

CITY OF SOUTH LYON
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
NOVEMBER 2, 2013

Mayor Wallace called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m.

Mayor Wallace led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

PRESENT: Mayor Wallace
Council Members: Dixson, Kivell, Kopkowski, Kramer, Rzyzi, Wedell,
Chief Collins, Chief Kennedy, Department Head
Martin and Clerk/Treasurer Deaton

AGENDA

CM 11-1-13 MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA AS PRESENTED

Motion by Wedell, supported by Kivell
Motion to approve the agenda as presented

VOTE: MOTION CARRIED- 1 OPPOSED

PUBLIC COMMENT

NEW BUSINESS

1. Discussion on appointing an acting City Manager

Mayor Wallace stated Rod Cook would be good as a part time City Manager. Councilman Kivell stated the concern is he is available for a very short period of time. He further stated he is concerned the Council will not find someone before that time period is up, which is February. Councilman Kramer asked if there were any other candidates. Mayor Wallace stated Kristen Delaney is in house and qualified.

T.J. Connelly of 22286 Brookfield Drive stated the firing of a City Manager can be very disruptive to a City. He stated a careful, open and transparent hiring process not only benefits the future City Manager, but the City as a whole. He further stated City Managers know the time of their stay is dependent on Council, and when they are asked to leave, their time is up. Mr. Connelly stated Mr. Murphy will leave a bit of a legacy and one that should be thought about in the next hiring process. He stated another legacy will be the fact he delegated. A side effect of delegating is accountability. At this point in time,

trust is low, and he would like to recommend Bob Martin. We can trust him, and he is highly valued in this community.

Councilman Kivell stated Bob has his hands full with operating two departments. He further stated he spoke with Chief Collins and he also has the ability to act as interim City Manager. Councilmember Kopkowski stated they are both good choices, but they are both busy with their own jobs here in the City. Councilmember Dixon stated she would like to appoint City Attorney Wilhelm to interview candidates.

Maggie Kurtzweil of Madison Crest Business Law stated she has an unfortunate opportunity to speak with someone that overheard horrible obscenities said about the two women on Council because of their vote on Monday night. Most of the men that heard it, rejected that vulgar language, and found it disgusting. It was sad that a female business owner was in the presence of the person and she did not say that is not acceptable and does not belong in this City. She stated she must agree with Mr. Wedell, what happened Monday night is a very low event, but the personal attacks on the women of Council, because they exercised a vote they were entitled to have, and they were aggressed against with horrible obscenities that she has not heard in years. Just to put this in prospective, maybe a female needs to be interim City Manager. She stated maybe a female City Manager will assist to change the culture, so the attacks that occur on women that try to move ahead in government, are not necessarily attacked as they were Monday night. She would like to thank the gentlemen that came forward with this information, and to thank Phil Wiefert for denouncing this and standing up with the moral character that he has as a County Commissioner.

Councilman Wedell stated he has thought about this at great lengths. This will stabilize the City staff, as well as save our City a lot of money. He stated we have a window of opportunity to reconsider the actions of last Monday. We need someone from the prevailing side to make a motion to reconsider the firing of the City Manager. We could change the vote and bring our City Manager back. Councilman Wedell stated to make this a reasonable job opportunity to the City Manager, after that vote is taken, he would ask Councilmembers Rzyzi, Kopkowski, and Dixon submit their resignations to the City Clerk. He stated he is not grandstanding, he thinks this is a legitimate possible solution to our problems here today. He further stated if the Mayor would promise to resign after the election next week, we could start with a fresh City Council.

Councilman Kivell stated Mr. Murphy would entertain this if the offer was made, but he doesn't think the four people resigning are a necessity. He stated Mr. Murphy is a professional, and he would be able to work with this Council. Councilman Kramer stated we are a total embarrassment because of the actions from Monday night. He thinks this is a workable solution for the chaos that was created Monday night. Councilmember Kopkowski stated she has received many emails, and phone calls telling her they are happy with what she has done, and thanking her for standing up to the bullying. She stated she works for all the residents, not just the ones that show up to the Council Meetings. She further stated she will not be resigning.

