



Wednesday, September 23, 2020
Minutes of the Special Meeting of the City Council

CALL TO ORDER

A Special Meeting of the South Pasadena City Council was called to order by Mayor Joe on Wednesday, September 23, 2020, at 7:39 p.m., in the Council Chamber, located at 1424 Mission Street, South Pasadena, California.

A brief introduction was provided by Mayor Joe on the procedures in place in an effort to prevent the spread of COVID-19, and the City's new procedures for submitting public comment.

ROLL CALL

Present via Zoom: Councilmembers Cacciotti, Rossi, and Schneider; Mayor Pro Tem Mahmud; and Mayor Joe

Absent: None

City Staff Present: Acting City Manager Fire Chief Riddle; City Attorney Teresa Highsmith (in attendance via Zoom); and Chief City Clerk Maria E. Ayala were present at Roll Call.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Joe led the flag salute.

ACTION/DISCUSSION

1. Interviews of Applicants for City Council District 2 Vacancy

Mayor Joe provided a brief description on the item and explained the process for the candidate interviews.

Chief City Clerk Ayala conducted a random drawing to produce a list in which the applicants would be interviewed.

The randomized list of the order of the interviews was produced as follows:

- 1) Lawrence Allen Abelson
- 2) Stephen Edward Rossi
- 3) Timothy James Searight
- 4) Marcos Rodriguez Holguin
- 5) Casey James Law

All five applicants were in attendance in person in Council Chambers.

City Attorney Highsmith provided the staff report.

Mayor Joe requested that the candidates step into their designated seating area until they were called upon for their interview.

Structured interviews of the candidates were conducted by the City Council in the following order:

Candidate Abelson was individually interviewed by the City Council.

Candidate Rossi was individually interviewed by the City Council.

Candidate Searight was individually interviewed by the City Council.

Candidate Holguin was individually interviewed by the City Council.

Candidate Law was individually interviewed by the City Council.

Chief City Clerk Ayala announced the names of those who submitted public comment via e-mail (these comments were not read, but are added to the official final record of the meeting and are available under the meeting's Additional Documents):

- Dean Serwin
- Linnaea Scott
- Gabriela and Andrew Berk
- James Chou
- Cheryl Busick
- Vanessa Godson
- Shalimar Duff
- Mary Urquhart
- Steve Zikman
- Delaine Shane and Susan Sulsky
- Alan Ehrlich

Chief City Clerk Ayala played an audio recording of the public comment received via the City's public comment phone line:

- Bryan Swanson – Expressed support for the appointment of Marcos Rodriguez Holguin to the District 2 Councilmember vacancy.

- Greg Kwai - Expressed support for the appointment of Stephen Edward Rossi to the District 2 Councilmember vacancy.
- Sheila Tolle - Expressed support for the appointment of Stephen Edward Rossi to the District 2 Councilmember vacancy.
- Andy Au - Expressed support for the appointment of Stephen Edward Rossi to the District 2 Councilmember vacancy.
- Kristine Hilkevitch - Expressed support for the appointment of Stephen Edward Rossi to the District 2 Councilmember vacancy.
- Ed and Nancy Riffle - Expressed support for the appointment of Stephen Edward Rossi to the District 2 Councilmember vacancy.
- Megan Dostal - Expressed support for the appointment of Stephen Edward Rossi to the District 2 Councilmember vacancy.
- Anne Bagasao - Expressed support for the appointment of Stephen Edward Rossi to the District 2 Councilmember vacancy.
- Kim Carlson - Expressed support for the appointment of Stephen Edward Rossi to the District 2 Councilmember vacancy.
- Gloria Samarian - Expressed support for the appointment of Stephen Edward Rossi to the District 2 Councilmember vacancy.
- Michael Lin - Expressed support for the appointment of Marcos Rodriguez Holguin to the District 2 Councilmember vacancy.
- Andrew Hall - Expressed support for the appointment of Marcos Rodriguez Holguin to the District 2 Councilmember vacancy.
- Christina Lin - Expressed support for the appointment of Marcos Rodriguez Holguin to the District 2 Councilmember vacancy.
- Aberto Ocon - Expressed support for the appointment of Stephen Edward Rossi to the District 2 Councilmember vacancy.
- Chris Bray - Expressed support for the appointment of Stephen Edward Rossi to the District 2 Councilmember vacancy.
- Tom Polanski - Expressed support for the appointment of Stephen Edward Rossi to the District 2 Councilmember vacancy.
- Dean Serwin - Expressed support for the appointment of Stephen Edward Rossi to the District 2 Councilmember vacancy.

