

SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES 7-25-2022

Mayor McCullough called the City Council Special Meeting to order at 5:30pm with roll call. In attendance, City Council Members Omar Martinez, Cara McFerren, Dana Dominguez, and Jose Zacarias.

City Council approved the agenda: McFerren/Zacarias: 4-0.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA (Consent Vote)

Mayor opened the meeting with City Council discussion and appropriate action to appoint city council member to the vacant seat.

Applicants:

Vanessa Espinoza

Ashley Smith

Mike Price

McFerren communicated that all three candidates are capable. McFerren liked that Espinoza and Smith presented more information to include resumes. Difficult decision as Smith and Espinoza are qualified. McFerren asked if a special election petition has been filed, City Manager Haugland communicated the appointment process would take place and then a petition for special election can be filed within 14 days after the appointment.

McFerren asked for input from other Council Members, Dominguez communicated Smith had attended the last meeting, and didn't know if she was present on zoom. Mike Price is present, so maybe we would like to hear from him. Dominguez communicated "awesome" Price has applied. The other candidates just had extensive information presented. Zacarias recommended to hear from Mr. Price as to why he is interested. Mr. Price communicated a variety of reasons, his observations of the council meetings, concern about the lack of progress, experience electric representative, does know how meetings are run, has no personal interest, financial, or familiar interest. Price included he is a 30 Year community member to include constant volunteer of the several organizations.

Mayor brought discussion back to order for recommendations of candidates. Zacarias recommends Vanessa Espinoza, and briefly provided information pertaining to her experiences. McFerren communicated both are highly qualified, but McFerren has honest concerns with recent public postings from Ms. Espinoza. McFerren communicated she spoke with Ms. Espinoza and Council Member Zacarias with regards to the information. McFerren supportive of recommendations of Ms. Espinoza and Ms. Smith.

Dominguez recommends Ms. Smith as she liked her writing explanations, references, and experiences. Dominguez had concerns with a letter that was received from Ms. Espinoza, and Dominguez has a response to the letter submitted. Dominguez communicated out of respect to Ms. Espinoza she would not like to discuss the letter.

Zacarias stated his concern with the Social Media feed of "Voices of West Liberty" calling it cesspool and provided a post from the social media post to Mayor and Council.

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Martinez communicated he does not personally know both but can see Ms. Espinoza and Ms. Smith are both qualified. Concern with reactions on social media, and how do we know her emotions will not impact decision making. Martinez recommends we need someone who is not going to act on emotions.

McFerren, communicated we need to move forward and focus on the work at hand. Dominguez communicated her support is still with Ms. Smith. Mayor McCullough communicated the article Ms. Smith created for the Index was very impressive and believes this would be a strong addition to the city to assist with translating City work.

Zacarias communicated importantly we need to show we are moving forward and is concerned the City has not made progress for the past 7 months with the Fire Department issues.

Appointment of Ashley Smith to the city council vacancy: Dominguez motioned Ashley Smith as the recommendation to be appointed, Second to the motion, Martinez. Mayor called for any other discussion. None.

Roll Call Vote:

Zacarias: No

Dominguez: Yes

McFerren: Yes

Martinez: Yes

Approved 3-1 the appointment of Ashley Smith to the City Council Vacant Seat.

City Staff will communicate the next steps with the appointment.

City Council adjourned the meeting at 6:02pm: Zacarias/McFerren 4-0

[\(91\) Special City Council Meeting \(July 25, 2022\) - YouTube](#)

Katherine McCullough, Mayor

Attest:

Lee Geertz, City Clerk