

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL
WORK STUDY SESSION HELD BY
THE MOORE CITY COUNCIL
MAY 16, 2016
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING
ADJOURNMENT OF THE REGULAR
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
UPSTAIRS CONFERENCE ROOM
301 N. BROADWAY, MOORE, OKLAHOMA**

The City Council of the City of Moore met in the Upstairs Conference Room, 301 North Broadway, Moore, Oklahoma on May 16, 2016 at 6:55 p.m. following adjournment of the regularly scheduled City Council Meeting with Mayor Glenn Lewis presiding.

Adam Webb
Councilman, Ward I

Unfilled Position
Councilman, Ward I

Melissa Hunt
Councilwoman, Ward II

Mark Hamm
Councilman, Ward II

Jason Blair
Councilman, Ward III

Terry Cavnar
Councilman, Ward III

PRESENT: Blair, Hunt, Cavnar, Webb, Lewis
ABSENT: Hamm

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: City Manager, Steve Eddy; City Attorney, Randy Brink; Manager of Information Technology, David Thompson; and Administrative Assistant, Katie Berhalter.

Agenda Item Number 2 being:

REVIEW AND INTERVIEW APPLICANTS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE VACANT WARD 1 CITY COUNCIL POSITION.

Mayor Lewis thanked the applicants for their interest in applying to the City Council. He asked the applicants their preference in whether they wished the interview process to be performed individually or as a group. Finding no objection to posing questions as a group they moved forward with the interviews in random order.

He indicated that there were more people interested in the opening than he had ever seen. He stated that he was excited that so many people want to be involved. The City Council has historically tried to select someone that has had experience serving on the various boards and commissions. Mayor Lewis encouraged the applicants that do not get selected to consider serving in another capacity.

Steve Eddy, City Manager, asked each applicant to introduce themselves and explain why they were interested in serving on the City Council.

Dwayne Gordon, 636 SW 37th, stated that he moved to Moore from a major city in Florida two years ago for a job opportunity, and was now enjoying the amenities provided from the small town feel of the community. He stated that he was passionate about community activism, and participated in voting as every citizen should. He believed this was his chance to become involved in City government. Councilman Cavnar asked about Mr. Gordon's profession. Mr. Gordon responded that he was a mechanical engineer. Councilman Webb asked how Mr. Gordon heard about the opening. Mr. Gordon indicated that he saw the notice on the website.

Rochelle Quillman, 101 SW 11th, stated that she moved to Moore from Broken Arrow approximately ten years ago. She liked the feel of a small town. Ms. Quillman indicated that after obtaining a job downtown she began looking for a home and found one she liked in Moore. She indicated that she is Chief Finance Officer for the Indigent Defense System for the State of Oklahoma and is in charge of financial reporting, budgeting, and support services for a department of around 110 employees. Ms. Quillman stated that she is a Certified Public Accountant and felt that her experience could be useful. She indicated that she was affected by the 2013 tornado and was astounded by the reaction of the community. She had never experienced that before and, although they had thought of moving, she decided that they felt comfortable staying in Moore. Ms. Quillman indicated that at one point in her work history she worked in Emergency Preparedness at the Health Department and saw a lot of disasters, but being on the other end and experiencing it firsthand made her want to get more involved. After seeing the notice of the opening on the City Council she felt she could utilize her skills.

Kathy Griffith, 3808 Churchill Road, she stated that she has been a resident of Moore since 1998. She indicated that her family is from Moore and she is a graduate of Moore High School. Her father retired from the Navy, and although they could have lived anywhere in world, they chose to live in Moore. Ms. Griffith indicated that she had previously served on the Moore City Council for eight years. She also served on the Board of Adjustment and the Moore Risk Management Board, and served on the 9-1-1 committee with ACOG. Ms. Griffith advised that she was Chairwoman for the Veterans Park Committee since its inception 12 years ago. She stated that she was member of the Chamber of Commerce and attends the ribbon cuttings and Business After Hours. She believed that the person the City Council chooses to fill the vacancy will be the most qualified.

Danielle McKenzie, 2501 SE 8th, indicated that she lived in Moore her entire life. She stated that both she and her husband graduated from Moore High School and after getting married decided to raise their family in Moore. Ms. McKenzie indicated that she has a 15 year old son and a 9 year old son. She commented that she felt she represented a different part of the community and could bring new ideas to the table. Ms. McKenzie indicated that she owned her own financial advising company for several years and decided to obtain her Master's Degree in Budgeting and Policy. After obtaining her degree in 2014 she started work at the University of Oklahoma as an Assistant Director. She indicated that she had previously run for another Ward 1 seat in the recent election and was defeated by Adam Webb. Councilman Webb asked if she currently served on the Planning Commission. Ms. McKenzie indicated that she has served on the Planning Commission since 2013.

Kenneth Jarema, 817 SE 13th, advised that he has lived in the same house in Moore since 1981. He arrived in 1980 to work for General Motors as an electrician and when the plant closed he had an opportunity to move to Texas but declined. Mr. Jarema indicated that at the end of his employment with General Motors he also served as Capacity Assurance Coordinator. He would take skilled trade problems and try to formulate a solution. He felt that was similar to the function of the City Council. He believed that there will always be a winner and a loser in a divided situation. Everyone is entitled to their opinion of the City Council but they should only form an opinion after they have witnessed a City Council Meeting

to see what it is that they do. He wanted to keep things moving forward for Ward 1 and the City of Moore.

