



MINUTES OF MENDOTA SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Special Meeting

October 29, 2018

Meeting called to order by Mayor Castro at 3:00 p.m.

Roll Call

Council Members Present: Mayor Rolando Castro, Mayor Pro Tem Victor Martinez, Councilors Jesse Mendoza, Oscar Rosales, and Robert Silva

Council Members Absent: None

Flag salute led by Mayor Castro

FINALIZE THE AGENDA

1. Adjustments to Agenda.
2. Adoption of final Agenda.

A motion was made by Councilor Silva to adopt the agenda, seconded by Councilor Rosales; unanimously approved (5 ayes).

CITIZENS ORAL AND WRITTEN PRESENTATIONS

None offered.

BUSINESS

1. Council discussion and consideration to appoint Cristian Gonzalez as City Manager.

Mayor Castro introduced the item and City Attorney Kinsey reported that City Council conducted a performance evaluation of Interim City Manager Gonzalez during closed session at the previous City Council meeting; that the City Council directed staff to add an item to the agenda at a future Council meeting to consider appointing Mr. Gonzalez

as the City Manager; that his office has prepared an employment agreement between the City and Mr. Gonzalez to designate him as the City Manager; and that the proposed agreement is similar to the Interim City Manager agreement.

Discussion was held on the proposed agreement, including that Mr. Gonzalez would continue to serve as the City's Public Works and Planning Director; the Council needing to thoroughly read the agreement before making a decision on the matter; the provisions contained under the Compensation and Terms of Service section of the agreement, including the annual salary and proposed increases; the proposed annual increases being dependent on a satisfactory evaluation of the employee; the severance benefits, including what is considered three times the total monthly value of salary; whether the Council needs to make a decision regarding the contract at the present time; how the language contained in the proposed agreement was created; the savings that the City will realize by having Mr. Gonzalez oversee three departments; the qualifications of previous City Managers; where Mr. Gonzalez currently resides; whether Mr. Gonzalez is capable of performing the duties that are required of him by the agreement; his lack of City Manager experience; ensuring that the City Manager fosters positive relationships with the community; allowing Mr. Gonzalez the opportunity to serve as the City Manager; and the agreement being at "at-will" contract.

Sergio Valdez (325 Pucheu Street) – inquired as to the terms of the severance benefits; the numerous projects that are planned or in progress, and the need to ensure their completion; whether the position was advertised; and the many responsibilities that Mr. Gonzalez will have if he is appointed City Manager.

Discussion was held on the proposed agreement being at "at-will" contract, and a performance evaluation being required on an annual basis per the agreement.

Ghasan Ali Ahmed (1191 7th Street) – stated that he was able to easily communicate with Mr. Gonzalez regarding the process of beautifying his business; the barriers that exist in regards to communicating with the City on how to proceed with projects; and stated that the City will be able to accomplish a lot with Mr. Gonzalez as its City Manager.

Albert Escobedo (807 Kate Street) – stated that he supports the appointment of Mr. Gonzalez to the position of City Manager; that Mr. Gonzalez understands the needs of the community; the benefits of promoting from within the agency; and that the City Council should give Mr. Gonzalez the opportunity to serve as the City Manager.

Jose Gutierrez (647 Perez Street) – stated that he supports the appointment Mr. Gonzalez to the position of City Manager; that Mr. Gonzalez motivated him to become involved with the community; and that it is better to promote someone from within the agency.

Joseph Amador (1890 7th street) – stated that Council Members have the duty of asking questions regarding the issues that they face; and that previous City Manager

Gabriel Gonzalez did not have City Manager experience, but he was given the opportunity to serve in that capacity.

Debbie Macias (American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees) – stated that she has no objection regarding the appointment of Mr. Gonzalez to the position of City Manager; that she does object the lack of a separate Public Works Director; that the approval of the item will take away the chain of command for the Public Works Department; that the elimination of a sole leadership position for the department is a mistake; and requested that the City Council look into other options that are available, such as hiring a separate Public Works Director.

Kevin Romero (160 Tuft Street) – stated that Mr. Gonzalez has helped him with a variety of issues; that Mr. Gonzalez is capable of performing the duties that will be required of him; that he understands that the Council needs to ensure that Mr. Gonzalez is capable of performing the duties; and requested that the Council take into consideration Mr. Gonzalez’s ability to lead the City in a positive direction.

Carlos Nunez (948 Oller Street) – stated that he supports the appointment Mr. Gonzalez to the position of City Manager; that he and Mr. Gonzalez share similar business ideas; that he believes that Mr. Gonzalez is capable of performing the duties that are required of him; and that proposed annual salary does not equal the amount of work that he is able to provide to the community.

Discussion was held on the Council considering the proposed agreement.

A motion was made by Councilor Rosales to appoint Mr. Cristian Gonzalez as the City Manager for the City of Mendota and approve the proposed agreement, with the allowance of minor modifications, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Martinez; unanimously approved (5 ayes).

2. Council to discuss options for health insurance coverage for City Council Members.


Mayor Castro introduced the item and Director of Administrative Services Lekumberry summarized the report including that council was informed previously by staff that they would no longer be eligible for health insurance coverage; what is considered an “eligible” employee; that the City has provided health insurance coverage to city council in the past, but its inability to continue to do so due to the City Council position being considered a part-time position; the three options that are available to the Council and their fiscal impact; and staff’s recommendation to eliminate health insurance coverage for City Council members due to financial and timing reasons.

Discussion was held on the City Council needing to make important decisions to save funds.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Martinez to approve the elimination of health care coverage for the City Council, and maintain current benefits for eligible City employees, seconded by Councilor Mendoza; unanimously approved (5 ayes).

ADJOURNMENT

With no more business to be brought before the Council, a motion for adjournment was made at 3:40 p.m. by Councilor Mendoza, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Martinez; unanimously approved (5 ayes).



Rolando Castro, Mayor

ATTEST:



Matt Flood, City Clerk

