

President Brady called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. followed by the Invocation, given by President Brady and the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Clerk called the roll and the following Commissioners responded: Dennis Murray, Dick Brady, Steve Poggiali, Dave Waddington, Blake Harris, Mike Meinzer, and Wes Poole, 7.

City staff present: John Orzech – Interim City Manager, Colleen Gilson – Interim Asst. City Manager, Tiffany Rufo – GIS Analyst, Don Rumbutis – IT Technician, Justin Harris – Interim Law Director, Michelle Reeder – Finance Director, Jared Oliver - Police Chief, Mario D’Amico - Fire Chief, Aaron Klein – Public Works Director, and Cathy Myers - Commission Clerk.

CURRENT BUSINESS

President Brady stated they have completed the interviews of the two candidates they had selected as the finalists for the position of city manager. Both candidates interviewed extremely well, and both possess the credentials and attributes that this commission believes are necessary to lead this city. The search for a new city manager has been a longer than expected journey. This task conducted by the professionals of the Slavin Group has been both a lengthy and a thorough process. John Orzech’s role as Interim City Manager has given us the luxury of time. Time to conduct a thorough search for the right person to fill this position. Today that search comes to its conclusion. Commissioners, I will entertain a motion to hire a new permanent city manager.

Upon motion of Mr. Waddington and a second by Mr. Murray, the commission voted to hire John Orzech as City Manager.

Comments:

Mr. Murray stated he agreed with everything President Brady said. The candidates were interviewed in a lengthy and thorough process. What surprised us is that we did not know John had the strength he has to be city manager – it kind of snuck up on us. We did not realize we were conducting an interview this entire time, but we were. John’s service as Interim City Manager has made us terribly confident that he will be able to lead the City for the next upcoming years. He will make the City proud. We thank him for his service as Interim City Manager and for his patience as we went through this process. He stated he assures the public that we have the best possible City Manager going forward.

Mr. Waddington stated he echoed what Mr. Murray said. What impressed him about John over the last seven months was his willingness to meet personally with the Commissioners. He was upfront and honest; he did not always tell him what he wanted to hear – but what he said was right. His honesty sold me on Mr. Orzech.

Mr. Poole stated we are fortunate to have Mr. Orzech, he has proven over the interim that he is more than capable of doing this job. He stated he is happy to vote yes in hiring him.

Mr. Harris stated that he had been approached by more than a few people, a mixture of residents and business owners, stating that he needed to do whatever it takes to get Mr. Orzech to take the job. Although at one time I did not think that was possible I am glad that we are making it possible today. He stated many people will be happy with this appointment and it speaks to the degree of confidence people have in Mr. Orzech’s abilities. He is glad to have him onboard full-time.

Mr. Poggiali stated that agreed with everything that has been said around the table. Although this was a more lengthy process than they thought it would be, it gave us a chance to test drive John, and the results were really good. He was impressed with the way Mr. Orzech had handled this situation. Where would we have been without John? Mr. Poggiali stated he appreciates what John has done and looks forward to working with him in the future.

Mr. Murray stated they will hold an Executive Session next meeting to iron out the details of this hiring.

Mr. Meinzer congratulated Mr. Orzech and stated the hardest thing will be transitioning his title from Chief to Mr. Orzech.

Mr. Brady stated on November 8th Mr. Orzech told the Commission he had no intention of applying for this position, although he agreed to serve in the role for as long as it took to come to this decision. Mr. Orzech never applied for this position, but this Commission reached out to him, and he agreed to serve the City in a permanent role. Many journeys make one return home, and this one did just that.

Roll call: Mr. Murray, Mr. Brady, Mr. Poggiali, Mr. Waddington, Mr. Harris, Mr. Meinzer, and Mr. Poole, 7. President Brady declared the motion passed.

Mr. Orzech stated he is very honored and humbled and has enjoyed working with each of the Commissioners. He does not believe anyone on the Commission or himself anticipated this appointment coming. He stated he has grown a lot professionally because of working with an amazing staff. We told everyone we would keep all the wheels on the bus moving forward throughout this process, and with the help of our hardworking staff we have done just that with the guidance of this Commission. He thanked the city staff for their tremendous work and support and the Commission for their leadership. He is honored and humbled that after working with the City almost twenty-six years, he did not anticipate this, but looks forward to working together, working with the citizens, and keeping the momentum that is going in Sandusky. He will deal with all the challenges that will come head on. He apologized for being too honest with Mr. Waddington but stated that is what you are going to get with him. He is an up-front guy who believes in being open and transparent and promises that is what he will continue to do. He is grateful for the opportunity to serve the City.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion of Mr. Poole, the Commission moved to adjourn at 5:10 p.m. President Brady declared the meeting adjourned.



Cathleen A. Myers
Commission Clerk



Richard R. Brady
President of the City Commission