Adam Holt, 809 SE 36th, stated that he was very impressed with the experience of the applicants and how long they have lived within the community. Mr. Holt indicated that he moved to Oklahoma in 2011 and served four years in the Air Force. He got married in 2012 and came to reside in Moore. He felt it was a wonderful community and stated that they became integrated into a wonderful church. He indicated that he started law school in the summer of 2015 and would finish in 2018. Mr. Holt indicated that he would like to serve in a functional hands-on role for the citizens of Moore. He stated that he was unable to beat the level of experience of the other applicants that applied, but would be happy to serve on a board or commission should he not be appointed to the vacant Ward 1 seat. Mr. Holt stated that although he would not be opposed to running in a future election, he would not be able to commit until he sees how things progress in the future. He indicated that he saw the vacancy for the Ward 1 seat on the City's webpage.

Mayor Lewis asked each of the applicants if they would be willing to run for office after the term for the seat had expired. Five of the applicants indicated that they would be willing to run for office and one applicant, Mr. Holt indicated that he was unable to commit at this time.

Councilman Webb stated that he was happy there were six applications for the vacant Ward 1 seat and felt that this said a lot about community involvement. He stated that those individuals that might not be appointed to this seat, should consider serving in some other capacity on one of the boards of commissions. He also noted that applicants can run for the seat that is being filled when the term expires next year. Councilman Webb noted that the term for a City Council seat is four years.

Mayor Lewis noted that Council action cannot be taken during a Work Study Session. A discussion was held concerning when an item could be placed on a future agenda. Steve Eddy, City Manager, advised that a budget study session would be posted for May 23, 2016. He suggested that a Special Meeting could be called for 6:30 p.m. prior to the study session if the City Council was prepared to make take action on the appointment. The person appointed could then stay for the budget study session. Mr. Eddy noted that the next regular meeting would not take place for three weeks. Mayor Lewis felt that all six candidates were very qualified. Mayor Lewis noted that this position was not salaried. The Mayor and Council receive a small check intended to cover expenses.

The applicants were asked to leave the conference room to allow an opportunity for discussion. Councilman Cavnar indicated that he would be honored to serve with any of the applicants and felt that they were all very qualified to serve on the City Council.

Councilman Blair commented that Kenneth Jarema has attended every City Council Meeting and Planning Commission meeting.

Mayor Lewis indicated that Kathy Griffith and Danielle McKenzie had both served on either the City Council or Planning Commission. He stated that five of the applicants stated they would be willing to run for the seat after the term they are appointed to expires. He felt that Adam Holt's inability to commit to running for office would eliminate him as a potential candidate. He stated that the decision was difficult since there were no bad candidates and asked for Council input. Councilwoman Hunt felt that Danielle McKenzie's attempt during the election process to win the seat should give her an advantage. Councilman Cavnar concurred. He added that Kathy Griffith did an excellent job serving on the City Council previously. He commented that Kenneth Jarema's dedication in coming to the meetings was impressive. Mayor Lewis commented that Kenneth Jarema previously expressed his willingness to serve on the Planning Commission. Councilman Webb noted that Danielle McKenzie ran against him for his seat and lost. He felt that she would likely have beaten him except that she had a friend who passed away from cancer during

the campaign process. He felt whoever was appointed could benefit from the experience of the other council members and they should plan on staying for a while. Councilwoman Hunt suspected that once the position was up for re-election they will have an opponent. Councilman Webb stated that he had already heard there would be around four or five candidates. He believed that Ms. McKenzie had already proven her commitment by going door to door and campaigning during the last election. He also advised that he had received several phone calls from individuals who were supporting Danielle McKenzie. Councilman Webb also believed that the next election would be even more competitive than the last election. Mayor Lewis commented that Kathy Griffin would not have run against David Roberts and that was why she didn't file for office during the last election.

Everyone commented on the difficulty in making the decision since all of the applicants appeared qualified. Councilman Blair felt that Danielle McKenzie has done a good job serving on the Planning Commission and would be a good fit on the City Council. Councilman Cavnar felt that Councilman Webb should have more input on the selection since the opening was in his ward.

Mayor Lewis asked for the opinion of City Manager Steve Eddy. Mr. Eddy stated that he had only spoken with Ms. McKenzie once, but he felt she was an intelligent young woman. She did not appear to have any particular axe to grind, which is an important factor, and felt she would do a good job.

Mayor Lewis stated that it appeared there was a general consensus on the selection of Danielle McKenzie. He asked if there was any objections. There was some concern about Councilman Hamm being absent from the meeting. Councilwoman Hunt felt that Councilman Hamm's main concern was that the City Council speak to each of the applicants.

Councilman Webb asked who would fill the vacancy left on the Planning Commission if Danielle McKenzie was appointed to the City Council. Several of the council members indicated their desire to appoint Kenneth Jarema to the Planning Commission. Councilman Blair asked if the position should be advertised and applications accepted for the anticipated Planning Commission vacancy. Mr. Eddy indicated that there was no legal requirement to advertise for openings on the boards and commissions; however, he felt it should be opened up to the public. The Council determined that there was a precedent being set for transparency in government and it was good to publicize the openings.

Mayor Lewis indicated that the appointment for the Ward 1 seat would be made at a special meeting held May 23, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers.

Agenda Item Number 3 being:

ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Cavnar moved to adjourn the City Council meeting, second by Councilman Blair. Motion carried unanimously.

Ayes: Blair, Hunt, Cavnar, Webb, Lewis
Nays: None
Absent: Hamm

The Work Study Session was adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

TRANSCRIBED BY:

RHONDA BAXTER, Executive Assistant

RECORDED BY:

KATIE BERHALTER, Administrative Assistant

FOR:

ADAM WEBB, MPWA Secretary

These minutes passed and approved as noted this ____ day of _____, 2016.

ATTEST:

BROOKS MITCHELL, City Clerk