

OWOSSO CITY COUNCIL

FEBRUARY 8, 2010

7:30 P.M.

PRESIDING OFFICER: MAYOR BENJAMIN R. FREDERICK

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: MAYOR BENJAMIN R. FREDERICK

PRESENT: Mayor Benjamin R. Frederick, Mayor Pro-Tem Cindy S. Popovitch, Councilpersons Thomas B. Cook, Michael J. Erfourth, Christopher T. Eveleth, Joni M. Forster, and Gary W. Martenis.

ABSENT: None.

CITIZEN COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

There were no citizen comments.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

INTERIM CITY MANAGER SELECTION

City Attorney William C. Brown addressed the Council reminding them Charter Section 7.2 directs them to "consider only the good of the public services and the fitness of the appointee for, and their ability to discharge, the duties of the office to which they are appointed" when considering candidates for the City Manager positions. He went on to say that Council had the discretion to decide on the actual procedure for hiring either position. He recommended the two candidates that had requested confidentiality be referred to as Candidates A & B until such time as the Council recesses to closed session. Lastly he encouraged Council to keep comments about candidates positive even if they have controversial backgrounds.

Human Resources Director Jessica B. Unangst distributed a spread sheet ranking each candidate according to the aggregate scores received from individual Council members.

Mayor Frederick indicated the spread sheet was helpful. He asked about the additional applicants that had submitted resumes. Ms. Unangst indicated that 4 additional candidates had applied after the February 1st deadline. It was noted that the MML website had incorrectly posted the deadline as February 10th but this ad was later pulled. It was agreed the additional candidates would potentially muddy the waters for the interim consideration, but would be included in the permanent manager search.

There was discussion regarding how many candidates to invite for interviews, noting the large separation in scores after the top 5 candidates.

There was further discussion regarding going with an internal candidate as this person would already be familiar with the organization, would cost the City less money, and could negate any transition concerns. Councilperson Martenis noted he also had some concerns about some of the external candidates based on research he had performed the past week.

Motion by Councilperson Forster to move to executive session to discuss Candidate B for the Interim City Manager position.

Motion supported by Councilperson Martenis.

Roll Call Vote.

AYES: Councilpersons Erfourth, Martenis, Forster, Mayor Pro-Tem Popovitch, Councilpersons Eveleth, Cook, and Mayor Frederick.

NAYS: None.

RECESSED TO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 7:47 P.M.

RETURNED FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 8:23 P.M.

There was discussion regarding interviewing the top three candidates in the ranking, when to conduct the interviews, and including Candidate B in the interviews.

Motion by Councilperson Eveleth to set an early meeting time of 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, February 16, 2010 to conduct interviews of the top three candidates for the Interim City Manager position (Candidate A, D. Wayne O'Neal, and George Strand).

Motion supported by Councilperson Erfourth.

Roll Call Vote.

AYES: Mayor Pro-Tem Popovitch, Councilpersons Erfourth, Cook, Eveleth, and Mayor Frederick.

NAYS: Councilpersons Martenis and Forster.

Candidate B may also be interviewed February 16, 2010 at Council's discretion.

HR Director Unangst distributed a list of 98 potential interview questions. She asked Council members to email her the top three questions of their choice so that she could coordinate the questions for the interviews.

She went on to recommend Council consider authorizing the Public Safety Department to conduct background checks on the top three candidates in an effort to reduce costs and expedite the process. Council agreed to proceed with the background checks as suggested.

PERMANENT CITY MANAGER SELECTION PROCESS

The Council considered whether or not they would like to use a search firm to aid in the permanent City Manager search process. HR Director Unangst indicated she had received information from 4 interested parties so far. There was discussion as to when to conduct the search firm interviews and what typical costs are.

Council indicated they would be open to interviewing search firms in March.

Councilperson Cook inquired about the meeting tentatively set for February 20th to discuss priorities and budget issues. It was noted that the time would be difficult for some. It was agreed to meet February 20, 2010, changing the meeting time from 10:00 am until 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilperson Eveleth for adjournment at 8:53 p.m.

Motion supported by Councilperson Cook and concurred in by unanimous vote.

Benjamin R. Frederick, Mayor

Amy K. Kohagen, City Clerk