

City of Stanton
Regular Meeting
February 14, 2017

The Regular Meeting of the City of Stanton City Commission was called to order at 7:01 pm by Mayor Pro Tem Burris.

The Clerk/Treasurer read the resignation of Mayor Petersen.

The Mayor Ken Burris was sworn in by the Clerk/Treasurer Lori Braman.

Commissioners present: Mayor Burris, Basom, Yoder, Seaman and Miel. Absent: Johnson.

A motion was made by Basom and supported by Seaman to approve the agenda as submitted with the additions of file transfer, Veteran's Memorial Park, and appointment of Mayor Pro Tem. 4 Yes. 0 No. Motion carried.

Citizen's Comments: Ray Hollaway, 312 Ridge St, website looking great. Diane Lowell, Birdy's Antiques, She had fun paying her taxes.

A motion was made by Basom and supported by Seaman to approve the minutes as corrected for grammar. 4 Yes. 0 No. Motion carried.

DPW Report was read.
Acting City Manager read her report.

A motion was made by Basom and supported by Miel to approve the revised agreement with Prein & Newhof. 4 Yes. 0 No. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Seaman to purchase the leaf vacuum and have DPW drive and pick it up. No support, motion dead.

A motion was made by Yoder and supported by Basom to purchase the leaf blower at cost presented. 3 Yes. 1 No, Seaman. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Miel and supported by Basom to approve the resolution to authorize Chief Patino to apply for Street Closures. 4 Yes. 0 No. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Miel and supported by Basom to authorize the performance of Act 51 compliance audit and additional fee from Berthiaume & Company. 4 Yes. 0 No. Motion carried.

Acting City Manager Elizabeth Pynaert excused herself for discussion pertaining to City Manager interview process.

Mayor Burris opened the discussion with we haven't had a discussion on it so I don't know where we're at. Miel would like to set up interviews with 2 or 3 of the candidates. Mayor Burris asked if you've picked any that you wanted. Seaman asked about the ad placed, said let's remove anyone that doesn't meet the requirements. Mayor Burris wants to see this process come to an end. Miel said to discuss a

process for interviewing the candidates. Basom wants to rank the candidates. Miel said to talk with some and do interviews, Basom said the last talk was to see it through, and Seaman asked how many meet the qualifications. Mayor Burris stated we already have someone doing the job and doing it well. Miel wants to personally interview. Basom thinks it's the right thing to do. Yoder states it's been a very convoluted process.

A motion made by Yoder and supported by Seaman to appoint Elizabeth Pynaert as City Manager and to negotiate one year contract to be reevaluated at that time and the mayor negotiate a salary near what she is making now.

Mayor Burris opened the discussion up to the public.

Jeff Lowell, Birdy's Antiques, process has been dragging on, you have someone in the position and is doing it well, and is more than qualified.

Warren Wells, business owner, commented could you find someone to do the job for what you're paying her. He believes she is better than the 2 City Managers from before.

Diane Lowell, Birdy's Antiques, she feels what Miel said was true but Elizabeth has more than proven herself and she visits business owners to find out their needs and wants.

Judy Guevera, tax payer, give her a year to prove herself, after a year you can evaluate her and make your decision.

Jean Wojtowicz, Tattoos by Wojo, Elizabeth has been the only person to come around multiple times and has always informed us of what's going on and in the plans. I absolutely agree in giving her a year. Miel feels that we aren't doing it the right way, and is bad for the city, but doesn't feel that Elizabeth is bad for the job.

Seaman states that the City lawyer said that you can promote from within.

Ray Holloway, 312 Ridge St, city should consider making a hiring policy.

Jeff Lowell we should hire someone we already know. She knows the budget and knows it well.

Naomi Hollaway, 312 Ridge St, the City had so many stipulations in their ad for City Manager, maybe you didn't get as many applicants because of all of the stipulations.

Mayor Burris stated when Jake Eckholm came here he had work for a non-profit organization and didn't have no experience when he came here. He would like the year contract for Elizabeth.

Seaman requested a roll call vote. Yoder Yes, Basom Yes, Miel Yes, Seaman Yes. 4 Yes, 0 No. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Basom and supported by Miel to contract Casair and update our phone system to be hosted through Casair. 4 Yes, 0 No. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Miel and supported by Basom to continue with Bloom. 4 Yes, 0 No. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Miel and supported by Seaman to make Karl Yoder Mayor Pro Tem. 3 Yes, 0 No, 1 abstained Karl Yoder. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Miel to start phase 1 of the park with no support. Motion dead.

A motion was made by Seaman and supported by Yoder to rescind the MDOT and DNR trust fund grant for the Veteran's Memorial Park 3 Yes, 1 No Miel. Motion carried.

Public Comments: Naomi Holloway discussed possible leaf grant for transportation of leaf vac. Diane Lowell said park is a good idea, look into building up existing park. Warren Wells asked can you use general money to fix up existing parks. Judy Guevara is looking into purchasing local home in town. Jeff Lowell let Bookwalter move local memorial.

A motion was made by Yoder and supported by Basom we reaffirm that Chuck Miel is City Commissioner. 3 Yes, 0 No, 1 Abstain Chuck Miel. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Basom and supported by Seaman to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm. Next meeting will be held on February, 28, 2017 at 7:00 pm in the Community room at City Hall. Public Welcome.

Ken Burris, City Mayor
Lori Braman, City Clerk