



**BOARD OF MAYOR AND COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING**

August 12, 2019

6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

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

Staff Present: Patrick Bryant, City Manager
Keri Stevens, Assistant City Manager
Paul Hanebuth, Finance Director
Stephen Quinn, City Attorney
Gina Hill, City Clerk

Item No. 1 Meeting Called to Order

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

Item No. 3 **Resolution Appointing Members to the Board of Appeals**
The terms of two members of the Board of Appeals, Paul Brown and Marguerite Belline, have ended. Both requested new terms. Advertising the openings did not yield any other applicants. After interviewing Mr. Brown and Ms. Belline, the Board unanimously recommended their reappointments.

Commissioner Yelton thanked Mr. Brown and Ms. Belline for their service and willingness to continue.

Commissioner Laratte moved to approve. Commissioner Yelton seconds. All ayes.

Item No. 4 **Proclamation Recognizing Avondale Estates Coworking Day**
Mayor Elmore read the proclamation.

Item No. 5 **Proposal for Planning Consultant**
The City Manager solicited proposals from firms with the ability to provide temporary planning personnel. The most responsive firm's proposal will be discussed.

City Manager Bryant recounted that the Board of Mayor and Commissioners (BOMC) had budgeted \$75 thousand with the plan of hiring a planning consultant to assist city staff. Since Assistant City Manager/City Planner Keri Stevens has resigned, those needs have changed, he said. It was staff's recommendation to hire help on a part-time interim basis. Mr. Bryant said staff does have someone in mind. Mayor Elmore mentioned this item was just for discussion only. Commissioner Yelton thanked Ms. Stevens and Mr. Bryant. Commissioner Shortell said having the right person in the role is the most important thing. Mayor Pro Tem Fisher told Ms. Stevens she has been a great resource and asset to the city and could not be replaced. Commissioner Laratte echoed the others. He also asked about timeline in replacing Ms. Stevens. Immediate help was necessary, said Mr. Bryant. More work will have to be done in creating a job description for a permanent replacement. Resident Marti Schallern expressed sadness at Ms. Stevens' departure. Ms. Schallern was also upset that she learned of the resignation through the media instead of city staff and asked if any severance package was included. Ms. Schallern asked why no city manager reports have been published and expressed anger at how the city is being governed. Mr. Elmore explained the structure of city staff to Ms. Schallern and Mr. Bryant said he felt resignations were a personal matter and shouldn't be announced by city hall. He added there was no severance involved and he chose not to continue writing city manager reports. Candace Jones praised Ms. Stevens skills and contacts. However, she was disappointed that city hall did not announce the resignation and she felt that should be the case for senior staff. Dee Merriam voiced concern about conflict of interest if outside firms are hired to temporarily fill a void in staff but also have projects with the city.

Item No. 6

IGA (Intergovernmental Agreement) with URA (Urban Redevelopment Agency) for BAN (Bond Anticipation Note)

This intergovernmental agreement will ensure that the City will pay the debt service on the BAN.

Commissioner Shortell moves to approve. Commissioner Laratte seconds. All ayes.

City Manager Bryant explained this item assumes the URA moves forward with issuing the BAN. Since the URA has no funds to itself, issuing a BAN will require backing by the city. Mr. Laratte and Commissioner Yelton offered thanks and support. Ms. Shortell appreciated having experts to help them through this process. She also assured everyone that the documents have been reviewed by the city attorney. Mayor Pro Tem Fisher was also in support.

Item No. 7 Public Comment: None

Item No. 8 Adjournment
Mayor Pro Tem Fisher moves to adjourn. Commissioner Shortell seconds.
All ayes.

APPROVED THIS 23rd DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2019



Jonathan Elmore, Mayor

ATTEST:



Gina Hill, City Clerk