

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Mayor John Guinn with the following roll call:

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Michael Schmidt	Aldersperson	Present	
Kim Olson	Aldersperson	Remote	
Jack Abbott	Aldersperson	Present	
Roger Smith	Aldersperson	Present	
John Guinn	Mayor	Present	

Also present were Comptroller/Treasurer Runde and City Attorney Nolan Franti.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Nichole DeBaker, Utilities Accountant for the City of Mayville. Pointed out that there has been a large amount of negative talk on social media and, if the employees were allowed to comment on social media, the public would hear some of the positive. Explained our employee handbook forbids us from speaking about City matters on social media and it is unfortunate that one employee has been posting negatively on social media. Ms. DeBaker explained there is no HR or City Administrator for employees to go to when they need help. City employees are getting burnt out - long nights, time away from family, and some have even had to seek medical attention. However we now have employee moral higher than it's been in many years. The employees also have someone who will now listen to them, Mayor Guinn. She thanked him for that. She explained he listens, sits down with the employees, asks our opinions, and never leaves without asking what is needed of him. There has been massive turnover over the last six years and now we are needing to clean up from that turnover and she doesn't understand why we can't all just work together. There are upcoming projects and funding in danger if we can't start working together. Let the City employees do their jobs, which they are more than capable of.

Cassandra May, 440 N Henninger Street, read into the record her letter of interest to be considered for the aldersperson vacancy in Ward 5.

Keith Lodahl, 150 N German Street, read into the record his letter of interest to be considered for the aldersperson vacancy in Ward 2.

Joe Homan, 271 S Main Street. States he appreciates we are starting to move in a new chapter forward. The process to be able to notify the public correctly and allowing the public to comments are important. There looks to be some experience ready to step in to help. Those on Council and the Mayor have a large task ahead of you, the time to come together is now. He believes it isn't a matter of missing money, just finding where it's been put. He looks forward to continued open and transparent government.

Becky Smith, 334 Pinecrest Court. She asks that the aldersperson vacancies be appointed from the interested candidates, and then if anyone else is interested they can run during the general election. That she would like to see appointments made so we can move forward quickly with a full Council. She pointed out it's time to move on and represent the City.

Stephanie Billington, 257 N German Street. She would like to see better communication. There has been conflicting information on Facebook, she has had a hard time finding information on the City website. She just thinks everyone should be able to know what is going on. She stated there was a prayer group outside praying over the elected officials and City Hall so that everyone can come together. Thanked everyone for all they do.

ITEMS OF DISCUSSION

Discuss the Process for Appointments for Alderperson Vacancies in Wards 2 and 5

Mayor Guinn stated, from an agenda standpoint, this is a topic to inform the public what the process entails. Stated he has been pleased to see interest already in these positions, but in an interest of allowing participation, he had wanted to wait another week for interested parties to be present. Stated next Thursday there will be a special meeting to go over options, interview those who would like to be considered, and it is the Council's decision whether the City will appoint to fill these seats or ask for a special election. We have been working hard looking at and exploring all of the option. Reached out to Karen Gibson, Dodge County Clerk, regarding special elections. She indicated she cannot give legal advice. She stated she was unsure of the timeline for paperwork that would need to be filed and returned to the City Clerk. She also stated in the 20 plus years she has been a County Clerk, nowhere in Dodge County has there ever been a special election to fill a vacancy, including when there have been vacancies on the County Board, that the appointment process has always been used.

Alderperson Roger Smith stated he looked up statutes on special election it can't be less than 62 days but not more than 72 days to hold the election. Even if they wait a week, it would still be two and half months until they have a full Council. He expressed he is an advocate of going the appointment route, as it will allow the City to get back to business. We have good people on Council and have good people willing to step into the Council.

Alderperson Olson believes a special election should be allowed. It is up to the individuals in those wards to have the say.

Alderperson Abbott states he is leaning toward a special election. He understands there is an emergency here, but these are supposed to be elected positions.

Mayor Guinn pointed out we have two members of this Council who are here through appointment. He continued that everything will be given consideration, it will be completely transparent, and the public is invited for public comments. We do not come in to these meetings with predetermined outcomes. We will build the agenda so we can go a number of options. He asks those who want to serve in Ward 2 or 5 to come forward, that he is confident the Council is at a point where we are ready to work together.

Alderperson Schmidt explained back in 1999 he first got onto Council by appointment. There were five other people who were interested, they were interviewed by Council, and then they picked their appointment. He is back because he did not want to see his Ward unrepresented.

