

DeFuniak Springs City Council  
Special Meeting  
August 9, 2018

The following members were present: Mayor Bob Campbell, Mayor Pro-Tem Henry D. Ennis Sr, Councilmembers: Ron Kelley, Wayne Graham, Janie Griffith and Kermit Wright, City Attorney Clayton Adkinson, Interim City Manager Craig Drake and City Clerk Loretta Laird.

Mayor Bob Campbell called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. This special meeting session was called relating to Finance Director Application Review Committee selection process and to possible set interview dates for potential candidate(s) and to conduct the city manager interview and/or a possible hire for the city manager position.

Finance Director Application Review Committee chair Jack Owen discussed the process the committee took relating to the applications for city manager. Owen stated the position closed on July 2, 2018, with 23 responses, with 8 of those responses not providing the appropriate documentation, one not meeting the minimum qualifications and one of the applications being submitted in after the close date. The remaining 13 applications were forwarded to the committee.

On July 24, 2018, the committee refined the number of candidates to six. However, between July 2, 2018, and July 24, 2018, one of the applicants removed their name for consideration. On August 6, 2018, another applicant withdrew their name for consideration. The committee interviewed the remaining four applicants on August 6, 2018 and August 7, 2018.

The committee recommended moving two of the four applicants forward to the city council for as potential interview candidates. Chair Owen discussed the committee expressing their appreciation and due diligence in the process and if the council decides to begin anew the committee members are in agreement to continue with the process.

The councilmembers thanked the committee members for their service.

***Councilman Wright made a motion to set the interview process for the finance director position on August 20, 2018, at 6 p.m., seconded by Councilman Graham.*** Councilwoman Griffith: Aye; Councilman Wright: Aye; Councilman Kelley: Aye; Councilman Ennis: Aye; Councilman Graham: Aye ***Motion carried 5-0.***

City Manager interview

Mayor Campbell discussed the council had requested the city manager application review committee recommend potential interview candidates. The committee selected two applicants, Jim Hedges and Mell Smigielski at their July 26, 2018, meeting to be interviewed by the city council. Hedges withdrew his application on June 28, 2018, for consideration for the position, therefore leaving one candidate for the city council to interview.

Mell Smigielski approached the podium and provided a brief background of his governmental experiences.

Mayor Campbell and councilmembers asked Smigielski various questions relating to the city manager position.

There was no further questions from the council for Smigielski, who exited the council chambers at 6:51 p.m.

Discussion occurred relating to the candidate and salary range for the city manager position.


***Councilman Wright made a motion to offer the city manager position to Mell Smigielski with a one-year probation at an annual rate of \$85,000, seconded by Councilman Kelley.*** Councilwoman Griffith: Aye; Councilman Wright: Aye; Councilman Kelley: Aye; Councilman Ennis: Aye; Councilman Graham: Aye ***Motion carried 5-0.***

Discussion occurred relating to Smigielski providing a 30-day notice to his current employer, while working at the city a couple days a week until he can become fulltime.


Smigielski arrived back at the meeting at 7 p.m. and discussed the council's motion.

There being no further business, Mayor Campbell adjourned at 7:04 p.m.

ADOPTED this 10th day of September, 2018.

  
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Robert "Bob" Campbell, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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Loretta A Laird, City Clerk