

MENAHGA CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
Thursday, April 18, 2019/2:00 p.m.

A Special Meeting of the Menahga City Council was held in the Council Chambers on Thursday, April 18, 2019. The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Mayor Joan Liimatta.

Also present: Council Members Tim Ellingson, Robyn Keranen and Art Huebner via Skype. Staff present: Interim City Administrator Char West.

The purpose of the meeting was to conduct employment interviews with four City of Menahga Deputy Clerk applicants, review City Attorney information regarding Police Chief applicant Adam Gunderson's offer of employment from the City, review LMCIT correspondence to City Council and consider final payment to resigning Council Member Larry Karjala.

Interim Administrator West reported that one of the four Deputy Clerk interviewees withdrew her applicant.

The Council met with Deputy Clerk applicant Clarissa Bipes-Thompson at 2:00 p.m., applicant Jayne Hofland at 2:30 p.m. and Tanya Edwards at 3:00 p.m. Interview questions were asked of each.

Upon completion of the three interviews the Council discussed their rating for each applicant with a consensus to offer the City of Menahga Deputy Clerk position to Tanya Edwards.

Motion by Ellingson, seconded by Keranen, to approve an offer to Tanya Edwards for the Deputy Clerk position; Grade 5, Step 7 - \$18.25 per hr., PTO of 208 hrs. per yr. (2 yrs.), and if she does not accept the offer to then offer the position to Clarissa Bipes – Thompson; Grade 5, Step 7 - \$18.25 per hr., PTO of 208 hrs. per yr. (2 yrs.), motion carried unanimously.

The Council reviewed information received from the City Attorney relating to the Council's March 28, 2019 offer of employment to Police Chief applicant Adam Gunderson that included payment of \$1,100.00 per month to be used towards his individual health insurance plan. "Mr. Winters response was that the City was

unable to pay towards an employee's individual health insurance premium but that they did have the authority to compensate the employee by increasing their hourly rate".

Council discussion was held regarding their previous meeting discussions offering \$30 per hr. to \$32 per hr. with City health insurance or offering \$34 per hr. without City health insurance, the rescission of several motions of previous offers to Mr. Gunderson and action approving a revised offer to Mr. Gunderson.

Motion by Keranen, seconded by Huebner, to rescind the March 28, 2019 motion "To accept cost of living increase at 4% paying VA insurance at \$1,100 per month, no probationary pay increase at 6 months unless he declines, then offer same with 6 month probationary pay increase for the Police Chief Position for Adam Gunderson", motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Keranen, seconded by Huebner, to rescind the March 28, 2019 motion "To accept all of previous motion on Chief (To accept cost of living increase at 4% paying VA insurance at \$1,100 per month, no probationary pay increase at 6 months unless he declines, then offer same with 6 month probationary pay increase for the Police Chief Position for Adam Gunderson.) Starting pay at \$34.00 per hour and half of family Dental Insurance paid by City of Menahga" motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Ellingson, seconded by Keranen, to rescind the April 9, 2019 motion "Motion by Huebner, seconded by Ellingson, to approve the offer of 272 hrs. per yr. PTO time (yrs. 10 – 19) to top Chief of Police applicant Adam Gunderson, motion carried unanimously", motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Keranen, seconded by Huebner, to offer the following wage and benefits offer options to Chief of Police applicant Adam Gunderson; \$32.00 per hr. with City health insurance or \$34.00 per hr. without City health insurance, 4% cost of living increase, PTO – 280 hrs. per yr. (10-19 yrs.), motion carried unanimously.

The Council reviewed correspondence from Danial Greensweig, League of MN Cities Insurance Trust offering their assistance and requesting a time to meet with the Council to discuss the City's situation and the challenges they were facing. Council consensus was to contact Pam Whitmore, LMCIT representative, to inquire as to available dates to meet with the Council.

Motion by Ellingson, seconded by Keranen, to approve the payment of \$870.00 to Council Member Larry Karjala for his council member services between January 1, 2019 through April 9, 2019, motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Ellingson, seconded by Keranen, to adjourn the Special Council Meeting at 3:57 p.m., motion carried.

Interim City Administrator


Mayor