

**MINUTES
ST. CLAIR SHORES CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
MARCH 8, 2010**

Special Meeting of the City Council, held in the Council Chambers, located at 27600 Jefferson Circle Dr., St. Clair Shores, Michigan.

Present: Mayor Hison, Council Members Frederick, McFadyen, Rubello, Rubino, Rusie and Walby

Also Present: City Manager Podolski, Assistant City Manager Smith, City Clerk Kotowski, Directors D'Herde, Haney and City Attorney Ihrle

1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Hison called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Ms. Kotowski, City Clerk, called the roll with a quorum present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those in attendance.

2. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION ON AGENDA ITEMS (2 MINUTE TIME LIMIT)

Jim Goodfellow, 22476 Lakeland, Agenda Item 4, asked if the proposed Ethics Ordinance will incorporate Mayor and Council. Mayor Hison responded that the ordinance is for all elected officials and employees of the City.

3. SELECTION OF A NEW CITY MANAGER

Mayor Hison noted that Mayor and Council interviewed four finalists for the City Manager position on March 6, 2010, Grant A. Kleinhenz, Ann K. Capela, James C. Payne and Benjamin M. Hughes. Later that evening, the City held a meet and greet reception to observe the candidates in a different light and to give residents and staff the opportunity to interact with them.

Mr. Smith indicated that Saturday's Special Meeting was not the sole measure in determining the finalist for this position. Initially, fifty applications were submitted from all over the United States and a Council Sub-Committee was formed to narrow the list to four finalists which were publicly interviewed by Mayor and Council. Extensive investigations and employment verification was done on each applicant, knowing a great deal about each final applicant before the concluding interview.

Mayor Hison thanked the Council Sub-Committee and Mr. Smith for their time dedicated to such an extensive process of selecting the new City Manager. The final applicants were overwhelmed by how many residents were present for the interviews and thanked them for their involvement.

Mr. Walby stated that the attempt was to make the selection as transparent as possible with live interviews and feedback from residents.

Motion by McFadyen, seconded by Rusie to make a conditional offer of employment, subject to reaching an agreement on the terms and conditions of employment between the parties, for the position of City Manager to Benjamin M. Hughes.

A roll call vote was taken.

Ayes: All – 7

Mayor Hison added that the first step is a conditional offer of employment to Mr. Hughes and hopes to reach an agreement with him so he can bring an enthusiastic approach to the City.

Mr. Podolski will schedule the initial meeting and get started right away.

Mr. Rubello talked about how energetic, enthusiastic and prepared Mr. Hughes was. He also has a great resume.

Mrs. McFadyen was impressed how Mr. Hughes spoke of Michigan and complimented the City by wanting to make St. Clair Shores his home for the next twenty five years.

Mr. Frederick thanked staff for organizing the meetings and the meet and greet, which was very successful.

Mr. Rubino agreed that the meet and greet was an important component of the selection process. He also thanked Mr. Kleinhenz who was another great candidate and a close second.

4. REVIEW PROPOSED ETHICS ORDINANCE

Mayor Hison suggested forming a Council Sub-Committee to review the proposed Ethics Ordinance and bring back to Council for discussion and adoption.

Mayor Hison proposed Council Member Rubino to Chair, Council Member Walby, Mayor Hison, City Attorney Ihrle and City Manager to be the members of this committee. The committee would hold regular public meetings with agendas and minutes and resident input will be encouraged.

Motion by McFadyen, seconded by Frederick to create a Council Sub-Committee of Council Member Rubino to Chair, Council Member Walby, Mayor Hison, City Attorney Ihrle and City Manager to review the proposed Ethics Ordinance.

Ayes: All – 7

5. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (5 MINUTE TIME LIMIT)

Jack Doerr, 22407 Bayview, commended Mayor and Council on working together and added that this type of cooperation will be necessary to help the new City Manager thrive.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Frederick, seconded by Walby to adjourn at 7:27 p.m.

Ayes: All – 7

ROBERT A HISON, MAYOR

MARY A. KOTOWSKI, CITY CLERK