

**CITY OF GRAND HAVEN
GRAND HAVEN, MICHIGAN
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, JUNE 27, 2022**

The Special Meeting of the Grand Haven City Council was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Catherine M. McNally in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 519 Washington Ave.

Present: Council Members Karen Lowe, Kevin McLaughlin, Mike Fritz, Mayor Pro-Tem Cummins (participating electronically from his home in Grand Haven, MI) and Mayor Catherine McNally.

Absent: None.

Others Present: Interim City Manager Ashley Latsch and City Clerk Candidate Maria Boersma.

CALL TO AUDIENCE

Mayor McNally made a call to the audience, allowing audience members to address Council on any issue.

- Mercedes Watts, 7103 Magnolia Dr, Jenison, addressed Council. She wanted to introduce herself and announce that she is running for Ottawa County 20th Circuit Court Judge, Family Division. This is a new positon created in February 2022. She reviewed her resume, education, past job experience and views that would prepare her for this position if elected.
- Doug Vanse, 100 Washington, Copper Post, addressed Council regarding parking issues for his tenants. He commented that one of his tenants had her car towed. He felt that there was no reason for that to happen. Secondly, he felt that the consideration of hiring a consulting firm and paying \$14,000 to hire a new City Manager was unnecessary when the City already, potentially, has a qualified person in-house right now.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AND REGULAR AGENDAS

Moved by Council Member McLaughlin, seconded by Council Member Lowe, to approve the special meeting agenda. There was a discussion on this motion and it was amended to add the consider adding the following item to the agenda under New Business, 5B.

- Add an item to consider changing the date of the regularly scheduled City Council Meeting on Tuesday, September 6 to Wednesday, September 7, to accommodate for the presence of Interim City Manager Ashley Latsch at that meeting.

22-239 Moved by Council Member **McLaughlin**, seconded by Council Member **Lowe**, to amend the special meeting agenda to add the consideration of changing the date of the regularly scheduled City Council Meeting on Tuesday, September 6 to Wednesday, September 7, to

accommodate for the presence of Interim City Manager Ashley Latsch at that meeting. This motion carried unanimously.

22-240 Moved by Council Member **Fritz**, seconded by Council Member **Lowe**, to approve the special meeting agenda, as amended, to add the following resolution under New Business, Item 5B.

- Consideration by City Council of resolution to change the date of the regularly scheduled City Council Meeting on Tuesday, September 6 to Wednesday, September 7, to accommodate for the presence of Interim City Manager Ashley Latsch at that meeting.

This motion carried unanimously.

INTERVIEW FOR CITY CLERK POSITION

Mayor McNally introduced City Clerk Candidate Maria Boersma and noted that she is currently serving as the City Clerk in North Muskegon. Mayor McNally noted that she comes well recommend and she is well qualified. Other Council members agreed. Ms. Boersma described her experience and answered specific questions from Council. Following the interview, the following motion was made.

22-241 Moved by Council Member **Lowe**, seconded by Council Member **Fritz**, moved to confirm the appointment of Maria Boersma as City Council's preferred candidate for the City Clerk position and direct staff to enter into negotiations with her regarding compensation and a start date, with the hope that they might bring a return contract for Council's consideration at the July 5 meeting. This motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

22-242 Moved by Council Member **Fritz**, seconded by Council Member **McLaughlin**, to select Walsh Municipal Services, LLC, Meridian Twp, MI, to perform a professional executive search for the recruitment of a new City Manager for the City of Grand Haven in the not to exceed amount of \$14,200 and authorize the mayor and interim city clerk to execute the necessary documents. This motion carried. In favor: Fritz, Lowe, McLaughlin, McNally. Abstained: Mayor Pro-Tem Cummins.

Council members who spoke were favorable of Frank Walsh, Walsh Municipal Services, and his proposal. Questions were asked about the process and citizen participation. Council member Lowe agreed with Doug Vanse that there was no need to fast track this process and that we do have a capable interim city manager, who may herself apply for this position, and we have the opportunity to take our time to do this.

Mr. Walsh explained the multiple ways to get the public involved. One of those ways would typically begin with a stakeholder's survey. A list of stakeholders would be compiled by council members and key staff people within the City. Council might determine to include various boards and commission members; these stakeholders would be interviewed through a survey. The process

can be tailored to reflect Grand Haven's approach. Mayor McNally asked Council members to come up with a list of community members to include in the stakeholders list and to contact Interim City Manager Latsch with that information. Mr. Walsh also noted that the Michigan Municipal Executives Conference is coming up, July 19-22, in Holland, and that he would promote Grand Haven during this time.

22-243 Moved by Council Member **Fritz**, seconded by Council Member **Lowe**, to change the date of the regularly scheduled City Council Meeting on Tuesday, September 6, to Wednesday, September 7, to accommodate for the presence of Interim City Manager Ashley Latsch at that meeting. This motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Council Member Lowe, seconded by Council Member McLaughlin, to set a stipend for Interim City Manager in the amount of \$1,500 per month in addition to her regular salary until a permanent City Manager is selected. There was a discussion on this motion and it was amended.

Council member Fritz questioned whether the amount was sufficient with all of the work and responsibility that Assistant City Manager Latsch has been doing, and he suggested increasing it to \$1,800. Other council members agreed and noted that the City would be saving a lot by her stepping up and not having to go to an outside source.

22-244 Moved by Council Member **Fritz**, seconded by Council Member **Lowe**, to amend the stipend amount from the amount of \$1,500 to \$1,800 for Interim City Manager Latsch per month in addition to her regular salary until a permanent City Manager is selected. This motion carried unanimously.

22-245 Moved by Council Member **Fritz**, seconded by Council Member **Lowe**, to set a stipend for Interim City Manager Ashley Latsch in the amount of \$1,800 per month in addition to her regular salary until a permanent City Manager is selected. This motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

After hearing no further business, Mayor McNally adjourned the meeting at 6:46 p.m.

Catherine M. McNally
Catherine M. McNally, Mayor

Mary A. Angel
Mary A. Angel, Executive Assistant
[minutes documented per electronic recording]

AL
Initialed

Ashley Latsch, Interim City Manager
Acting Clerk for June 27 Special Meeting