

SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

July 7, 2020

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NOTE: Due to public health and safety concerns related to COVID-19, this City Council Meeting was not an in-person meeting for the public. In accordance with the Governor's Executive Order 202.1, this meeting was held via videoconferencing using GoToWebinar.com. The public was notified in advance and provided appropriate information for attending.

Mayor Skelly called the meeting to order and asked the Clerk to call the roll:

PRESENT: Mayor Skelly, Councillors Dillabough, Fisher, Kennedy, Powers, Rishe and Skamperle

ABSENT: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. Mayor Skelly made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss the medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or corporation, and Councillor Skamperle seconded the motion.

The vote to adjourn to Executive Session was:

AYES: Mayor Skelly, Councillors Dillabough, Fisher, Kennedy, Rishe and Skamperle

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Councillor Powers*

CARRIED, 6 TO 0

**Due to technical difficulties with the audio, the vote from Councillor Powers was not audible.*

ITEMS FOR COUNCIL ACTION

1. Councillor Rishe moved a resolution to appoint an interim City Manager, and Councillor Dillabough seconded to wit:

A RESOLUTION TO APPOINT AN INTERIM CITY MANAGER

WHEREAS, the City of Ogdensburg presently has a vacancy in the position of City Manager, and

WHEREAS, the City Council wishes to appoint an Interim City Manager up to and until the appointment date of a permanent City Manager,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council's hiring freeze is hereby lifted for the position of City Manager for the purpose of hiring an Interim City Manager, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Stephen P. Jellie is hereby appointed Interim City Manager, effective July 9, 2020, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Interim City Manager shall earn a salary of \$1,500.00 per week with no health insurance and no State retirement beginning July 9, 2020 and ending upon the appointment of a permanent City Manager or until such other time as the City Council sees fit to end the appointment.

Councillor Skamperle said he disagrees with the process, and the job should have been posted since Sarah Purdy was placed on administrative leave. Councillor Skamperle said he plans to vote no and added his vote has nothing to do with the candidates. Councillor Skamperle explained many qualified residents did not get the opportunity to apply.

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Councillor Rishe said it is an interim appointment and only temporary for roughly six months. Councillor Rishe said they will advertise and search for a permanent City Manager unless they are impressed with this individual. Councillor Rishe said that determination will be up to Council. Councillor Rishe explained members of Council have spoken with several people over the past several months regarding a replacement for the City Manager position. Councillor Rishe said there have been a number of qualified people and added a few were older and not interested. Councillor Rishe welcomed Mr. Jellie and said he trusts he will work out well. Councillor Powers said he was opposed to the way the position was filled and the Executive Session held to conduct the interviews. Councillor Powers said there is legislation on the floor that prevents filling the position, and he disagrees with the process. Councillor Powers said the position should have been filled by someone within the City limits, and he plans to vote no.

Mayor Skelly said Mr. Jellie's family is from Ogdensburg and explained he had to leave Ogdensburg for employment reasons. Mayor Skelly said it is like a hometown boy who went out into the world, did a lot and is now coming back to Ogdensburg. Mayor Skelly explained Mr. Jellie still has ties to Ogdensburg and family here, but the main consideration was his qualifications. Mayor Skelly said he believes Mr. Jellie will make a difference in the City. Councillor Fisher said it is a temporary position, and Council will be searching for a permanent replacement. Councillor Fisher explained he checked references and asked for additional references. Councillor Fisher said he spoke with the former Watertown City Manager as well as the current Watertown City Manager, and both gave Mr. Jellie a great rating. Councillor Fisher said the City will do more with Mr. Jellie.

The vote was:

AYES: Mayor Skelly, Councillors Dillabough, Fisher and Rishe

NAYS: Councillors Kennedy, Powers and Skamperle

CARRIED, 4 TO 3

On a motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned.