Hampton, FL 32044

ANYONE WISHING TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL REGARDING ANY TOPIC ON THIS EVENING'S AGENDA IS REQUESTED TO COMPLETE A COMMENT CARD AND RETURN TO THE CITY CLERK. PLEASE TURN OFF CELL PHONES.

Meeting Facilitator: Chairman Bill Goodge

ROLL CALL – City Clerk – Vice Chairman Jim Mitzel, Chairman Bill Goodge, Councilwoman Lillian Sams. Councilman Bryant arrived late (6:25 p.m.). Mayor Williams and Councilman Williamson were absent (excused). Also present was City Clerk/Administrator Mary Lou Hildreth.

Public Comment - Please limit comments to 3 minutes and restrain from personal attacks, using an individual's name or making political statements. - None

1. NEW BUSINESS:

A. City Attorney Interviews

City Clerk/Administrator

William Falik - He is originally from South Florida and a graduate of the University of Florida. He has his own law firm and performs litigation - mainly traffic tickets. Litigation is his specialty. He is interested in doing more work in other areas. He worked with Waldo performing forfeitures for the police department until they disbanded. Anything he doesn't know that he will have to learn he doesn't bill for. His office is in Gainesville off of 13th Street. He is very responsive to his clients and is available 24/7 - weekends and evenings. Everybody would have his cell phone number. Chairman Goodge thinks that is important and Vice Chairman Mitzel agrees with him. Mr. Falik said it is an extremely common complaint. He would be willing to work within our budget.

Linda Wagner – She is based out a firm in Melrose with three other attorneys. She is familiar with the area. The head of the firm has been in practice for 40 years. They do a variety of law and she does mostly family law, adoptions, custody, etc. They are local. The prior comments made great points about communication and she is very responsive. She understands we have time sensitive issues and it needs to be a priority to get back to the client. They have three staff at work and they are local as well, which makes them close and accessible. She also has a home office set up. She did research Hampton and it was very disheartening. She also read through some of the prior meetings minutes and found it helpful on what the issues are and what we are trying to do. She does not have municipal law experience but overall law skills are generally transferable. She is willing to negotiate her salary requirement.

She believes she would bring an objective perspective as she is not political in anyway. She is concerned with a conflict of interest with the county if we hire Mr. Sexton.

William Sexton – He has been practicing law for over 10 years. His area is primarily municipal government which is what he wants and loves to do. He previously worked in a private firm that represented many cities and counties where his primary focus was representing local governments. Over the past 5 years he has worked exclusively for Bradford County. He discussed incremental fee structures being detrimental to open communications because someone didn't call to ask a simple question that could be resolved instead of causing problems down the road. He feels that a flat fee it is more beneficial. Chairman Goodge stated he has heard good things about Mr. Sexton. Mr. Sexton is originally from Clearwater but stayed in Gainesville after college and law school. In a small community client confidentiality is important to have a lawyer that's not from the community. Ms. Hildreth asked about conflict of interest as well as the potential benefits to have the county attorney on board. He stated there is always a potential for conflict but if there ever was an occasion then he could not represent either the county or the city. He does not recall the county and the city being at odds. He believes there are opportunities for the two agencies to partner and he would help to facilitate that. He is also willing to work for the flat fee of \$500.00 but if it turned out the arrangement required more time and work done then outlined the agreement could be modified.


Discussion between Council regarding the applicants and their qualifications. Consensus was for Mr. Sexton based on his extensive municipal experience.

Motion made by Councilman Bryant to hire Mr. Sexton based on his experience and the negotiated salary of \$500.00 per month, second by Vice Chairman Mitzel. Passed 4 – 0.

2. Adjourn

IF A PERSON DECIDES TO APPEAL NAY DECISION MADE BY THE CITY COUNCIL WITH RESPECT TO ANY MATTER CONSIDERED AT THIS SCHEDULED PUBLIC MEETING, THEY WILL NEED TO ENSURE THAT A VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT OF THE PROCEEDINGS IS MADE, WHICH RECORD INCLUDES TESTIMONY AND EVIDENCE UPON WHICH THE APPEAL IS BASED. OTHER MATTERS OF CONCERN NOT LISTED ON THE AGENDA MAY BE DISCUSSED AS DETERMINED BY CITY COUNCIL. EXPARTE COMMUNICATIONS (SOMETIMES REFERED TO AS LOBBYING OR INFORMATION GATHERING) BETWEEN A COUNCIL MEMBER AND OTHERS WHERE THERE IS SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION REGARDING A QUASI-JUDICIAL DECISION BY THE CITY COUNCIL MUST BE DISCLOSED BY THE COUNCIL SO THE PUBLIC MAY RESPOND TO SUCH COMMENTS BEFORE A VOTE IS TAKE. ALL COUNCIL MEETINGS ARE AUDIO TAPED.

ATTEST:



Mary Lou Hildreth, City Clerk/Admin

BY:



Dan Williams, Mayor