

MINUTES OF THE MISSION SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

September 30, 2020

The Mission City Council met virtually via ZOOM for a Special City Council Meeting on Wednesday, September 30, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Ron Appletoft. The following Councilmembers participated virtually: Trent Boultinghouse, Ken Davis, Sollie Flora, Kristin Inman, Debbie Kring, Arcie Rothrock, Nick Schlossmacher and Hillary Thomas.

The Mayor stated that because of the COVID-19 social distancing recommendations, this meeting was being held virtually via ZOOM. All City Staff also joined remotely. The public was invited to participate in the meeting by using the instructions included in the City Calendar item listed on the front page of the website. The public could join or just listen, or join with audio and/or video using a webcam or smartphone. The public was allowed to make comments through the "chat" feature, noting that comments are visible by the group. Members of the public were asked to state their name and city of residence when making a public comment. Mayor Appletoft also asked all to be conscientious of others trying to speak and to speak clearly and slowly. Since this was a special meeting, the Council was only considering the two items presented under the Agenda which was the Revisions to Section 120.130 (B) of Mission Municipal Code Related to Residency Requirements for the City Administrator and Request for Waiver of Residency Requirement.

Revisions to Section 120.130 (B) of Mission Municipal Code Related to Residency Requirements for the City Administrator - Laura Smith

Ms. Smith commented that she appreciated the Council accommodating this special meeting and allowing for this topic to be brought for review. She explained that currently, Section 120.130 (B) outlines the qualifications for the position of Mission's City Administrator. The language addresses both a residency requirement (Johnson County) as well as the education/experience required for hire. The code allows for the Governing Body to consider "an equivalent combination of education and experience" providing some degree of flexibility in hiring decisions. There is no similar provision as it relates to residency.

Ms. Smith has brought forward a request for the Council to consider adding similar flexibility with respect to the residency provisions for the City Administrator's position. Ms. Smith commented that she has been with the City for over fifteen years and a Johnson County resident during her entire tenure, and is now requesting this consideration to assist her in responsibilities associated with caring for family.

If the Council is open to a revision, there are two options that could be considered. The first is to consider a waiver or exception to the residency requirement by formal revision of the code. The second option is if the Council is no longer interested in

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maintaining any sort of residency requirement, that language could be removed entirely from the code via ordinance. As a point of reference, the City previously required Johnson County residency for all members of the Leadership Team (department directors). This was revised several years ago and replaced with a requirement that members of the leadership team live within a thirty mile radius of the City.

Councilmember Davis asked if there was any reason why there was a residency requirement originally. Mr. Martin, City Attorney, replied that it was in the State statute and when the City adopted Charter Ordinance No. 26, they exempted the City out of the statute and changed the City Administrator position from an appointed official to a contract employee.

Councilmember Flora commented that she would support either the waiver and/or a residency requirement within a certain mile radius, adding that it might be a good idea for Council to assess on a case by case basis.

Mayor Appletoft commented that since we live in a metropolitan area, it is important not to create obstacles that would prohibit retaining good employees, in an effort to not discourage people from working at the City of Mission because of location. He added that he was in favor of no residency requirement.

Councilmember Thomas agreed with the Mayor, commenting that she prefers not to have a residency requirement.

Councilmember Boultinghouse was in favor of waiving the residency requirement as well, since there is a lot of movement between the cities and it would be beneficial, for the City of Mission, to have a large talent pool for consideration, especially in this important position.

Councilmember Rothrock agreed on no residency requirement and Councilmember Schlossmacher added it would be the most effective avenue for the City.

Moved by Davis, Seconded by Schlossmacher to omit the first sentence of Section 120.130 (B) of the Mission Municipal Code related to residency requirements for the City Administrator. Voting AYE: Boultinghouse, Davis, Flora, Inman, Kring, and Thomas. Voting NAY: Rothrock and Schlossmacher. **Motion carried.**

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Request for Waiver of Residency Requirement - Laura Smith

The Request for Waiver of Residency Requirement was omitted by the previous motion, since the Council elected revising the code to remove any requirement for residency.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Appletoft announced that the public video from the meeting will be available through a link on the City's website - missionks.org.

Moved by Davis, seconded by Kring to adjourn the meeting at 6:13 p.m. All present voted AYE. **Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted by Audrey McClanahan, City Clerk.

Ronald E. Appletoft, Mayor

Audrey M. McClanahan, City Clerk