

MILFORD CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING
June 29, 2015

A Special Meeting of Milford City Council was held in the Joseph Ronnie Rogers Council Chambers at Milford City Hall, 201 South Walnut Street, Milford, Delaware on Monday, June 29, 2015.

PRESIDING: Mayor Bryan W. Shupe

IN ATTENDANCE: Councilpersons Christopher Mergner, Garrett Grier III, James Burk, Owen Brooks, Jr., Douglas Morrow, Sr., James Starling, Sr. and Katrina Wilson

City Manager Hans Medlarz and City Clerk/Recorder Terri Hudson

COUNSEL: City Solicitor David Rutt, Esquire

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Shupe called the Special Council Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Ms. Wilson moved to go into Executive Session reference below reasons, seconded by Mr. Grier:

Pursuant to 29 Del. C. §10004(b)(4) Strategy sessions, including those involving legal advice or opinion from an attorney-at-law, with respect to collective bargaining or pending or potential litigation (Union Contract/Collective Bargaining)

Pursuant to 29 Del. C. §10004(b)(9) Personnel matters in which the names, competency and abilities of individual employees or students are discussed (Employee Issue)

Motion carried.

Mayor Shupe recessed the Council Meeting at 6:01 p.m. for the purpose of an Executive Session as permitted by Delaware's Freedom of Information Act.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Council returned to open session at 6:59 p.m.

Mr. Grier moved to reject the union offer presented during mediation, seconded by Mr. Morrow. Motion carried with Mr. Brooks abstaining.

Mr. Grier moved to grant the pay increases in accordance with the expired collective bargaining agreement, seconded by Mr. Morrow. Motion carried with Mr. Brooks abstaining.

Mr. Morrow moved to accept City Manager Medlarz' letter of resignation effective July 1, 2015, seconded by Mr. Mergner. Motion carried with Mr. Brooks abstaining.

Ms. Wilson moved that Finance Director Jeff Portmann be appointed Interim City Manager effective July 1, 2015 with the conditions as agreed to, seconded by Mr. Mergner. Motion carried.

Ms. Wilson moved to approve the proposal submitted by Novak Consulting Group to perform a search for a new city manager, conditioned on the addition of the guarantee, and that the proposal of Municipal Solutions be accepted should Novak Consultants decline, seconded by Mr. Morrow. Motion carried.

Mr. Burk moved to approve the draft of the City Manager Employment description as amended, seconded by Mr. Grier. Motion carried.

Mr. Grier moved for approval of the City Manager Selection Committee consisting of Mayor Shupe, Vice Mayor Morrow, Interim City Manager Portmann and Electric Superintendent Rick Carmean, seconded by Mr. Burk. Motion carried.

Mr. Morrow moved to approve the different areas of responsibility related to Mayor Shupe, City Clerk Hudson and Planning/Zoning and Code Enforcement during the interim period, seconded by Ms. Wilson. Motion carried.

Mayor Shupe then read the following statement into record:

City Manager Hans Medlarz submitted his resignation to the City of Milford last week. City Council accepted his resignation and expressed their appreciation for his service to the City of Milford. Although Mr. Medlarz was Milford's City Manager for a short period of time, his engineering experience and prowess as a partner in Davis, Bowen and Friedel and as the Kent County Public Works Director, put our City on a much more stable foundation for the future. As City Manager, he had the ability to move forward many infrastructure projects that were critical to our residents and business community while preparing the community for future growth. It was an honor to work alongside and learn from Mr. Medlarz and I wish him the best in his future endeavors.

A Cincinnati-based executive search firm has been hired by Milford City Council to assist in recruiting a new City Manager. City Council voted unanimously Monday night to approve a contract with Novak Consulting Group, a public sector specialty firm.

The City of Milford will engage professionals that can help the City grow small business, expand the middle class job market and plan for growth and dependable infrastructure in the years to come. As these commitments continue to be critical to the members of City Council and myself, so are the opportunities for economic development, creation of a strong downtown and the development of future leaders. The City looks forward to engaging a new City Manager and is excited about the opportunities that she or he will provide.

During the interim period, the City's Chief Financial Officer Jeff Portmann will assume the role of Acting City Manager. Mr. Portmann is a CPA with more than twenty-five years' experience as the Finance Director with the City. During his tenure, he has worked with every City department and has an adept understanding of the challenges and opportunities that currently face the City of Milford.

Mr. Portmann has the support of myself, City Council and City Employees in our untiring effort to provide the high quality of service Milford is known for. His experience will help the City in its commitment to our residents, businesses and industries as we build onto what Mr. Medlarz began and chart a new course to move Milford forward. Our work with community partners to facilitate projects and keep programs on schedule will remain a priority.

He asked the media to meet with him following the adjournment for any additional questions.

Having no further business, Ms. Wilson moved to adjourn the Special Council Meeting, seconded by Mr. Morrow. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Terri K. Hudson, MMC
City Clerk/Recorder