



1. CALL TO ORDER

Present: Bacon, Vogt, Gilmore, Schoonover, Felter, Vakas, and Essex

2. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Consideration of motion to recess into an executive session to discuss the following items:

Personnel matters of non-elected personnel regarding the City Manager position pursuant to the exception provided in K.S.A.75-4319(b)(1).

Motion by Vogt, seconded by Gilmore, to recess into an executive session to discuss personnel matters of non-elected personnel regarding the City Manager position pursuant to the exception provided in K.S.A.75-4319(b)(1) for 15 minutes with the open meeting resuming in Council Chambers at 3:45 PM. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: Bacon, Vogt, Gilmore, Schoonover, Felter, Vakas, and Essex

The open meeting resumed in the Council Chamber at 3:45 and Mayor Bacon indicated there was a need for 10 additional minutes. A motion by Vogt, seconded by Gilmore to recess back into an executive session was made and passed 4-0.

3. RECONVENE FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Vogt, seconded by Gilmore, to authorize staff to proceed with the strategies discussed with and directed by the governing body. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: Bacon, Vogt, Gilmore, and Essex

No: Schoonover, Felter, and Vakas

Mayor Bacon announced Michael Wilkes, City Manager, had agreed to postpone his retirement to support continuity during the coming months when the City is moving forward with several significant projects. He indicated concern had been expressed that a transition at this time would negatively effect progress. He outlined several projects that are in various stages of

development, including the I-35 and Santa Fe construction project. He said in light of these concerns, the Council would suspend the process of hiring a new city manager.

Councilmember Schoonover expressed his disappointment in the decision. He indicated through a nationwide search, a competent candidate had been identified and believed that the Council should have hired Deputy City Manager, Susan Sherman, for the role of City Manager. He said he believed the council had usurped the interview process and didn't believe there was any reason to take the action it took. He said the council could have done nothing and allowed the new council to make the decision.

Councilmember Felter said she is disappointed but not hopeless with change on the horizon. She said she appreciated the leadership of Michael Wilkes who had identified an outstanding leader who she believed the council should have hired for this position. She said she also wanted to make note of the challenges women face in leadership.

Councilmember Vakas said he echoed the comments of Councilmembers Schoonover and Felter. He said the City has stability and a quality city manager who is willing to stay in the position. He said he believed there is a path forward and once the new council is seated they will see where it takes them.

4. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 P.M.

Brenda D. Swearingian

City Clerk