

MINUTES VILLAGE OF TEQUESTA

SPECIAL MEETING

August 10, 2018



CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Abby Brennan at 4:38 p.m. A roll call was taken by Village Clerk Lori McWilliams. Present were: Mayor Abby Brennan, Vice-Mayor Tom Paterno, Council Member Vince Arena, Council Member Laurie Brandon, and Council Member Kristi Johnson.

1. Selection of Village Manager Candidates to Move Forward to Background Phase

Council discussed each candidate pros and cons based on the interview, individual Council interviews and the Meet and Greet with staff and residents. They voiced concern with Mr. Gomez and the comments made, against his council's direction, regarding a contentious issue. Mayor Brennan noted there were some things that bothered her following the one-on-one meetings and hearing from residents and staff following the Meet and Greet. She believed Mr. Cruz might have a softer style of leadership with the goal to allow senior staff to become their best selves. She liked how Tequesta was the only place he applied. She felt Mr. Gomez might be a little heavy handed, and had heard on several occasions that he was a more polished version of the current manager.

Mr. Arena suggested moving Mr. Cruz and Mr. Gomez forward in the background process.

Vice-Mayor Paterno agreed Mr. Gomez was more polished, but voiced concern with his ability to be less political. He liked that Mr. Cruz was strong enough to leave a job based on ethics. He suggested Ms. Reid serve as interim for six months.

Council Member Johnson would like Mr. Gomez to move forward and felt everyone focused on the individual interviews and not on the group interview.

Council Member Brandon noted the interview is often a show and the individual meetings provided a better opportunity to obtain addition relevant information.

Mayor Brennan reiterated that she was no longer comfortable with Mr. Gomez and did not believe he would look out for staff and stressed she did not want to lose the current staff. She stated it was all about council, community and staff.

MOTION: *Council Member Arena made a motion to move forward with background checks on both Mr. Adam Cruz and Mr. Robin Gomez.*

Council Member Johnson questioned the need to pay for a background check on Mr. Gomez if she was the only one interested.

Ms. Merlene Reid pointed out that views could shift based on the information obtained from the background.

MOTION CONTINUED: *Vice-Mayor Paterno seconded the previous motion; motion carried unanimously 5-0.*

2. Review of Amended Draft Manager Contract

Council discussed the proposed draft contract as submitted by Legal. Ensuing discussion took place and the following additions were made:

- Initial 90 day probation period was added with a second 90 day probation period to follow;
- 4 weeks' severance would be provided if released within the first 90 days;
- Salary range would be \$140,000 - \$165,000;
- Successful candidate would have one year from hire date to move within the Village; and
- The manager would be covered under the Village pension plan, not ICMA

ADJOURNMENT: *Vice-Mayor Paterno moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Council Member Brandon; the meeting was adjourned at 5:35 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

Lori McWilliams, MMC
Village Clerk

Note: These summary minutes are prepared in compliance with 286.011 F.S. and are not verbatim transcripts of the meeting. A verbatim audio record is available from the office of the Village Clerk. All referenced attachments are on file in the Village Clerk's office.