

**BOARD OF MAYOR AND COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
February 14, 2018
5:30 p.m.**

MINUTES

Members Present: Jonathan Elmore, Mayor
Brian Fisher, Mayor Pro Tem
Adela Yelton, Commissioner
Lionel Laratte, Commissioner
Lisa Shortell, Commissioner

Staff Present: Ken Turner, Finance Director
Gina Hill, City Clerk

Item No. 1 Meeting Called to Order

Item No. 2 Adoption of Agenda
Mayor Pro Tem Fisher moves to adopt. Commissioner Shortell seconds. All ayes.

Item No. 3 **Approve Separation Agreement with City Manager**
Mayor Pro Tem Fisher moves to approve. Commissioner Yelton seconds.
All ayes.

Marti Schallern/48 Clarendon Ave: I have been very concerned about the City over the last couple of years. The City is on the wrong track. I'm really upset with the BOMC.

Donna Aillion/109 Berkeley Rd: This is incredibly sad. I feel like the BOMC should resign.

Martha McDermott/6 Kingstone Rd: Will we really find out what happened? This has been awful.

Pat Maddox/34 Kensington Rd: I don't agree with this. I think some of the BOMC should resign instead of Clai Brown.

Josh Norris/14 Exeter Rd: I don't want to take anything away from the job that the city manager did. But he put the City in a bad position. This board didn't create this mess. It's not fair to them. They didn't create this. If you're mad, target that anger to the people who caused this.

Lyda Steadman/3118 Majestic Cir: The contract came up after Mr. Brown resigned. The contract is not what caused the problems that caused him to resign.

Candace Jones/9 Fairfield Dr: I'm disappointed it's come to this. I think there has been inappropriate behavior on both sides. I hope we find out what happened.

Mayor Elmore: I fully believe there has been no inappropriate behavior by the Board and no lines were crossed.

Larry Minnix/99 Berkeley Rd: This is like being in the middle of a messy divorce. It's unfortunately that people choose sides. Some won't get over these feelings but we need to move forward. This is a no-fault divorce in my mind.

John Kropp/73 Wiltshire Dr: The world is not going to come to an end. We need to move on. Please don't take feelings out on the new city manager.

Alan Harvey/1051 Lakeshore Dr: This is unfortunately and hopefully there will be lessons learned. I don't think there's any justification for the contract amendment. It gives someone incentive to leave. There's all this talk of transparency but it sounds like our finance director didn't even know about this. I think the Board and the new city manager need clarity on what has occurred.

Item No. 4

Approve Consulting Agreement with Former City Manager

Mayor Pro Tem Fisher moves to approve. Commissioner Yelton seconds. All ayes.

Commissioner Laratte: In working with the rest of the Board since I've been on it, we have had nothing in mind but what's in the best interest of the City. We have this consulting agreement because we believed it wouldn't be in the best interest of the City to have a complete separation. We need a transition period and access to the former city manager's knowledge.

Commissioner Shortell: I agree. I'm new to the Board and everything I've observed from the others in an effort to work for what's in the best interest of the City.

Mayor Pro Tem Fisher: I had no idea we'd be in this position. There has never been any discussions that have given me any idea why this has happened. I'm not aware that the Board did anything wrong. I also wish this process could be more public and we'll make as much public as possible. We would like to be able to learn lessons from this. This agreement wasn't fun or easy but I think it's the best thing moving forward.

Liz Goodstein/3242 Wiltshire Dr: I think this all stems from the Board's interference with the budget.

Lyda Steadman/3118 Majestic Cir: It was inappropriate for two members of the Board to meeting with City staff about the budget. That should've happened in a public meeting.

Mayor Elmore: How we met was entirely allowed and appropriate. And everything we talked about was presented in two public meetings. The Board is allowed to ask questions and make suggestions. We're the ones that approve the budget. We worked together on the budget. As far as I know, the budget had nothing to do with this.

Marti Schallern/48 Clarendon Ave: We have to keep the BOMC in check since we voted them in. They are kind of like our employees.

Commissioner Laratte: I also had good interactions with Mr. Brown. I think in the interest of transparency his reasons for leaving should've been on the record.

Larry Minnix/99 Berkeley Rd: I think the process for finding a new city manager should include some citizen and business representatives with help from the GMA. The finalists should have to make a public presentation.

Alan Harvey/1051 Lakeshore Dr: Mr. Brown said the budget was not the reason he left.

Andy LaRocco/41 Wiltshire Dr: The Board is charged with hiring a new city manager. Letting citizens weigh in on that is way beyond our responsibility. And nothing will ever get done. Mr. Brown was an employee and his responsibility was to his family and then to the City. It was that Board's responsibility at the time to look out for the City.

Commissioner Yelton: I'm confident we'll have a structured, professional search.

Commissioner Shortell: As soon as we know the next steps we'll let you know.

Pat Maddox/34 Kensington Rd: Has anyone talked to the Board members who served while the agreement was signed? I think they should be asked.

Commissioner Shortell: I asked two of them and I won't comment on their answers tonight. It needs further investigation.

Kathy Kingsbury/817 Stratford Rd: Did you never look at his contract when it was renewed each year? We don't need to be signing contracts without looking at them.

Marti Schallern/48 Clarendon Ave: I think Terry Giager explained why they signed the agreement in a work session a couple of months ago.

Mayor Elmore reads statement of separation.

Item No. 5

Appoint Interim City Manager and Approve Related Agreement

Mayor Pro Tem Fisher moves to approve. Commissioner Shortell seconds. All ayes.

Commissioner Yelton: Thanks to Ken Turner for stepping up.

Mayor Elmore: Yes, thank you. We have 100% confidence in you.

Commissioner Shortell: We look forward to working with you.

Candace Jones/9 Fairfield Dr: I think that's a good choice of interim city manager.

Ken Turner/Finance Director/Interim City Manager: I've worked with Mr. Brown for years and we always had the City's best interest at heart. I still do. I want to continue to work for the betterment of the City.

Item No. 6

Public Comment: None

Item No. 7

Adjournment

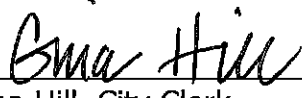
Mayor Elmore moves to adjourn. Mayor Pro Tem Fisher seconds. All ayes.

APPROVED THIS 23rd DAY OF MAY 2018



Jonathan Elmore, Mayor

ATTEST:



Gina Hill, City Clerk