

CALLLED MEETING OF TEMPLE
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
June 26, 2014 6:30pm
TEMPLE CITY HALL

Mayor Lester Harmon called the Meeting to order at 6:30pm with the following members present constituting a quorum: Council Member Miller; Council Member Walden and Council Member Ransom, Council Member Simmons attended by phone with a Doctor's note and Council Member Bracknell was not present.

Invocation by Mayor Harmon

Executive Session – Personnel, Real Estate and Legal

No action was taken regarding an executive session.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Personnel

Council Member Miller explained that she and Council Member Walden had, with the help of the Council, selected and interviewed six (6) of the applicants for City Clerk and that they had independently ranked the applicants in order and when they compared their list they had both selected the same applicant for number one. Council Member Walden motioned to recommend applicant #1 for the position of City Clerk pending a background check and that background checks be made on applicant #1 and #2 seconded by Council Member Miller. Motion passed 4-0.

Recreation Director, Mr. Wilson, said that he looked at the applications that we have received and he recommended Jeremy Ralston for the position of Athletic and Leisure Coordinator and Timothy Ward for the position of Field Maintenance. At this point Council Member Bracknell phoned in to attend the meeting. Mr. Wilson that both of these gentlemen have had background checks that are performed for all volunteer coaches. Council Member Ransom motioned that Jeremy Ralston be hired as recommended seconded by Council Member Miller. Council Member Ransom wanted to make sure that any offer of employment also includes a six (6) month probationary period and is pending a background check. Motion 4-0- with Council Member Bracknell abstaining.

Council Member Ransom motioned that the Council accept the recommendation of Timothy Ward in the position of Field Maintenance pending a background check and the offer include a six (6) month probationary period seconded by Council Member Simmons. Motion passed 4-0- with Council Member Bracknell abstaining.

Council Member Ransom asked Mr. Wilson to share what was going on regarding the bathrooms at the recreation department. Mr. Wilson explained that he was trying to leave the bathrooms unlocked for public use and the public has vandalized the bathrooms. As a result of the vandalism

he will only be unlocking the public bathrooms when there are officially recreation sponsored events.

Council Member Ransom mentioned that the finished grade work around the new storage building was not acceptable and there are still tripping hazards. She said that this work needs to be readdressed and in-house work should be better than this.

City Administrator, Mr. Hill, said that Public Works Director, Mr. Freeman, was unable to attend the meeting but he had the opportunity to look through the applications and he recommended Bradley Teal for the position of Public Works Technician. Council Member Miller motioned to accept Mr. Freeman's recommendation seconded by Council Member Simmons. Motion passed 4-0- with Council Member Bracknell abstaining.

Chief Thorn said that his background check for Marc Lattanzio was satisfactory and he recommends that Marc be hired in the position of Investigator. Council Member Miller motioned to accept the recommendation seconded by Council Member Simmons. Council Member Ransom said that she wanted to make sure that this would also be subject to the probationary period. Motion passed 5-0

City Administrator, Mr. Hill, asked if we could use some of the money available from not paying unfilled positions in order to hire 2 temporary employees through a temp agency. One (1) person to concentrate on cutting grass and one (1) person to help sort through the records in City Hall. Council Member Ransom said that she feels that the Public Works Director is spending too much time in City Hall and that he should be focusing on getting the grass cut around town. Council Member Ransom also said that she had stated in a previous meeting that this money should be used to provide raises and possible year-end bonuses. Council Member Ransom said that she feels that the people that were hired tonight should be sufficient to get this work done. She also said that she would be willing to volunteer her time to help organize the records in City Hall. Mayor Harmon said that he agrees with what Council Member Ransom has said and that he has volunteered to get out and cut grass himself if it is necessary. He said that it appears as though the work is not getting done.

Citizen Linda Walden volunteered to work 2 days a week to help organize the records storage in City Hall.

City Administrator, Mr. Hill, requested that anytime any Member of Council gets the complaints about grass or any other City service that the Council Member inform him of the complaint. Mr. Hill asked that the Council be specific and communicate any complaints so that staff can be directed to address the issues.

Council Member Bracknell said that he was a little confused about what had occurred and that it appears that we have adopted a new procedure for hiring. He then asked if he could change his abstentions to affirmative votes. Council Member Ransom said that we did not adopt a new procedure but that all of the applications were in City Hall for Council review prior to these appointments.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Real Estate

Mayor Harmon briefed the Council that the real estate committee was in negotiations for a building that could serve as a home for the Police Department. He said that they have received a number from the building owner but that the owner was exploring one last option and should be communicating back to us soon.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL CLOSING COMMENTS:

Mayor Lester Harmon: Asked City Administrator, Mr. Hill, to prepare a thank you letter for Brandon Dickson.

Council Member Penny Ransom: Thanks to Brandon Dickson.

Council Member Howard Walden: Said that he is upset with the way that the meeting had to be conducted via phone and that as a result some of the Council did not understand the process and the Mayor had to repeat everything for clarification. He said it may be legal but the process is upsetting.

Council Member Hiley Miller: None

Council Member William Simmons: None

Council Member Richard Bracknell: None

Council Member Miller motioned to adjourn the meeting seconded by Council Member Ransom. Motion passed 5-0.

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