

CITY OF ST. JOHNS
CITY COMMISSION MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING

MAY 18, 2023

The special meeting of the St. Johns City Commission was called to order by Vice Mayor Dzurka at 5:00 p.m. at the Clinton County Courthouse, 100 East State Street, 2nd Floor, Suite #2200, St. Johns, Michigan.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Eric Hufnagel, Jean Ruestman, Brad Gurski, Scott Dzurka

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Kristina Kinde, Interim City Manager; Mindy J. Seavey, City Clerk; Justin Smith, Director of Public Services

GUESTS PRESENT: Frank Walsh, Walsh Municipal Services

Interviews for City Manager Position

The commission interviewed:

- Ryan Rudzis
- Chad Gamble

The commission recessed from 6:50 to 7:18 p.m.

The commission interviewed:

- Michael Selden
- Eric Zuzga (through Zoom)

The commission took a break at 8:53 p.m. and reconvened at 9:02 p.m.

Motion by Commissioner Ruestman seconded by Commissioner Hufnagel to approve the agenda as presented.

YEA: Hufnagel, Ruestman, Gurski, Dzurka

NAY: None

Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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There was no one present for public comments.

CITY COMMISSION DELIBERATIONS

There was a discussion of the process for deliberations.

The commission discussed the candidates and deliberated.

Motion by Commissioner Ruestman seconded by Commissioner Gurski that the city commission make a conditional offer of employment as St. Johns City Manager to Chad Gamble contingent on successful contract negotiations and background check.

YEA: Hufnagel, Ruestman, Gurski, Dzurka

NAY: None

Motion carried.

Motion by Commissioner Hufnagel seconded by Commissioner Gurski that the city commission select Eric Zuzga as the alternate candidate.

YEA: Hufnagel, Ruestman, Gurski, Dzurka

NAY: None

Motion carried.

Mr. Walsh discussed how to handle negotiations.

It was discussed that Scott and Eric would be the negotiating team.

SELECTION OF CANDIDATES TO INTERVIEW FOR CITY COMMISSION
VACANCY

Vice Mayor Dzurka thanked the candidates for their interest. He said we received 9 applications with a wide range of experience. He said they would try to narrow it down this evening to 3 – 4 candidates to bring forward on Monday evening for an interview. He said at their last meeting they talked about the importance of previous municipal experience and being involved in the community.

There was a discussion that Chris Hyzer has city experience; Marie Lowe's involvement in the DDA; Brent Hurst also had involvement in DDA; Leslie's involvement on the planning commission and DDA.

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Motion by Commissioner Gurski seconded by Commissioner Hufnagel that the city commission select Chris Hyzer, Marie Lowe, Leslie Salemi and Brent Hurst for interviews.

YEA: Hufnagel, Ruestman, Gurski, Dzurka

NAY: None

Motion carried.

There was a discussion of the interview process: ten minutes per interview; introduce themselves and then 4 questions.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Commissioner Gurski seconded by Commissioner Ruestman that the city commission adjourn the meeting.

YEA: Hufnagel, Ruestman, Gurski, Dzurka

NAY: None

Motion carried.

Vice Mayor Dzurka adjourned the meeting at 9:51 p.m.