

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE PORTAGE CITY COUNCIL
OF JULY 21, 2020**

Mayor Patricia Randall called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m. The meeting was held virtually in accordance with the Governor's Executive Directive 2020-02 in light of COVID-19. The following members were present in Chambers: Councilmember Lori Knapp and Mayor Patricia Randall. Councilmember Reid arrived at 5:49 p.m. The following members were present via the WebEx meeting platform: Councilmembers Chris Burns, Terry Urban, and Mayor Pro Tem Jim Pearson. Also in attendance were City Manager Joe La Margo, Deputy City Manager Mike Carroll, Deputy City Manager Adam Herringa, City Attorney Randall Brown (WebEx), Communications Manager Mary Beth Block, and City Clerk Erica Eklov.

Following the opening of the meeting and roll call, Mayor Randall explained the purpose and planned structure of the meeting. She noted that candidate Michael Slancik had since removed his application from consideration for the open City Council seat.

Each applicant was asked to briefly introduce themselves. Citing the partial virtual attendance, Mayor Randall then posed preset questions of each applicant. Following each candidate's response, Mayor Randall offered each of the Councilmembers an opportunity to ask a follow-up question.

- * 5:35 – 5:50 p.m., City Council questioned Tim Earl in person.
- * 5:55 – 6:11 p.m., City Council questioned Fernando Costas in person.
- * 6:18 – 6:40 p.m., City Council questioned Jonathan Peer via WebEx.
- * 6:45 – 7:05 p.m., City Council questioned Victor Ledbetter in person.
- * 7:10 – 7:30 p.m., City Council questioned Peter Strazdas in person.

Questions centered around candidates' attraction to filling the partial term on the Council, matters the City is handling well and potential enhancements, beneficial attributes for the Council, economic and retail development, awarding of contracts, attractions for families, city infrastructure for small business owners, handling of ordinances, bicycle and park amenities/improvements, technology improvements, collaboration with others, public safety oversight, community inclusion, and a general question regarding applicant opinion on countywide challenges for the city with its community partners.

Following the interview sessions, Mayor Randall inquired for each Councilmember's feedback on the candidates and potential next steps. Mayor Pro Tem Pearson stated all five candidates were of good quality with unique perspectives and he was not interested in narrowing the selection for a second interview.

Councilmembers Burns and Knapp echoed Mayor Pro Tem Pearson's statements. Councilmember Reid stated Mr. Earl's interview remained for her review albeit she was familiar with his work in the community. Ms. Reid further stated that she could not think of additional inquiries should a second interview be conducted. Councilmember Urban stated he was not ready to vote on any one candidate but was prepared to have a discussion and did not see a need for additional interviews. Mayor Randall concurred with the prior Councilmember statements. City Council then deliberated regarding candidate review prior to the Regular Meeting on July 28th.

At the request of Mayor Randall, Deputy City Manager Herringa clarified the voting process for the July 28th Regular Meeting and subsequent swearing-in procedure. Mayor Randall closed the meeting with a reminder to Council to relay the preferred method of attending the July 28th Meeting to the City Clerk.

ADJOURN: Mayor Randall adjourned the meeting at 7:53 p.m.

Erica L. Eklov, City Clerk