

CITY OF McMinnville
MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL CALLED CITY COUNCIL MEETING
of the McMinnville City Council
Held at the Kent L. Taylor Civic Hall on Gormley Plaza
McMinnville, Oregon

Wednesday, January 17, 2018 at 5:30 p.m.

Presiding: Scott Hill, Mayor

Recording Secretary: Melissa Grace

Councilors:	<u>Present</u>	<u>Excused Absence</u>
	Remy Drabkin	Ward One Councilor – Vacancy
	Adam Garvin	
	Kellie Menke, Council President	
	Alan Ruden	
	Wendy Stassens	

Also present were City Manager Jeff Towery, City Attorney David Koch, Planning Director Heather Richards, Parks and Recreation Director Susan Muir, Library Director Jenny Berg, Fire Chief Rich Leipfert, and Tom Henderson, *News Register*.

AGENDA ITEM

1. CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Hill called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m. and welcomed all in attendance.
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Council President Menke led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3.

INTERVIEWS FOR CITY COUNCIL WARD ONE VACANCY

The following questions were asked of each candidate.

1. Tell us about yourself.
2. Why are you interested in serving as a Council?
3. What do you think is the most positive attribute of the City of McMinnville?
4. What is your understanding of the role of a Councilor and what has prepared you to be a Councilor?
5. What is your understanding of a Council Member's role in land use decisions/ appeals?
6. Share with us your assessment of any recent decision of the City Council.
7. What do you feel is the most critical issue facing the City of McMinnville today?
8. Describe your understanding of the time commitment associated with serving on the City Council; and are you prepared to meet it?
9. Do you have any questions for us?

Applicant Leanna Gautney was asked the questions first. She responded in detail to each question. Ms. Gautney shared her history and background.

Councilor Drabkin explained that being a City Councilor involves committee work, subcommittee work and responding to citizens. She explained that one should expect to serve at least 15-20 hours per week. Ms. Gautney responded that she is used to working abnormal hours and she has the time available and a flexible schedule.

Councilor Drabkin asked Ms. Gautney: How do you feel you would respond if you found yourself in a position where you were conflicted between your constituents and your own desire or moral compass? Ms. Gautney responded that in her experience working with government she has had several experiences with having to put her beliefs aside and listen first and believes it is good not respond immediately until thought has been put into the response.

Councilor Drabkin also asked Ms. Gautney: Would you, or how would you, respond to the negative attention that you will undoubtedly get? Ms. Gautney stated that she would not engage in the debate through email. She noted that through her experience in government and law enforcement she has encountered many people that are unhappy. Ms. Gautney stated that people should bring up their concerns and ideas and that they should be addressed. She stated that one should take the best foot forward.

Mayor Hill shared his thoughts about local government and the level of accountability that there is. He explained that the City is in the process of going through a strategic planning process. He stated that there are many needs and limited resources. Mayor Hill asked Ms. Gautney how she would address the various issues coming before Council during the strategic planning process. Ms. Gautney shared that she is strong in strategic planning. She explained that the numbers need to be looked at, the forecast should be reviewed and each piece should be considered in relation to how it effects the whole picture.

Ms. Gautney thanked the Council for their time. She asked about how often Council meets and how often the Council has special called meetings.

Mayor Hill shared that one of the greatest things about the City is all of the volunteers.

Applicant Sal Peralta was asked the same questions. He responded in detail to each question. Mr. Peralta shared his history and background.

Council President Menke asked about implementation of certain services. Mr. Peralta explained that one should first go to the people to see what they want and then find revenue streams to implement the concept.

Councilor Ruden shared that he has enjoyed getting to know a diverse group of people as a Councilor. He asked how Mr. Peralta's strengths would add to the mix of Council and Staff. Mr. Peralta replied that he has been the glue to bring people together in many of the organizations that he has been a part of. He shared that he has been a bit more controversial because of the role he is in for his job. He stated that his preference is collaboration.

Councilor Garvin asked Mr. Peralta about the time commitment. Mr. Peralta responded that he is prepared to take on the time commitment. He has spoken with family and work and they support the time commitment.

Councilor Drabkin asked Mr. Peralta if he sees the Councilor position as a partisan position. Mr. Peralta shared that he does not at all view the Council position as a partisan position and much of his work has been to make government less partisan.

Councilor Drabkin asked Mr. Peralta: How do you feel you would respond if you found yourself in a position where you were conflicted between your constituents and your own desire or moral compass? Where do you see your obligation? To the position or moral compass? Mr. Peralta responded that he tries to follow the data and put trust in subject matter experts, trust and verifies, makes his best judgement on the various interests, and noted that he feels that there is often not a lot of black and white in policy decisions. Mr. Peralta shared that in his role he often times has to vigorously advocate for positions that he may not personally agree with, and so he feels he has some ability to set aside his own personal opinion in order to meet a goal.

Mayor Hill commented on the role of local government. He explained that the City is in the process of going through a strategic planning process. He stated that there are many needs and limited resources. Mayor Hill asked Mr. Peralta how he would address the various issues coming before Council during the strategic planning process and what strengths he would bring to the process. Mr. Peralta responded that he would maintain focus and stick with organizational goals. He stated that a lot of his work has involved in strategic planning; it's been project based and involves meeting goals set in the plan. Mr. Peralta shared that he usually comes to a shared vision.

Mr. Peralta thanked the Council and shared that this is the opportunity of a lifetime to him.

Mayor Hill noted that Ms. Gautney and Mr. Peralta are strong, quality candidates.

Discussion ensued regarding the strengths of each candidate. It was noted that Ms. Gautney was prepared, has a strong strategic planning background, financial background, is empathetic, strategic, and has government experience. Council highlighted Mr. Peralta's qualifications noting that he was prepared, also has experience with strategic planning and government, likes data and loves to dig deep, builds consensus, collaborates and went very deep on specific issues. Council agreed that both candidates were very good options.

The Council agreed that Mr. Peralta would have less of a learning curve based on his previous experiences.

Councilor Ruden encouraged both candidates to run in the General Election in November for the Ward One Council position.

Council encouraged Ms. Gautney to find ways to become involved with the City as she has wonderful skills to put to use.

Mayor Hill felt that it would be a split decision for him and stated the Council is willing to teach and assist. He commented on the Council's working agreement.

Council President Menke moved to appoint the open Council position of Ward 1 to Sal Peralta; SECONDED by Councilor Drabkin. Motion PASSED unanimously.

It was noted that the Oath of Office would take place at the next meeting.

A Recess was called at 7:11 p.m.

Mayor Hill called the meeting back to order at 7:20 p.m.

4. STRATEGIC PLANNING UPDATE

City Manager Jeff Towery shared that a lead team recently met with the strategic planning consultants. He displayed a chart of the process and reviewed the key dates. Mr. Towery noted that the March 2nd strategic planning session is in lieu of the annual goal setting meeting. He shared that the consultants will launch a values survey and that several focus groups will be convened during the process.

5. ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Hill adjourned the Special Called City Council Meeting at 7:31 p.m.

s/s Melissa Grace
Melissa Grace, City Recorder