

March 16, 2020 Special City Council Meeting

MINOT CITY COUNCIL - SPECIAL MEETING – MARCH 16, 2020 at 12:00 PM

ROLL CALL:

Members Present:

Jantzer, Olson, Pitner, Podrygula, Sipma, Straight, Wolsky

Members Absent:

None

Mayor Sipma presiding and led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

INDEPENDENT COUNSEL RETAINED – APPROVED

Alderman Wolsky moved the City Council ratify the appointment of Attorney Patricia Monson as the independent counsel to investigate an alleged hostile work environment including a review of potential civil, criminal, and City of Minot policy violations.

Motion seconded by Alderman Pitner and carried by the following roll call vote: ayes: Jantzer, Olson, Pitner, Podrygula, Sipma, Straight, Wolsky; nays: none.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Sipma stated the next item on the agenda would be an executive session. The topic of this executive session is an investigation into allegations of a hostile work environment and any other potential civil, criminal, or City of Minot policy violations. The legal authority for closing this portion of the meeting is North Dakota Century Code sections 44-04-19.1 and 19.2. The topic or purpose of this executive session is to seek and receive legal advice relating to the investigation.

The Mayor stated, at this time, a motion would be needed in order to discuss the next topic in executive session rather than in an open meeting.

Whereupon, Alderman Pitner moved the City Council move to an executive session. Motion seconded by Alderman Wolsky, and carried by the following roll call vote: ayes: Jantzer, Olson, Pitner, Podrygula, Sipma, Straight, Wolsky; nays: none

The Mayor then stated the executive session will be recorded and all members of the governing body are reminded to limit their discussion during the executive session to the announced topic. Any collective decision, collective commitment, or other final action by the governing body must occur after it reconvenes in an open meeting, unless final action is specifically required by law to be taken during the executive session. The prohibition on taking final action during the executive session did not apply to providing guidance or instructions to our attorney or negotiator.

Mayor Sipma asked the members of the public and all City employees attending the meeting to leave the room. He stated, the Council anticipated adjourning the executive session, and reconvening the open portion of the meeting at approximately 1:00 pm.

The executive session began at 12:05 pm and was attended by all members of the City Council, as well as the Mayor, and Attorney Patricia Monson.

At 1:07 pm, Alderman Jantzer moved the City Council adjourn the executive session and return to the regular City Council meeting. Motion seconded by Alderman Olson and carried by the following roll call vote: ayes: Jantzer, Olson, Pitner, Podrygula, Sipma, Straight, Wolsky; nays: none.

The public was invited to return to the meeting room with the City Council meeting back in session.

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Alderman Jantzer moved the City Council meeting be adjourned. Motion seconded by Alderman Pitner and carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 1:09 pm.

ATTEST: _____
Kelly Matalka, City Clerk

APPROVED: _____
Shaun Sipma, Mayor