

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE WEST BRANCH CITY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF CITY HALL, 121 NORTH FOURTH STREET, SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 2019

Mayor Paul Frechette called the meeting to order at 10:00am

Present: Mayor Paul Frechette, Mayor Pro Tem Mike Jackson and Council Members Joanne Bennett, William Ehinger, Ellen Pugh, Dan Weiler, and Cathy Zimmerman.

Absent: none

Other officers present: Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Michelle Frechette, City Attorney Gabby Dantzer, and Planning Commissioner Robert David.

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

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MOTION BY FRECHETTE, SECOND BY JACKSON, TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO PUBLIC ACT 267 OF 1976, SECTION 15.268 (d) AT 10:05AM.

Yes — Bennett, Ehinger, Frechette, Jackson, Pugh, Weiler, Zimmerman

No – None

Absent – None

Motion carried

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MOTION BY FRECHETTE, SECOND BY BENNETT, TO RECONVENE AT 10:45AM.

Yes — Bennett, Ehinger, Frechette, Jackson, Pugh, Weiler, Zimmerman

No – None

Absent – None

Motion carried

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MOTION BY FRECHETTE, SECOND BY BENNETT, TO PROCEED WITH NEGOTIATIONS ON THE REAL PROPERTY PRUCHASE.

Yes — Bennett, Ehinger, Frechette, Jackson, Pugh, Weiler, Zimmerman

No – None

Absent – None

Motion carried

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Discussion on the grace unemployment issue. Grace filed for unemployment and was denied by workers comp due to the fact that she resigned. She appealed and workers comp reinstated the claim. It is back to the City now to approve or deny the claim. Discussion on reaching out to former City Attorney Chris Juarez, who has no ties to working with Grace, to see if she would consider working with us.

Further discussion on the claim because Grace was not fired and there was no discrimination and the City needs to Appeal the claim. MML is representing the City for the lawsuit only.

MOTION BY ZIMMERMAN, SECOND BY PUGH, TO APPEAL THE UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIM BECAUSE GRACE WAS NOT DISCRIMINATED AGAINST OR TERMINATED.

Yes — Bennett, Frechette, Jackson, Pugh, Weiler, Zimmerman

No – Ehinger

Absent – None

Motion carried

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MOTION BY JACKSON, SECOND BY PUGH, TO REACH OUT TO CHRIS JUAREZ TO SEE IF SHE WOULD CONSIDER REPRESENTING THE CITY IN THIS UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIM.

Yes — Bennett, Ehinger, Frechette, Jackson, Pugh, Weiler, Zimmerman

No – None

Absent – None

Motion carried

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A recess was called at 10:57am. Back in session at 11:06am.

Interview was held with Justin Lakamper at 11:06am.

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Discussion on all interview candidates. Goodroe is top runner and Dantzer is second. Goodroe was very impressive but not long term, Dantzer is a known entity. Goodroe calm, confidence, experienced very ambitious to be the face of the City and could mentor Dantzer.

Mayor Frechette will reach out to Goodroe and have him draft a contract for Council to review.

MOTION BY ZIMMERMAN, SECOND BY JACKSON, TO START CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS WITH FRANK GOODROE AND IMPLEMENT WORDING TO MENTOR JOHN.

Yes — Bennett, Ehinger, Frechette, Jackson, Pugh, Weiler, Zimmerman

No – None

Absent – None

Motion carried

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MOTION BY FRECHETTE, SECONDED BY JACKSON TO ADJOURN AT 12:05PM.