- Andrew Berk - Expressed support for the appointment of Stephen Edward Rossi to the District 2 Councilmember vacancy.
- Jan Marshall - Expressed support for the appointment of Stephen Edward Rossi to the District 2 Councilmember vacancy.
- Richard Marshall - Expressed support for the appointment of Stephen Edward Rossi to the District 2 Councilmember vacancy.
- Steve Zikman - Expressed support for the appointment of Stephen Edward Rossi to the District 2 Councilmember vacancy.
- Karen Taylor - Expressed support for the appointment of Stephen Edward Rossi to the District 2 Councilmember vacancy.
- Todd Schroder - Expressed support for the appointment of Stephen Edward Rossi to the District 2 Councilmember vacancy.
- Delaine Shane and Susan Sulsky – Expressed support for the appointment of Stephen Edward Rossi or Lawrence Allen Abelson to the District 2 Councilmember vacancy and concerns regarding various issues experienced by the residents of District 2.
- Erik Grammer - Expressed support for the appointment of Stephen Edward Rossi to the District 2 Councilmember vacancy.
- Krista Ocon - Expressed support for the appointment of Stephen Edward Rossi to the District 2 Councilmember vacancy.
- Nick Taylor - Expressed support for the appointment of Stephen Edward Rossi to the District 2 Councilmember vacancy.
- Richard Lee - Expressed support for the appointment of Stephen Edward Rossi to the District 2 Councilmember vacancy.
- Evelyn Zneimer - Expressed support for the appointment of Stephen Edward Rossi to the District 2 Councilmember vacancy.
- Sarah James - Expressed support for the appointment of Stephen Edward Rossi to the District 2 Councilmember vacancy.
- Alan Ehrlich - Expressed support for the appointment of Stephen Edward Rossi to the District 2 Councilmember vacancy.
- London Lang - Expressed support for the appointment of Stephen Edward Rossi to the District 2 Councilmember vacancy.
- Odom Stamps - Expressed support for the appointment of Stephen Edward Rossi to the District 2 Councilmember vacancy.

- Jarilyn Schmitz - Expressed support for the appointment of Stephen Edward Rossi to the District 2 Councilmember vacancy.
- Mark Canes - Expressed support for the appointment of Stephen Edward Rossi to the District 2 Councilmember vacancy.
- Sam Burgess - Expressed support for the appointment of Stephen Edward Rossi to the District 2 Councilmember vacancy.

City Council held a discussion regarding the following: various candidate qualifications; needs of the City; roles and responsibilities of councilmembers; etc.

MOTION BY MAYOR PRO TEM MAHMUD, SECOND COUNCILMEMBER CACCIOTTI, CARRIED 1-0 (Councilmember Cacciotti, Schneider, and Mayor Joe abstained), to: appoint Lawrence Allen Abelson for the District 2 Councilmember vacancy.

Motion failed.

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER CACCIOTTI, SECOND COUNCILMEMBER SCHNEIDER, CARRIED 3-0 (Mayor Pro Tem Mahmud abstained) to: appoint Stephen Edward Rossi for the District 2 Councilmember vacancy.

Councilmember Cacciotti asked that Mr. Rossi be sworn in and participate in the next City Council closed and open session meetings.

City Attorney Highsmith provided advice on the process to swear-in Mr. Rossi for his appointment.

Councilmember Cacciotti requested Mr. Rossi be appointed and sworn in immediately, if possible, to fill the City Councilmember District 2 vacancy.

Chief City Clerk Ayala confirmed that staff will contact Mr. Rossi to return to Council Chambers to be sworn in.

Recommendation:

~~2. Derive a Council majority to select an applicant for formal appointment and swearing-in on September 16, 2020 to fill the unexpired term ending December 2, 2020 for the vacant District Council 2 seat.~~

2. Report and Recommendation to Consider Personnel Actions Necessary to Close the General Fund Budget Deficit; Receive and File CalPERS Actuarial Valuation Disclosing Potential Costs Associated with a Retirement Incentive Program

Michael Casalou, Human Resources Manager, provided a PowerPoint presentation.

At this time, Chief City Clerk Ayala respectfully announced that Mr. Rossi was present in the City

Council Chambers.

Councilmember Cacciotti requested that Mr. Rossi be sworn in and join the remainder of the City Council meeting. A second was provided by Councilmember Schneider.

Chief City Clerk Ayala administered the oath of affirmation for Councilmember Rossi.

Councilmember Rossi was seated at the dais, and formally joined the Council meeting as a City Councilmember for District 2, effective 10:10 p.m.

At this time, City Council resumed discussion on Agenda Item No. 2.

City Council had various questions and comments regarding the following: current employees soon to retire; future employee training; non-exempted employees qualifying for the Golden Handshake; previous discussions regarding staff's recommendations; etc.

City Manager DeWolfe and Human Resources Manager Casalou answered questions accordingly.

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER SCHNEIDER, SECOND MAYOR PRO TEM MAHMUD, CARRIED 5-0, to: direct staff to proceed with a package of personnel related cost savings including the following:

1. Impose a permanent freeze on specific vacant positions;
2. Reduce overtime for the police and fire departments;
3. Offer a retirement incentive to approximately ten employees;
4. Receive and file the attached CalPERS actuarial report and direct staff to post it on the City's website for 14 days.

ADJOURNMENT

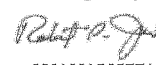
Mayor Joe announced the next Regular City Council meeting on September 2nd.

There being no further business, Mayor Joe adjourned the meeting at 10:17 p.m.

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Maria E. Ayala
Chief City Clerk

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Robert S. Joe
Mayor

Adopted on 10/07/2020