



# CITY OF IONIA

## CITY COUNCIL

### SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

8:30AM, January 16, 2021

HYBRID MEETING- ZOOM & COUNCIL ROOM

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Dan Balice called the special meeting of City Council to order at 8:40 AM and led with the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **ROLL CALL**

Roll call revealed Councilmembers John Milewski, Jeff Winters, Gordon Kelley, Tim Lee, Richard Starr, Tom Millard, Janice Gustafson, Troy Waterman and Mayor Dan Balice present.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

#### **DISCUSSION & INTERVIEWS**

Jerry Richards of the Michigan Municipal League (MML) discussed with Council the structure of the interview process. Council heard from the following prospective candidates interviewing for Ionia City Manager:

1. Precia Garland (8:55 to 10 AM)
2. Richard Downey (10:15 to 11:20 AM)
3. Mike Womak (11:35 to 12:50 PM)

#### **RECESS COUNCIL MEETING**

Council recessed for a lunch break at 12:50 PM.

#### **RECONVENE COUNCIL MEETING**

Council reconvened at 1:15 PM.

#### **INTERVIEWS CONTINUED**

4. Sarah Moyer-Cale (1:20-2:20 PM)
5. Scott Meszaros (2:30-3:55 PM)

#### **MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBER DISCUSSION**

As advised by MML Facilitator Jerry Richards, Mayor Balice requested that Councilmembers offer their individual Top 3 choices for prospective City Manager with the following tally of votes for each candidate:

1. Precia Garland- 9 votes
2. Richard Downey- 6 votes
3. Mike Womak- 2 votes
4. Sarah Moyer-Cale- 6 votes
5. Scott Meszaros- 5 votes

To further identify the top candidate, Mayor Balice requested that Councilmembers offer their top choice for the position. By show of hands, Precia Garland was identified as the top choice candidate for Ionia City Manager with a total of 9 votes. Due to the unanimous vote tally, there was no further discussion.

### **Authorize- Offer of Employment**

It was moved by Councilmember Starr, seconded by Councilmember Winters to Authorize MML Facilitator Jerry Richards to make a conditional offer of employment to Precia Garland.

Roll Call Vote:           Ayes: Milewski, Winters, Kelley, Lee, Starr, Millard, Gustafson, Waterman and Mayor Balice  
                                  Nays: None  
                                  MOTION CARRIED

### **Authorize- Negotiating Contract Agreement**

It was moved by Councilmember Millard, seconded by Councilmember Gustafson to authorize Mayor Balice to enter into negotiations with Precia Garland regarding the terms and conditions of an employment agreement.

Roll Call Vote:           Ayes: Winters, Kelley, Lee, Starr, Millard, Gustafson, Waterman, Milewski and Mayor Balice  
                                  Nays: None  
                                  MOTION CARRIED

### **Authorize- Runner-Up Offer of Employment**

Jerry Richards encouraged Council to take action should Precia Garland not accept Council's offer. Mayor Balice asked Councilmembers to identify their top choice runner-up candidate. By show of hands, Moyer-Cale received 4 votes (Councilmembers Gustafson, Milewski, Winters and Lee) while Downey received 3 votes (Millard, Waterman and Balice). Councilmember Kelley abstained from the unofficial vote.

It was moved by Councilmember Winters, seconded by Councilmember Lee that, under the condition that the City is unable to reach an agreement with Precia Garland, MML Facilitator Jerry Richards is authorized to make a conditional offer of employment to Sarah Moyer-Cale.

Roll Call Vote:           Ayes: Kelley, Lee, Starr, Millard, Gustafson, Milewski, Winters and Mayor Balice  
                                  Nays: Waterman

MOTION CARRIED

**Authorize- Runner-Up Negotiating Contract Agreement**

It was moved by Councilmember Winters, seconded by Councilmember Lee that, under the condition that an agreement is unable to be met with Precia Garland, Mayor Balice is authorized to enter into negotiations with Sarah Moyer-Cael regarding the terms and conditions of an employment contract.

Roll Call Vote:           Ayes: Lee, Starr, Millard, Gustafson, Milewski, Winters, Kelly and Mayor  
Balice  
Nays: Waterman  
MOTION CARRIED

**MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS**

Balice: Thanked MML Facilitator Jerry Richards for the exemplary work and for the extensive list of credible candidates.

**ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved by Councilmember Lee, seconded by Councilmember Starr to adjourn the special meeting at 4:20 PM.

BY VOICE VOTE:           MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully Submitted:

Ally H. Cook, Clerk