

Session 20-20, A Special Meeting of the Homer City Council was called to order on June 10, 2020 by Mayor Ken Castner at 4:00 p.m. at the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska, and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENT: COUNCILMEMBERS: ADERHOLD, VENUTI, EVENSEN, LORD, SMITH, HANSEN-CAVASOS

STAFF: ACTING CITY MANAGER ABBOUD
HR DIRECTOR BROWNING
DEPUTY CITY CLERK KRAUSE

AGENDA APPROVAL (Only those matters on the noticed agenda may be considered, pursuant to City Council's Operating Manual, pg. 6)

The following change was made: **New Business** Telephonic Interviews with City Manager Applicants. Memorandum 20-077 from HR Director as backup.

LORD/VENUTI MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDA.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON MATTERS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA (3 minute time limit)

PENDING BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Telephonic Interviews with City Manager Applicants

4:00 p.m. Melissa Jacobsen

5:00 p.m. Kelcey Young – Application withdrawn

A telephonic interview was held with Melissa Jacobsen.

- b. Selection of City Manager Applicants for in-person interviews

There was consensus of the Council to remove Mr. Weiss from consideration, while he did have some good qualities, they believed he did not have the experiences that would serve the City of Homer into the future. They appreciated his honesty on looking for a position to further round out his retirement.

Discussion points regarding Rob Dumouchel pointed out his solid and interesting answers to questions, he appeared secure in his experience and skills, and that he comes from a larger city than Homer and would have that perspective to see what is coming in the future as Homer grows. His energy and enthusiasm were exciting.

Discussion points regarding Melissa Jacobsen were that her responses to the questions were impressive, her training, experience and education in local government along with her devotion and knowledge of the community are a strong consideration. Her background report was great, highly respected by her colleagues and she is very qualified for the position.

Council expressed concerns on the in-person interview process with the current situation and how that would be conducted and noted that the feedback from the Committee should be considered before they make any offer.

Further discussion points considered by Council were that candidates should be the one to decide on if they feel comfortable to travel during this time, consideration to offer temporary placement to a candidate, and preference for a Zoom meeting interview would be preferable to actual in person interview.

Mayor Castner provided anecdotal information on the City Manager hiring process for the city since 1973 for consideration of the Council.

HR Director Browning provided guidance on the process to conduct the next round of interviews via Zoom and stated that the Committee will conduct separate interviews with additional questions and counseled that the decision should remain with the candidate as regards travel to Alaska.

Council agreed by consensus to invite Mr. Dumouchel to participate in two interviews for in person video meetings.

Council requested that the Committee meetings be schedule in advance of the meetings with Council that will allow Council time to review and absorb the information provided by the Committee on the candidates.

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

Kate Finn, city resident and Committee member, she appreciated holding the interviews publically and the non-verbal communication is huge so she would appreciate the video interview opportunity to be conducted with Melissa as well and with Rob Dumouchel especially since they do not know what he looks like.

Mayor Castner commented that he appreciated where the Council ended up today and going through this process.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Council Mayor Castner adjourned the meeting at 5:20 p.m. Next Regular Meeting is Monday, June 22, 2020 at 6:00 p.m., Committee of the Whole at 5:00 p.m. All meetings scheduled to be held virtually in the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

RENEE KRAUSE, MMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK

Approved: _____