

Minutes of the Special Vermilion City Council Meeting

Monday, July 20, 2020

Videos and minutes of council meetings are available to the public to view online at www.cityofvermilion.com under 'meetings' tab (City Meeting Minutes or Videos).

Vermilion City Council: Steve Herron, Council President; Monica Stark, Council at Large; Emily Skahen, Ward One; Frank Loucka, Ward Two; Steve Holovacs, Ward Three; Barb Brady, Ward Four; Brian Holmes, Ward Five; G. Fisher, Certified Municipal Clerk

Administrative Staff: Mayor Jim Forthofer; Tony Valerius, Service Director; Chris Howard, City Engineer; Amy Hendricks, Finance Director

CALL TO ORDER:

Steve Herron, President of Council called the Monday, July 20, 2020 Special Vermilion City Council Meeting to order.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The members of Council, administrative staff, and audience participants recited the Pledge of Allegiance; a moment of silence followed.

NEW BUSINESS:

G. Fisher conveyed to Council that since the motion to approve the mayor's appointments failed at the last council meeting, a member who voted no would need to make the motion.

S. Holovacs MOVED; F. Loucka seconded to approve the mayor's appointments of Dave Deucher, Jeff Lucas, and Dan Kernell to the Vermilion Civil Service Commission. Discussion: B. Brady asked how long the terms would be for each appointee. G. Fisher conveyed the appointees would fill the unexpired term of the former commissioners. Therefore, she stated that Jeff Lucas' term would end December 31, 2020; Dave Deucher's term would end December 31, 2022, and Dan Kernell's term would end December 31, 2024. B. Brady said the first time she voted against the appointments was due to the lack of an attorney serving on the commission. So, she was wondering at what point they could get an attorney to serve on the commission. She said maybe the mayor could look into finding an attorney to serve once the first person drops off the list. She said she will be voting yes to the appointments but wanted to say that it stinks that they got into this situation in the first place. Someplace the system failed them and somehow whether the rules weren't clear or somebody misinterpreted the intention of the rules, or someone pushed the envelope further – something went wrong and she thinks Council needs to look at the rules to make them clearer and tighten them up, so the city doesn't put them into this position again. She said they had a Civil Service Commission that served them for years and they did a wonderful job, and for those members to all quit the way they did is sad. She said for the three people coming in is a wonderful thing to do, but to her it's sad they put themselves in this position and she hopes they can tighten things up so they don't go back there again. S. Herron said the motion is for the people but noted they need to sit down and fix this, which will take time and discussion. He said this is something that he is dedicated in doing when looking at proposed language to make sure they do not find themselves in this spot. Mayor Forthofer agreed with B. Brady in that there is something that needs to be repaired; simply to just check the applicants before pencils are picked up to take the test. S. Holovacs agreed with B. Brady and said he voted no the last time and he will vote yes because they don't have a Civil Service Commission based on the fact that they resigned officially today after the final scoring of the dispatcher examination, so they need to move forward and correct it, and be able to fix it and move forward to do it right the next time. F. Loucka said the law director had indicated that the Civil Service Commission is the ones who must make the changes. G. Fisher confirmed they are the ones who amend their rules. F. Loucka said they can make suggestions to the Commission. Roll Call Vote 7 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Announcement of Meeting Dates:

August 3, 2020 – Vermilion City Council Meeting – 7pm

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Adjournment:

Upon no further business coming before the body, Steve Herron, President of Council adjourned the Special Vermilion City Council meeting.

Transcribed by Gwen Fisher, Certified Municipal Clerk