

Minutes of the special Durand City Council meeting held on Saturday, February 27, 2021 at 8:30 a.m. at Durand VFW Hall, 932 N. Saginaw Street, Durand, Michigan.

Mayor McDonough called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

**ROLL CALL:**

Present: Brian Boggs, Jeff Brands, Connie Cobley, Rich Folaron, Mayor Ken McDonough, Pat O'Connor, Matt Schaefer

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

The Council led the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Schaefer moved, Cobley supported to approve the agenda as presented.

**HEARING OF REPRESENTATIVES AND CITIZENS PRESENT:**

Paula Brooks, 104 S. Summit St. She expressed her disappointment for the interview process with Elishia Hayes. She felt that the interview questions should have been held until the interview process was complete. \*There was an article in the Argus Press regarding Elishia Hayes interview, it did not print the interview questions.

**CITY COUNCIL RESPONSE TO CITIZEN'S COMMENTS:**

Schaefer: He said that he agrees with Ms. Brooks but that we can't control what the media says and it had to be a public meeting.

Brands: He agreed with Ms. Brooks as well.

McDonough: He said that it was a public meeting, we can't violate the Open Meetings Act.

Mr. Frank Walsh: He addressed the article in the paper. He said that the only thing we could do was write a different set of questions, but emphasized that how we conducted the meeting was totally legal. Mr. Frank told the Council that he checked the references of all of the candidates and spoke with many people who knew the candidates but were not on their list of references. He believes that this is a strong slate of candidates for the position of Durand City Manager.

Mayor McDonough recessed at 8:50 a.m.

Reconvened at 9:00 a.m. with the interview of Brett Wittenberg.

Mayor McDonough recessed at 9:45 a.m.

Reconvened at 10:03 a.m. with interview of Kathryn Beemer.

Mayor McDonough recessed at 10:40 a.m.

Reconvened at 11:00 a.m. with interview of Cameron Horvath.

Mayor McDonough recessed at Noon; it was decided to break for 10 minutes instead of going to lunch so as to start the deliberations earlier.

Reconvened at 12:12 p.m. to begin deliberations.

Mayor McDonough asked the staff present to list their top two candidates. He then asked the Councilmembers to list their top two candidates.

Boggs moved, Folaron supported to conditionally appoint Cameron Horvath to position of City Manager, contingent upon a background check and contract negotiations.

YEAS: Boggs, Brands, Cobley, Folaron, Mayor McDonough, O'Connor

NAYS: Schaefer

Carried 6-1

Schaefer moved, Mayor McDonough supported to conditionally appoint Elishia Hayes to position of City Manager as the alternate Candidate, contingent upon a background check and contract negotiations.

YEAS: Mayor McDonough, Schaefer

NAYS: Brands, Cobley, Folaron, O'Connor, Boggs

Failed 2-5

Mayor McDonough moved, Schaefer supported to conditionally appoint Brett Whittenberg to position of City Manager as the alternate Candidate, contingent upon a background check and contract negotiations.

YEAS: Cobley, Folaron, Mayor McDonough, O'Connor, Schaefer, Boggs, Brands

NAYS: None

Carried

Frank Walsh said that he will contact the candidates to let them know the decision of the Council and will begin the background check and contract negotiations with Cameron Horvath.

Cobley thanked Mr. Walsh on the process and said that it was done very professionally.

Lisa David also thanked Mr. Walsh for his participation in this process.

Boggs said this experience has been great. He told Mr. Walsh to use the City of Durand as a reference for future clients. He thanked the Mayor for running a tight process.

Brands thanked Mr. Walsh for keeping the Council informed during this process.

Folaron said that Mr. Walsh brought good candidates for the City to interview.

O'Connor also said that there were good candidates brought to the City for consideration.

Schaefer thanked Mr. Walsh and said that he appreciated that Mr. Walsh responded to his emails. He thanked him for quality work done on behalf of the City.

Mayor McDonough said that he has been here for the hiring of six City Managers. This process was far better than the others because the Council asked the employees of their choice.

**CITIZENS SPEAK ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY:**

Paula Brooks, 104 W. Summit St. She said that this has been an interesting process and was much better than it was four years ago, that it was very professionally done. She hopes everything “turns out well”.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

Boggs – Nothing to add

Cobley – Nothing to add

Brands – Nothing to add

Folaron – Nothing to add

O’Connor – Nothing to add

Schaefer – He said that he was calling for the resignation of Councilman Brian Boggs because he violated his oath to protect the citizens and employees of Durand. Boggs rejected what he said and stated that he would not resign.

Boggs moved, Schaefer supported to adjourn the meeting at 1:17 p.m.  
Carried

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Ken McDonough, Mayor

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Mindy McKay, Deputy Clerk