Councilman Rzyzi stated he will not be resigning, and our City is facing some serious crossroads with financial obligations of pensions, we are 2.7 million dollars in the unfunded liability. He stated he made that on his stance on October 14th, and the City Managers attitude was evident of how this process has gone on for over a year, and the lack of urgency that has been put into it and how it has affected our City in the long-term.

Councilmember Dixson stated she has received many emails and calls with different opinions than the audience, she has done nothing wrong, and she will not resign.

Mayor Wallace stated he apologizes that no one is running against him in this election, and certainly if he is around in a few years and someone runs, it will be fun to have a real election and he feels for the voters that they don't have a choice. He added he will not be resigning.

Councilman Kramer asked Mayor Wallace who he would like to be the interim City Manager. Mayor Wallace stated Rod Cook would be a reasonable person to ask. He further stated he asked Kristen Delaney and she said he could put her name out there. Councilman Kramer asked Mayor Wallace if he spoke with the Department Heads about who they would like to work with. Mayor Wallace stated no because they do not need to be drug into this. Councilman Wedell stated Kristen is not interested in the interim position.

Rich Perry of 875 Westbrook Drive stated Council should consider multiple candidates and there should be an interview process. The last person Council should consider is whoever the Mayor and the three Council Members want strictly based on Monday nights meeting. He further stated that person should be considered equally with anyone else. A City Manager should not be considered if he was a campaign manager for any of the council members or Mayor.

Councilman Kivell stated Rod Cook would be a benefit to the City and he is well known to all of us, and we wouldn't doubt his judgment and he will be trusted. Councilman Kopkowski stated if there is a vote today, who will remain our City Manager? City Attorney Wilhelm stated if there are decisions that must be made by the City Manager, someone needs to be put in place to do so, and the Mayor is a possibility. He further stated he encourages Council to authorize someone to be acting City Manager even if for a short time.

CM 11-2-13 MOTION TO APPOINT INTERIM CITY MANAGER

Motion by Kivell, supported by Kramer

Motion to appoint Chief Collins as interim City Manager

VOTE:

MOTION CARRIED- 1 OPPOSED

Kivell Yes

Kopkowski No

Rzyzi Yes

Wedell Yes

Wallace Yes

Kramer Yes

Dixson Yes

Chief Collins stated he would be happy to assist the City by being the interim City Manager for a short term basis until a time when another interim City Manager can be found. He stated he also will not accept any extra compensation.

Amber King of 791 Westbrook stated for some reason it seems the Council believes Rod Cook is the only person to approach for this position. She stated an interview process needs to happen.

Ryan Lare of 716 Grand Court stated Chief Collins has been very good to his family and it doesn't matter if it is 3 weeks. He stated he was on his High Schools Council and he never went to some other council members without discussing it as a whole. He stated he nominates Chief Collins.

Councilman Wedell stated there is no time limit on the motion. He further stated he supports the motion.

Councilman Rzyzi stated he has confidence in Chief Collins and he will do a great job.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Kivell stated the cable contract is coming up in January for automatic renewal and the language is so archaic he would like that add to the next council meeting agenda.

He stated he has always embraced the idea of City Council having enormous potential to collectively solve problems in imaginative ways and create visions of future versions of their City that could be attained by working together. I recognize it is an idealistic view but, with the right members, it can be a reality. With that being said, there is a large group that is so disturbed by the firing of David Murphy and the way it was conducted that they are in the process of organizing their efforts to pursue recall campaigns for Council Members Dixon, Kopkowski, and Rzyzi. I would like to say I support what they are doing and will help however I can.

CM 11-3-13 MOTION TO ADJOURN MEETING

Motion by Dixson, supported by Kopkowski
Motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:05p.m.

VOTE: MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully submitted,

Tedd Wallace Mayor

Lisa Deaton Clerk/Treasurer

11/2/13