

WORK SESSION

APRIL 15, 2008

A Work Session of the Arcadia City Council was held on April 15, 2008, at 5:00 p.m. in the Margaret Way Building at 23 North Polk Avenue. Council members attending were Goodman, Fazzone, Johnson, Heine and Dixon. Also in attendance were Administrator Strube, Attorney Holloman, Special Projects Coordinator Hewett, and Recorder Baumann.

Mayor Goodman called the Work Session to order and stated the purpose of this work session is to develop a list of questions to be used when interviewing candidates for the position of City Attorney. Mayor Goodman presented each Council member with a schedule of interview times and a sample list of questions she had prepared.

Mayor Goodman then read from the City Code the portion concerning the position of city attorney.

Attorney Holloman addressed the Council and suggested that the Attorney should familiarize himself with the quasi-judicial procedures; Government in the Sunshine Laws, and Public Records Laws. The attorney would also need to become familiar with Florida Statute 166, and 112, the City Charter, City Code, City Election Code and voting conflicts. He noted that most attorneys have some contract law knowledge; however, in special issues such as Workers' Compensation it would be in the City's best interest to hire an attorney that specializes in that field. He noted that the city attorney should not be expected to be an expert in all areas of the law.

Councilman Johnson would like to ask "where do you see yourself in the next five years" and, "what do you see as your role when handling issues concerning ordinances and codes".

Attorney Holloman stated that the attorney must always advise the Council "in the sunshine" unless an executive session has been called; however, those issues would need to be researched carefully.

Councilman Heine expressed concern that two (2) of the candidates are not residents of DeSoto County noting that he would like to see a local attorney. Councilman Johnson noted that if we are limiting this to someone in DeSoto County, we have already excluded two (2) candidates. Administrator Strube suggested one of the questions should be how the attorney would handle the issue of not being at a meeting. Councilman Dixon stated that the Council has already voted to advertise outside the local area for candidates.

Councilman Johnson believes that all candidates must be asked the same question with no diversion from the list of questions.

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Councilman Fazzone asked Attorney Holloman how invasive the financial disclosure requirement was for an attorney to which he stated that it was a very simple form.

Councilman Dixon would like to ask "how much previous city government experience do you have". He would also like to know if the City would be hiring the individual or their firm stating that someone in a larger firm might have specialty attorneys in the group which could prove to be beneficial to the City should an additional attorney be needed.

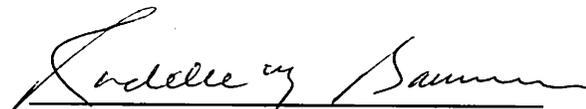
Councilman Johnson would like to ask "how would you foster an attitude of acceptance between yourself and the attorney for the County and School Board". He asked what type of guidance this person would be receiving. Administrator Strube stated that the new attorney could meet with each Council member separately to discuss what they expected from him noting that they could not meet in a group unless it was during a meeting which had been properly noticed otherwise it would violate the "Government in the Sunshine Law".

Special Coordinator Hewett would like to know if the new attorney would be liberal or conservative regarding Code Enforcement issues.

Councilman Fazzone would like to ask what the attorney believes to be the proper role in dealing with the City Administrator.

Mayor Goodman asked Recorder Baumann to read the list of questions the Council had compiled. She then asked that Ms. Baumann produce a list of questions from those on the list provided in addition to those requested by Council and to provide the list to Council members prior to the interview session. Councilman Johnson requests that a rating system from one through five (1-5) and a section for comments be added to the list of questions. Mayor Goodman asked how the questions would be asked and after discussion the Council request that Recorder Baumann read the questions during the interviews.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.


CITY RECORDER


PRESIDENT