

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, the special meeting of the Brainerd City Council was called to order at 6:00 P.M. by Council President Bevans.

Upon roll call, the following members were noted as present: O'Day, Stunek, Terry, Stenglein, Johnson, Czeczok, and Bevans. Mayor Badeaux was also noted as present.

Staff present were Administrator Broyles, HR Director Schubert, Police Chief Davis, and Finance Director Hillman.

Council President Bevans opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

MOVED AND SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBERS STUNEK AND TERRY, DULY CARRIED, TO APPROVE THE AGENDA.

Unfinished Business

Discuss Public Works Director Hiring

Administrator Broyles stated that staff followed policy and offered Mr. Habighorst with a conditional job offer with a tentative November 1st start date. As a courtesy to Mr. Habighorst and his current employer the special meeting was requested in order to get direction on how City Council would like to proceed.

Member Czeczok asked whether the City currently has a Public Works Director. He asked whether the City Council is within their rights to choose another individual.

HR Director Schubert stated that Jessie Dehn is currently the City Engineer/Public Works Director. The City Council may choose any of the candidates.

Member Stunek stated that the Council meeting went awry, he thinks it put Mr. Broyles in a bad spot. He apologized for his part at the previous meeting.

Member Stenglein thanked staff for their work. She stated that a friend reminded her that a 'government is not designed to be efficient, it is designed to be fair'. She takes ownership for her part in the inefficiency. However, she does believe that the Council was fair. Having an extra week, she has had time to consider the information provided and input from constituents.

Member Terry stated that she was in favor of the motion previously and she will continue to support the motion. She apologizes to Administrator Broyles for the turmoil. She hopes that this has not given him any reason to not trust the Council.

Member O'Day stated that it is a good problem to have to have multiple candidates. The City Council is not just a rubber stamp. He is still undecided, however, he does believe both candidates are good choices. He stated that being efficient isn't always the efficient way to run a government.

Member Czeczok stated that he does not look at this as putting the City Administrator in a bad position. He thinks Mr. Broyles is a professional, he is sure that he can handle feedback. It is much easier to sit back than go through applications and resumes, as Chair Bevans had indicated, but it is incumbent upon the City Council to get involved. When talking efficiencies,

the other candidate could sit down tomorrow and pick up the job he left two years ago. He stated that as a Council Member he has a responsibility to the taxpayers. He asked whether the Public Works Director works with Transit and other divisions. He does not believe that the candidate being considered has the background to support transit or streets and sewer. The best interest of the taxpayers is not the person being considered tonight.

Member Terry asked whether the Member Czczok received a response to his e-mail to HR Director Schubert as he had indicated at the last meeting that he had not.

Member Czczok stated that he did receive a response to his question and wrote to the newspaper to apologize to HR Director Schubert.

Member Terry stated that she asked for that information in reference to his comment about being responsible to the taxpayers. She too looks for efficiencies in government. Sometimes efficiencies outline themselves in other ways, not just specific experiences, but the type of leadership Mr. Broyles think would be good in this position. She also wanted to note that she did not talk to Mr. Broyles about his feelings, so her apologies come from her feelings toward the way that he was treated.

MOVED AND SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBERS STENGLEIN AND TERRY, DULY CARRIED, TO RATIFY THE HIRING OF MICHAEL HABIGHORST AS OUR PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR AT STEP 3 (\$55.97 PER HOUR) WITH A START DATE OF NOVEMBER 1, 2024.

Upon roll call, Members Stunek, Terry, Stenglein, Johnson, and Bevans voted "aye". Members O'Day and Czczok voted "nay". The Chair declared the motion carried.

Adjourn

MOVED AND SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBERS STUNЕК AND O'DAY, DULY CARRIED, TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 6:12 p.m.



Nicholas W. Broyles
City Administrator