Status Update on Resignations of Comptroller/Treasurer and City Clerk

Mayor Guinn explained after the April 24, 2023 Common Council meeting he received a resignation letter from City Clerk Gonstead, who cited many of the same issues as the Comptroller/Treasurer. Mayor Guinn explained after Sunday's alderperson resignations and some conversations, the resignation was rescinded. Mayor Guinn read into record City Clerk

Gonstead's May 2, 2023 letter rescinding her resignation. He explained he consulted with legal counsel, that they had not accepted the initial resignation, which is immaterial. He also read into record an email from County Clerk Karen Gibson regarding her praise of the work of City Clerk Gonstead. Mayor Guinn also explained City Clerk Gonstead will be going to a Clerk certification program through UW-Green Bay, which was approved by Council weeks prior. He explained it takes time to learn this skill set and asked the public give her the same courtesy and patience they provided her predecessor.

Mayor Guinn went on to explain elected officials have to remember the City employees sign a handbook and acknowledgement. Part of that is a code of conduct as it relates to social media posts. It is an awkward situation and, in his opinion an inappropriate situation, to have elected officials posting on a gossip page on Facebook, criticizing the job performance of city employees. He explains the City employees are dedicated and work hard, that we overwork them. He explained City Clerk Gonstead likely has not worked less than 40 hours a week since she took the position, some weeks it is upwards of 60 hours a week. At some level is exploitive. Mayor Guinn expressed praise of the work City Clerk Gonstead has done and expressed being pleased she has decided to stay.

Mayor Guinn explained at the conclusion of the April 24, 2023 Common Council meeting, they received a resignation letter from Comptroller Runde. He explained, in the interest of keeping things civil, he is going to fast forward and explain since receiving that resignation letter, Comptroller Runde has been here every single day. She is dedicated to helping us resolve our problems. She is a hard worker, she is tough, and she will not back down to those who attempt to intimidate or mistreat her. She is a wonderful asset to the City. He offered the opportunity to Comptroller Runde the opportunity to discuss her plans moving forward and explained the City would be remiss to not try to do everything possible to retain her. Mayor Guinn explained she tendered her resignation, it has not been accepted at this time.

Comptroller Runde explained her resignation still stands, that the Council needs to find somebody they are willing to work with. She explained that it does the City no good if everything she brings forward is treated as contentious. It is nothing like she has experienced before, it's not common. She explained her reports are just reports, there is nothing political in their nature. If finding somebody different suits them better, the Council is welcomed to do that. She pointed out, she is currently the only employee who is able to do payroll and financial instructions. Out of respect to the employees, she does not want to leave them hanging.

Aldersperson Olson inquired if City Clerk Gonstead and Comptroller/Treasurer Runde are suing the City of Mayville. Mayor Guinn stated no, they are not. He explained both have filed formal HR complaints with the City in early April 2023. Both himself and the Chief of Police have been named as witnesses in once instance in particular that involves an aldersperson who is no longer with the City. They have followed the employee handbook in how to handle HR complaints and they have sent the complaints to a third party for review and evaluation. She thanked Mayor Guinn for clearing that up, that she had heard otherwise and was glad to be transparent with the information for the citizens of Mayville.

Aldersperson Olson also inquired if, with both the City Clerk and Comptroller/Treasurer resigning, they should have to reapply for their positions. She pointed out she, personally, has no issue with either individual. Mayor Guinn explained, as previously pointed out, he consulted

legal counsel, and the City is in good standing. He explained they are able to remain in their position until a successor is hired. Attorney Franti went on to explain the City Clerk and Comptroller are appointed positions by statute and under City code. The resignations are not effective until a successor is appointed and qualified, they can always withdraw their resignations before a successor is appointed, as the City Clerk as done.

Aldersperson Olson asked if there is to be some sort of recognition to accept the resignations of the two alderpeople. Mayor Guinn told Aldersperson Olson she is getting off topic from the agenda. Attorney Franti indicated it is outside the scope of the agenda but was willing to address the issue, if the Council wanted him to do so. Aldersperson Roger Smith indicated he recommends they stay on the agenda, that it is their duty as alderpeople to do just that. If someone wants to add it, it can be added to the next Council agenda. Aldersperson Olson stated her point of bringing this up is that if they want to move forward with filling the vacancies before the next steps can be taken. Mayor Guinn told her she is off agenda and they are going to move forward. She can request it be added to a Committee agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Aldersperson Schmidt, second by Aldersperson Roger Smith. 4-0, unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 6:32PM.

Anastasia Gonstead, City Clerk