

**AGENDA MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF ARCADIA
FRIDAY, MAY 15, 2015
1:00 P.M.**

The following minutes reflect action items of the City Council of the City of Arcadia. For a verbatim copy of the minutes, you may contact City Administration to obtain a copy of the recorded meeting.

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The Mayor called the meeting to order at approximately 1:00 p.m. and the following members and staff were present:

Arcadia City Council

Mayor Judy Wertz-Strickland
Deputy Mayor Alice Frierson
Councilmember Joseph E. Fink

Councilmember Susan Coker
Councilmember S. Delshay Turner

Arcadia City Staff

Interim City Administrator Beth Carsten
City Clerk Penny Delaney

Also in attendance was Kurt Bressner of the Florida City Management Association and the International City Management Association Senior Advisor Program.

ACTION ITEM

Selection of Candidate for City Administrator

Mayor Wertz-Strickland turned the meeting over to Mr. Bressner. Mr. Bressner thanked the community and the Council for the courtesy extended to him during the process as well as to all of the applicants. He stated that he thought they had a very good process and now it was down to making the decision regarding who the next City Administrator might be. He provided a recap of the evaluations that Council prepared as part of the evaluation for the interview process. He cautioned Council that they were not dealing totally in the realm of numbers, although the numbers would point them in a path, but ultimately it was a decision that Council had to make in terms of who the best fit was for the position. Mr. Bressner advised that Mr. Stewart came in number one (1) with a very high score and missed having a perfect score by four (4) points. He stated that four (4) out of five (5) of the Council stated yes to him being number one (1). He advised the number two (2) candidate would be between Julian Deleon and Dale Brown. Ms. Bressner stated that given the fact that Council had Mr. Stewart as the number one (1) candidate as far as the numbers were concerned, he asked how they felt about it. He pointed out that this assumed that Mr. Stewart would be willing and able to negotiate an agreement with

the City to come aboard which is why he always suggests that a number two (2) candidate be chosen as well.

Mayor Wertz-Strickland stated that she liked Mr. Stewart's handling of employees, his knowledge of budgets, roads and infrastructure, and his interaction with other organizations within the County and the City. Councilmember Fink stated that Mr. Stewart explained why he would feel comfortable here and summed up the needs of the City. Deputy Mayor Frierson stated that she felt he interviewed excellent and that he excels in PR. She stated she would have liked him to have more experience in the issues that the City is faced with than he has, but she felt he would fit into the community very well. She stated he was not her first choice and Mr. Bressner stated that he knew Mr. Brown was her first choice, but he lost ground in his interview. Deputy Mayor Frierson agreed, but she felt his experience was awesome. She felt he grasped the problems that the City has and Mr. Bressner agreed that he closed strong. Councilmember Coker stated Mr. Stewart had made a statement that the City was at a pivotal time in our town and that from this point forward we have an opportunity to make a difference that will affect us for many years down the road and for her, that hit the nail on the head. Councilmember Turner stated that Mr. Stewart was his number one (1) choice and there was something about him that he liked.

Mr. Bressner stated that regarding numbers, the Council's second choice was Mr. Deleon. He advised there were some tie votes between Mr. Deleon and Mr. Brown. He stated the overall point spread between the two of them was very insignificant, 1.1 point. He asked Council who would be the more suitable person in terms of their experience, their background, their approach, their style, and their personality as to City Administrator. He advised that Mr. Deleon presented himself very well in his interview and had good experience. Mr. Bressner pointed out that Mr. Deleon was very honest regarding the tough decisions that he had to make at his current position. He stated that he came across as being a decisive individual who is not afraid of making changes. Mr. Bressner asked Council if they wanted someone who would come in and make rapid changes or someone who would be more deliberative and slower pace on making some changes. He stated all three (3) were qualified and Mr. Hoffman will be ready in two (2) to three (3) years and felt it was a good experience for him.

Deputy Mayor Frierson stated that she felt Mr. Deleon was very strong minded and at times a little over-confident of himself and wasn't sure he would pick his battles wisely before he jumped into something. Councilmember Fink stated Mr. Deleon was his number two (2) because he felt they needed someone who knows Florida and the area. He stated that although Mr. Brown scored well with him, there would be a specific amount of time for him to catch up to Florida. Councilmember Fink stated that many of the issues that Mr. Deleon spoke of were the City's issues that we have here. Councilmember Coker stated that Mr. Deleon was the only one who addressed roads to her. She referenced his innovative projects and the issues he has accomplished in Avon Park. Mayor Wertz-Strickland stated that there were things that Mr. Deleon stated that she liked, but there were some questions that she did not feel that he gave very conclusive answers to. She felt Mr. Brown was very forthcoming with answers, but a stumbling block for him would be getting to know Florida law. She stated that he would be her second choice. Deputy Mayor Frierson stated she didn't have a problem with Mr. Deleon's background in Avon Park, but she was concerned with some of the answers that she got from him and didn't

feel his public relations were as good as Mr. Brown's and Mr. Stewart's. Mr. Bressner pointed out that Councilmember Turner's second choice was Mr. Brown. Councilmember Turner stated that regarding Mr. Deleon, there was just something about him that he didn't like.

Mr. Bressner asked that in the event Council selected Mr. Stewart as the number one (1) candidate, would they support Mr. Brown to be their number two (2) choice. Deputy Mayor Frierson stated she would support that. She stated that she wasn't concerned about the Florida Law issue because the candidates were so smart and experienced; she felt they would pick it up in no time and Mr. Bressner agreed and added that Senior Advisors had offered to help Mr. Brown get acclimated to Florida. He added that Mr. Deleon had accomplished a lot in a very short period of time and he had been very courageous and should be honored for that. He stated it was a question ultimately of who was the best fit for the City. He restated that the Council's numbers said Mr. Stewart was number one (1) and Mr. Deleon was second, but their comments did not necessarily support those numbers with respect to number two (2). He stated they seemed to be more for Mr. Brown for number two (2). He then turned it back to Council for motions.

Councilmember Coker made a motion that they nominate Terry Stewart for the position of City Administrator and authorize staff to enter into agreement negotiations and Councilmember Turner seconded the motion. No discussion followed and it was unanimously, 5/0, approved. Mayor Wertz-Strickland passed the gavel to Deputy Mayor Frierson and made a motion to enter into negotiations with Mr. Brown to fill the second position in case they do not complete negotiations with Mr. Stewart and Deputy Mayor Frierson seconded the motion. No discussion followed and it was 3/2 approved with Councilmember Fink and Councilmember Coker casting the dissenting votes. Mr. Bressner wished Council the best of luck in their negotiations with Mr. Stewart and Council thanked Mr. Bressner for all his help.

PUBLIC

None

ADJOURN

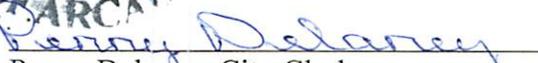
Councilmember Coker made a motion to adjourn and Councilmember Fink seconded the motion. No discussion followed and it was unanimously, 5/0, approved. Having no further business at this time, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:36 P.M.

ADOPTED THIS 2nd DAY OF June, 2015.

By:


 Judy Wertz-Strickland, Mayor




 Penny Delaney, City Clerk