

SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Council Chambers, 805 St. Clair River Drive
Algonac, MI 48001
February 28, 2017
AS APPROVED 3/7/17

A special meeting of the Algonac City Council was called to order by Mayor Eileen M. Tesch on Tuesday, February 28, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was held in Council Chambers, 805 St. Clair River Drive, Algonac, MI 48001.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Michael Bembas, Mayor Pro-Tem
Irene Bird
Ray Martin
Helen Meldrum
Joe Nugent
Eileen M. Tesch, Mayor
Mark Thompson

Absent: None

Others: Brian Tideswell, Jim Wisdom, Suzanne Foguth,
Cindy Smith, Cathy Jones, Maria Jones,
Dawn Davey, Kathy Bowen, Rita Foguth, Michelle
Nolan, Gale Anthony, Michelle Landry, Jane Eglington,
Kelly Morgulec, Jim High, Michelle High, Barb Boroweir,
Pamela Rappa, Edward Stanulis, Rich Gougeon,
Kathy Gougeon, Michelle McKenzie, Amanda Gougeon,
Jim Fernandez, Cindy Kloeffler, Gail Magut, City Treasurer
Mackie, City Clerk Greenia

MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

Mayor Tesch called for a moment of silent prayer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Tesch led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Michelle McKenzie, 551 Broadway, Marine City appeared before City Council. She indicated that it was her understanding that the City Manager position for the City of Algonac had recently become available. She reviewed that she had worked for the City for 22 years and then reviewed her many qualifications for this position. She had received her Masters of Public Administration from Central Michigan University and had attended much training over the years that would make her a good fit. She was familiar with the City and very passionate about having the opportunity to come back and serve the citizens.

Michelle Nolan, Algonac stated that she hoped City Council would choose a City Manager that would represent all the citizens of Algonac, not just a select few.

Jim Fernandez, Commander VFW Post 3901 in Algonac, stated his concerns with some of the things that were being said to him regarding the VFW allowing the Woodside Bible Church to use their facilities to hold services. He was surprised at the residents that would openly bash him and some other Veterans of this VFW post for letting this church use their facility. He had always been a good member of this community and served our country proudly. He hoped this type of banter would cease and that people would realize that as United States citizens we all have the right to our religious freedom; adding that the Veterans that are being ridiculed were the ones that were willing to step in front of a bullet to preserve this freedom.

DISCUSSION OF ACTING CITY MANAGER POSITION AND COMPENSATION

SCO #02-01-17 Approve Acting City Manager

Motion by Thompson supported by Bembas to appoint Linda Mackie to the Position of Acting City Manager for the City of Algonac effective March 1, 2017. Motion carried

Roll Call Vote:

AYES: Bembas, Bird, Martin, Meldrum, Nugent, Tesch, Thompson

NAYS: None

Motion Carried

SCO # 02-02-17 Approval of Compensation Terms for Acting City Manager

Motion by Martin supported by Thompson to approve the compensation terms as provided by City Administration for the Acting City Manager Linda Mackie.

Roll Call Vote:

AYES: Bird, Martin, Meldrum, Nugent, Tesch, Thompson, Bembas

NAYS: Motion carried

DISUSSION OF PROCESS TO HIRE NEW CITY MANAGER

SCO # 02-03-17 Approval of Process to Hire New City Manager

Motion by Thompson supported by Bembas to discuss the process for hiring the next City Manager. Motion carried.

City Council discussed the best process to follow to hire a new City Manager. Many suggestions were made. Mayor Tesch had provided Council with a resume of someone who she is aware of that can move this process along and has done so for other municipal unites. Council Member Martin had shared some MML information regarding interim City Manager's as well as the Executive Search service they provide communities that are looking for a new City Manager. Acting City Manager Mackie suggested that possibly we could call Karl Tomion for his thoughts on this.

After discussion City Council agreed it would be best to seek the input of MML as well as ask Acting City Manager Mackie to speak with Mr. Tomion about the best way to move forward with this and to see how much this would cost the City.

Council Member Martin asked that Clerk Greenia put together some information from the last City Manager search and forward to City Council via email.

SCO #02-04-17 City Manager Search Process

Motion by Thompson, supported by Bembas to direct Acting City Manager Linda Mackie to contact Michigan Municipal League to find out what their Executive Search Service is about and get back with City Council on this at the next meeting. Motion carried.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Pro-Tem Bembas said he was always amazed at how wonderful and engaged our citizens are. He thanked them for always showing up and caring. He also thanked City Staff for their efforts in getting the City through this difficult time.

Council Member Bird said she really appreciated both Acting City Manager Mackie and City Clerk Greenia for everything they do for the City.

Council Member Meldrum thanked Acting City Manager Mackie for her help getting the Skype hooked up in time for this meeting.

Council Member Martin said that this weekend he had commented on what good employees the City has, he said he really feels the City has excellent employees.

Council Member Nugent thanked everyone for coming.

Mayor Eileen Tesch thanked Acting City Manager Mackie and City Clerk Greenia for all of their hard work. She said it was a pleasure working with them. She thanked Lenny Weisman of the Lion's Club for the great meal he put on at the dinner. The dinner was a great success, a very special evening.

She had talked to Representative Lauwers regarding the incident with the oil a few years back. She asked that City Clerk Greenia find the information on that and forward it to him. He said he would work on getting the City the money back for that.

The Algonac School Superintendent has taken another job in Alabama. The School Board received a letter from the Michigan Department of Treasury inquiring what the School Boards plan was to avoid bankruptcy. She also indicated that the Department of Justice may be investigating the City of Algonac for subjects and comments by Council Member Meldrum and Mayor Pro-Tem Bembas that related to religious persecution.

ADJOURNMENT

SCO # 02-04-17 Adjournment

Motion by Tesch supported by Thompson to adjourn the special meeting at 7:37 p.m. Motion carried.

Signed:

Respectfully Submitted:

Eileen M. Tesch, Mayor

Cynthia Greenia, Clerk