

**Special Meeting of City Council**  
5:30 p.m., Monday, April 15, 2019

A Special Meeting of City Council was held at 5:30 p.m., Monday, April 15, 2019 in Council Chambers of City Hall, 1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, South Carolina. Attending the meeting were Councilmember Bell, Buckhannon, Ferencz, Kinghorn, Moye, Rice, Smith and Ward, Mayor Carroll, Interim Administrator Fragoso, City Attorney Copeland and Clerk Copeland; a quorum of Council was present to conduct business.

1. Mayor Carroll called the meeting to order and acknowledged that the press and public were duly notified of the meeting in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

**2. Purpose**

**Discussion and Consideration of Candidates for City Administrator Position**

Mayor Carroll said that he had called this meeting based on what he has seen over the past few months and after several phone calls asking him to settle the matter and move forward; he stated that he has been “extremely pleased with Desirée’s performance over the past year as Interim City Administrator under hurricane-like conditions for most of the year.” He was interested in hearing the thoughts of his fellow Council members after Interim City Administrator Fragoso has an opportunity to review the past year.

Interim Administrator Fragoso thanked Council for the opportunity to speak and stated that she would review where the City has been and where it is going.

When Councilmember Moye, the Chair of the personnel Committee, was asked about questions or comments, he said that, with a year-long interview process, the bulk of his questions have been answered, but he had a broad and sweeping question to ask.

Councilmember Kinghorn interrupted to ask if Council wanted to interview her in the public meeting or in Executive Session, to which the Mayor answered that he wanted to have full transparency.

Councilmember Kinghorn thought Council should not rush into making a decision on such an important issue; he noted that Ms. Fragoso had a lot to offer the City and agreed that she has done an excellent job over the past year. He did note that interviews for such a position were seldom conducted in a public format.

Councilmember Moye said that he does not see this as an interview, but, if Council decided to interview Ms. Fragoso, she would have all of the privacy afforded other candidates.

Noting that she has a different perspective on this, Councilmember Ferencz asked the Mayor’s permission to address Council from the podium, and it was granted.

Before beginning her comments, she told the Interim Administrator that her comments were “absolutely brilliant” and spoke to “what [she] has done over the past year.”

The Councilwoman prefaced her comments by stating that it was not about Desirée but was about the process of hiring a department manager-level position. She noted that Section 1-3-

61(C)(5)(d) of the IOP City Code states under duties of the Personnel Committee that it is to “serve as the hiring committee to fill a vacancy in any City department manager position.” In the wake of the Police Chief’s retirement and the City Administrator’s resignation, the Committee was charged with hiring a national search firm to assist in the hiring process for these positions to have a limited role in hiring for the newly created position of Public Works Assistant Director of Maintenance and Facilities. After overcoming a major stumbling block, candidate interviews for the position of Chief of Police will take place this week; Director Pitts and HR Officer DeGroot are sorting through the resumes received for the Public Works Position; and HR Officer DeGroot and Councilmember Moye are reviewing and sorting the candidates for City Administrator. Selected candidates have been asked to complete the assessment questionnaire and to return them to the City; in addition, some of these candidates have been contacted for off-the-cuff phone interviews. She was stunned with the sudden urgency and the desire to circumvent the City Code before the Personnel Committee/search committee has had an opportunity to meet to review the resumes and assessment scores of the top candidates together and to determine if any should be brought in for face-to-face interviews. She thought that such a Committee meeting could be held before the Council meeting next week when a recommendation could be made. Councilmember Ferencz stated that to stop the process before the Personnel Committee/search committee could weigh in on the candidates was usurping the due diligence expected of the Committee as stated in the Code. She asked for a short delay in action by Council to allow the process, as spelled out in City Code, to play out. The full text of Councilmember Ferencz’ comments is attached to the historical record of the meeting.

**MOTION: Councilmember Kinghorn moved to go into Executive Session at 5:51 p.m. in accordance with S.C. Code Section 30-4-70(a)(1) to discuss employment matters related to the search for a new City Administrator and to receive legal advice in accordance with Section 30-4-70(a)(2); Councilmember Bell seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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Upon returning to open session at 6:08 p.m., the Mayor announced that Council had not taken a vote or any other action while in Executive Session.

Mayor Carroll stated that the Personnel Committee would go through the resumes it has received, hold a special meeting between now and next week to make a recommendation to City Council.

Councilmember Kinghorn reiterated that Council agreed that Ms. Fragoso has done an excellent job over the past year and that they have seen her growth, but the City Code lays out a process to be followed when leadership positions are to be filled. The consensus of Council is that, in the spirit of full transparency, that process should be followed.

### 3. Adjournment

**MOTION: Councilmember Kinghorn moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:09 p.m.; Councilmember Bell seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Respectfully submitted:

Marie Copeland  
City Clerk