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KENNEDALE CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING | JANUARY 3, 2022 AT 6:00 PM
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
405 MUNICIPAL DRIVE, KENNEDALE, TX 76060

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Linda Rhodes called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor Linda Rhodes; Mayor Pro Tem Jan Joplin, Place 1; Gary Mitchell, Place 2; Austin Degenhart, Place 4; James Connor, Place 5; **ABSENT:** NONE (Place 3 is vacant at this time); **STAFF:** *Interim City Manager Leslie E. Galloway, Director of HR and Administrative Services Caroline Green, City Attorney Drew Larkin*

Mayor Linda Rhodes called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., noting that members of the public may join in person or access a live feed, but the virtual forum does not allow for public comment.

II. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Council recessed to Executive at 6:01 p.m.

- A. **PURSUANT TO §551.071** — Consultation with the City Attorney pertaining to any matter in which the duty of the City Attorney under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct may conflict with the Open Meetings Act, including discussion of any item posted on the agenda, legal issues regarding the Open Meetings Act, and the following:

1. City Manager

- B. **PURSUANT TO §551.074** — Deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline or dismissal of a public officer or employee; or to hear a complaint or charge against an officer or employee; and the following:

1. City Manager

III. SPECIAL SESSION

Mayor Rhodes reconvened the open meeting at 7:12 p.m.

- A. Consider overriding Mayor Linda Rhodes' December 21, 2021 veto of Council action on December 14, 2021, "to appoint Brooks Williams as City Manager and approve the contract with Brooks Williams, both the appointment and approval of the contract contingent upon completion of a background check satisfactory to City Council and execution of the contract by both parties"

Mayor Linda Rhodes announced that, as of today at 4:50 P.M., Mr. Williams had withdrawn his candidacy for City Manager and that, with that withdrawal, there is no need to consider overriding the veto, which was now a moot point. Rhodes added that she had shared with the Council her reasons for the veto and now wanted to share those reasons that were publicly releasable, including lack of a selection based upon years of experience as a City Manager, lack of years of experience in a municipality, and lack of a completed employment application.

There was no action on this item.

- B. Discuss and consider offering staff direction regarding the process for filling a vacancy in City Council Place 3, following the resignation of Julie Jacobson on December 7, 2021

Mayor Rhodes stated that the vacancy could be filled either by appointment or via special election on the May ballot. Rhodes added that, if the Council chose the appointment process, applications were recently accepted for Place 4, and that she would recommend taking the second choice from that candidate pool.

Councilmember Connor stated that he would prefer allowing the citizens choose via the election ballot. Councilmember Degenhart noted that, as he was one of the candidates for Place 4, he was unfamiliar with the other candidates, but would appreciate the opportunity to conduct follow-up interviews with the top candidates from that process. Councilmember Mitchell and Mayor Pro Tem Joplin stated their desire to appoint the second choice from that process – Kenneth Michels. Mayor Rhodes noted that Mr. Michels was still willing to serve on Council.

Councilmember Connor stated his support for Mr. Michels, but reiterated his desire to see this vacancy filled via election rather than appointment. Mayor Rhodes noted that the Charter does provide for appointment by the Council to fill this vacancy. Councilmember Degenhart stated his intention to meet with Mr. Michels before the next regular meeting.

Motion Approve. Action Approve directing staff to move forward with the necessary process for the Council to consider at their next regular meeting the appointment of Mr. Kenneth Michels, pending a successful meeting with Councilmember Degenhart, **Moved By** Mayor Pro Tem Joplin, **Seconded By** Mitchell. **Motion passed 3-1**, with Connor voting against.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Motion Adjourn. Action Adjourn, Moved By Mitchell, **Seconded By** Degenhart. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Mayor Rhodes adjourned the meeting at 7:29 p.m.

APPROVED:


LINDA RHODES, MAYOR

ATTEST:


LESLIE E. GALLOWAY, CITY SECRETARY

