

Minutes of Special Meeting held January 25, 2021

Special meeting with the following present: Mayor Ruben Gonzalez; Aldermen Lupe Castro, Sam Cortez, Charles Cate and Alderwoman Laura Reyna (on phone); City Secretary Josie Campa, Director of Public Works James McGrath; Police Chief Richard Priest; Fire Marshal Matt Dear; Police Officer David Lopez; Animal Control Director Santiago Morantez.

Visitors: Deborah Frazer; Edward Eichelberger, Simon Garcia.

Mayor Ruben Gonzalez called the special meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and led everyone in the pledge of allegiance.

CONSIDER AND ACT UPON HIRING AUDITING FIRM

Deborah Fazer, a CPA with Armstrong, Vaughan & Associates talked to Council about their firm. Mayor Gonzalez asked Ms. Frazer about the time line and cost for the audit. Ms. Frazer told Council they can start the beginning of March and it will take 2 to 3 months to get info and give report at a cost of \$20,000.00 for the first few years. Alderman Cortez made the motion that Council hire Armstrong, Vaughan & Associates to conduct audit for city at the price quoted by Ms. Frazer. Seconded by Alderman Castro. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER AND ACT UPON HIRING FINANCIAL DIRECTOR (EXECUTIVE SESSION UNDER TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE 551.074)

Mayor Gonzalez announced at 6:46 p.m. that Council would go into closed session as allowed under Texas Government Code, Chapter 551.074. Alderman Cate discussed two points of order with Council. Open Session was closed at 6:56 p.m.

The meeting was reopened at 7:37 p.m. Mayor Gonzalez told everyone that no action had been taken in the closed session.

Alderman Castro made the motion that Council hire Edward Eichelberger as the City's Finance Director and his starting pay be \$65,000.00 a year with a probationary period of six (6) months. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. VOTE: FOR Motion-Aldermen Castro, Cortez and Reyna. Alderman Cate abstained. Motion carried.

CONSIDER AND ACT UPON HIRING EMPLOYEE TO FILL VACANCY

City Secretary Josie Campa recommended Maria Morin be hired to fill the vacancy in the office. She recommended Mrs. Morin be started at \$13.00 per hour after completing background check, physical and drug screen satisfactorily and then her salary be increased to \$14.00 per hour after completing her probation. Alderman Cortez made the motion that Council hire Maria Morin as per the City Secretary's recommendation. Seconded by Alderman Castro. Passed unanimously.

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CONSIDER AND ACT UPON NEW QUOTE FOR UPDATING KENNELS AT ANIMAL CONTROL FACILITY

City Secretary Josie Campa told Council that the City Attorney had a prior commitment and could not attend this meeting, but he had advised her that Council had already accepted a quote for rehabilitating the kennels and that needs to be rescinded before another quote can be approved.

Alderman Cortez made the motion that this item be tabled. Seconded by Alderman Cate. Discussion. Passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.