

September 11, 2010 Special Meeting Minutes

ALLIANCE CITY COUNCIL

SPECIAL MEETING, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2010

STATE OF NEBRASKA)
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COUNTY OF BOX BUTTE) §
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CITY OF ALLIANCE)

The Alliance City Council met in a Special Meeting, September 11, 2010 at 8:00 a.m., at the Library/Learning Center, 1750 Sweetwater Avenue. A notice of meeting was published in the Alliance Times Herald on September 8, 2010. The notice stated the date, hour and place of the meeting, that the meeting was open to the public, and that an agenda of the meeting, kept continuously current, was available for public inspection at the office of the City Clerk in City Hall.

Present at the meeting were Mayor Yeager, Council members Kusek, Benzel, Feldges, and Rowley. Also present were Interim City Manager Miller, Assistant to the City Manager Smith, and City Clerk Jines.

The Special Meeting began with Mayor Yeager making the Open Meetings Law announcement and indicated the required posting was on the west wall of the room.

- The City Council began the morning session with Richard Fursman giving a brief overview of the interview process for the City Manager position. Each candidate will be asked to give a four minute presentation regarding fiscal sustainability at the beginning of their interview. Candidates were allowed to use a power point and to provide a cover page hand-out.

The candidates were interviewed in the following order: Harold Stewart, Stephen Giesbrecht, David Torgler, and J.D. Cox. Each candidate was asked the following questions:

- ◆ Describe your approach to General Fund and Capital Improvement Budgeting. (What steps and considerations do you take to build the budget?)
- ◆ In what ways can strategic planning help you with your role as well as the Council, community, and staff?
- ◆ Describe an infrastructure development or redevelopment project you were part of.
- ◆ The City is interested in redeveloping the downtown business district. What experience would you bring to the table that could provide insight with this effort?

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- ◆ If reorganization of City services or a department or function were needed (perhaps due to politics, budget cuts or changes in the population of the community) what would you take into account before during and after reorganization?
- ◆ Describe your leadership and management approach as City Manager.
- ◆ How do you promote a great work atmosphere and accountability simultaneously?
- ◆ Describe a situation that tested your character and/or ethics. What was the challenge and how did you handle it?
- ◆ Describe your ideal working relationship with the Council. (Please include communication, leadership roles, and team concept)
- ◆ How have you become part of the community in other positions? It is necessary or helpful in your role as a City Manager? Why or why not?
- ◆ Based on what you know about the community thus far, what do you think would be a challenge for you?
- ◆ Profile insights. Do you have any reflections on these suggestions or other comments you would like to make about your profile?
- ◆ What interests you about coming to Alliance?
- ◆ Are there any other comments you would like to share with us?
- ◆ If you were offered the position, would you accept it?
- ◆ Do you have questions?

Following the formal interviews Council took a lunch break which began at 12:20 p.m. with a motion from Councilman Kusek. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Rowley.

Roll call with the following results:

Voting aye: Kusek, Rowley, Yeager, Feldges, Benzel.

Voting nay: None.

Motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilman Kusek, seconded by Councilwoman Rowley to reconvene into open session at 1:00 p.m.

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Roll call with the following results:

Voting aye: Rowley, Yeager, Feldges, Benzel, Kusek.

Voting nay: None.

Motion carried.

Councilman Kusek motioned pursuant to Section 84-1410 Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska 1943 that the Alliance City Council hold a closed session for the purpose of reviewing results of the department head interview sessions and reviewing the process with Richard Fursman. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Rowley.

Roll call with the following results:

Voting aye: Yeager, Feldges, Benzel, Kusek, Rowley.

Voting nay: None.

Motion carried.

The closed session began at 1:03 p.m. Those present at the closed session were Cultural & Leisure Services Director Brown, Community Development Director Houck, Electric Superintendent Heinrich, MIS Director Lund, Water & Sewer Superintendent Hulquist, Assistant to the City Manager Smith, Interim City Manager Miller, City Clerk Jines, and consultants Richard and Irina Fursman. Department heads were thanked for their participation and input and then excused. The session ended at 3:19 p.m.

Motion by Councilman Kusek, seconded by Councilwoman Rowley to instruct Richard Fursman to negotiate a potential contract with the Council's top candidate.

Roll call with the following results:

Voting aye: Feldges, Benzel, Kusek, Rowley, Yeager.

Voting nay: None.

Motion carried.

- Mayor Yeager stated, "there being no further business to come before the Alliance City Council, the meeting is adjourned at 3:22 p.m."

Ralph Yeager, Mayor

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(SEAL)

Linda S. Jines, City Clerk