

WORK SESSION
DECEMBER 16, 2008

A Work Session of the Arcadia City Council was held on December 16, 2008 at 5: 00 p.m. in the Margaret Way Building at 23 North Polk Avenue. Council members attending were: Fazzone, Dixon, Johnson, Goodman and Heine. Also in attendance were: Administrator Strube, Attorney Henbest, Marshall Lee, Parks and Recreation Supervisor Waters, Special Projects Coordinator Hewett, and Recorder Baumann.

Pledge Allegiance to the Flag.

Mayor Fazzone called the Special Work Session to order and stated the purpose of the work session is to discuss the appointment of an interim Administrator upon the retirement of Administrator Strube on December 31, 2008. The interim Administrator will continue in this position until the position of City Administrator is filled.

Councilman Johnson asked if any other individuals were interested in being considered for the position and stated that he had received a call and a letter regarding the position. He then asked Administrator Strube if he had a list of individuals who were interested in the position. Administrator Strube stated that he does not have a list and no one has contacted him other than those who were discussed at the last Council meeting. Councilman Johnson stated he only has information on Ms. Linda Williams and Mr. Joe Fink.

Councilwoman Goodman stated she had received a letter from Mr. Fink, a letter in support of Mr. Fink and also information from Ms. Williams.

Mayor Fazzone asked if the information was written to which several members of the Council replied that they had all received written communication regarding Mr. Fink and a phone call from Ms. Williams. Mayor Fazzone stated that he had not received a call from Ms. Williams.

Deputy Mayor Dixon reported on several names those being: a current employee Administrative Assistant Ms. Joyce O'steen, Mr. Tice, a retired CPA, Mr. Fink and Ms. Williams. It was noted that Mr. Tice is not interested in the job; however if the City needs him he is willing to help or assist on a voluntary basis. Deputy Mayor Dixon stated that Ms. Williams is interested only on an interim basis she is also retired and not looking for a permanent position. He noted that she previously worked for the state for over thirty (30) years and in upper management for over twenty (20) years. He stated that he had done some research on Mr. Fink noting that he does have a degree in Management and eight (8) years of governmental experience as a former city commissioner for the City of North Port. It was noted that Mr. Fink was not voted out of office as North Port has term limits. Deputy Mayor Dixon stated that he mentioned Ms. O'Steen at the last meeting noting that she has been with the City for over twenty (20) years and should be able to take over if necessary. He stated that she is willing to fill in; however she is not interested in the position. He wanted to make it clear that Ms. O'Steen did not request to be put in as the interim. .

WORK SESSION
December 16, 2008
Continued

Councilwoman Goodman also noted that Special Projects Coordinator, Ernie Hewett had also been mentioned in the previous Council meeting.

Councilman Johnson reported that he has served on committees with Mr. Fink noting that Mr. Fink has chaired the Governmental Relations Committee for the Florida League of Cities. He also stated that Mr. Fink has written and presented resolutions for the State. He has also served as a board member which allows for making contacts with the state department. Councilman Johnson feels that these contacts could be a plus for the City.

Councilman Heine stated that he spoke with Ms. O'Steen and that she knows what needs to be done. He also noted that Administrator Strube has offered his services after December 31, 2008 on a contractual basis. Councilman Heine stated that there are several ongoing issues with the water and sewer systems and he feels that it would be best for someone who is already familiar with these issues to be in the position.

Mayor Fazzone reported that he has spoken with Administrator Strube and it appears that everything is caught up until March at which time he expects to have a new administrator in place. He stated that he is aware of Mr. Fink's credentials and noted that Ms. O'Steen is very busy with her current job and would need to put in additional hours if selected. Mayor Fazzone stated that he is comfortable with anyone who had been mentioned.

Recorder Baumann reported that currently fifteen (15) applications that have been received and approximately thirty (30) days remained on the advertisement for the position.

Councilman Johnson asked Administrator Strube for a suggested estimated cost for an interim Administrator. Administrator Strube reported that he receives about \$35.00 per hour and suggested \$30.00 per hour. Councilman Johnson thought \$30.00 per hour was too high and suggested \$25.00 per hour would be a fair offer for an interim Administrator. Councilwoman Goodman and Deputy Mayor Dixon both agreed.

Johnson moved to hire Mr. Fink as interim City Administrator at the rate of \$25.00 per hour; seconded by Dixon and carried. This action will be ratified at the Council's regular meeting scheduled for 6:00 p.m. today.

Mr. Fink addressed the Council and stated that he appreciates the Council's confidence in him.

Councilwoman Goodman stated that she is very impressed with Mr. Fink's knowledge and expertise. She commented as to newspaper articles written by Mr. Fink, that "not all medicine taste good", but it is often needed to get better. She stated that she spoke to everyone except Mr. Tice and feels that anyone of them could have done the job; however she believes that Mr. Fink's background will be an asset to the City.

WORK SESSION
December 16, 2008
Continued

Mr. Fink addressed the Council and stated that it will be a difficult task as he is used to being the elected official. He believes that his job will be to do exactly what the Council wants him to do in order to implement and execute the Council's vision. He asked to meet one-on-one with each Council member in order to discuss their expectations of him and the direction the Council wants him to pursue.

Attorney Henbest will prepare an agreement between the City and Mr. Fink.

Administrator Strube stated he would also be available for meeting with Mr. Fink.

Recorder Baumann asked if the Council would like a copy of the applications received to date to which they stated that they would. She then presented a packet to each Council member.

There being no further business, the Special Work Session was adjourned.


CITY RECORDER


PRESIDENT