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Monday, July 22, 2019 **5:00 PM** **Springfield City Hall -- Council Chambers**

I. JOINT MEETING: CITY CLERK SEARCH COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Present: Whitfield, Gomez, Ryan, Fenton, Edwards, Twiggs, Shea, Ramos, Lederman, Williams, Wash and Hurst.

Absent: Allen

II. Call to Order

5:00 PM Meeting called to order on July 22, 2019 at Springfield City Hall -- Council Chambers, 36 Court Street, Springfield, MA.

1. Interview Candidates for the Position of City Clerk

Councilor Ramos brought the meeting to order. He explained that the members of the committee will ask pre screened questions of the candidates.

2. Attorney Tasheena Davis

In response to questions from the Committee, Attorney Davis explained why she was interested in the position because she has been the legal advisor for several years. Attorney Davis stated that she has experiences reviewing municipal laws working as a city solicitor. Attorney Davis explained her understanding of the open meeting law and the reasons when the body can go into executive session.

Attorney Davis explained that she already has experience responding to all councilors as their attorney.

Attorney Davis stated that she has no direct experience creating a budget but that she has reviewed the budget in the law department.

Councilor Twiggs asked how she would deal with conflicts between the council, the mayor and the residents. She stated that she would follow the law in her decisions and that she would put the residents first.

Councilor Walsh asked about supervising employees? Attorney Davis stated that she has not managed as a department head but she has directly supervised several law clerks in the law department. She explained that she sat on a hiring committee for paralegals.

Councilor Lederman asked about outside employement. Attorney Davis explained that she works as a bar advocate.

Councilor Hurst asked about zoning experience. Attorney Davis stated she worked on zoning issues from Phil Dromey and working with the Council as their attorney in zoning matters.

a. Deliberation

Councilor Fenton explained that he felt that Attorney Davis and Attorney Ramos should be fo

Councilor Fenton moved to advance Attorney Tasheena Davis and Attorney Nancy Ramos to the full council. The motion was seconded by Councilor Williams. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Attorney Jonathan Elliot, Sr.

Attorney Jonathan Elliot distributed recommendations to the committee.

Attorney Elliot explained that he was interested in the position of the City Clerk because he has been a long-time resident. He stated that he wants to help people.

Attorney Elliot stated that he has 33 years of interpreting the law and state regulations as a criminal defense attorney.

Attorney Elliot stated that he has minimal experience with the open meeting law.

Attorney Elliot stated that he has a great deal of experience communicating with multiple clients at once.

Attorney Elliot stated that he does not have any experience with a department budget.

In response to a question from Councilor Twiggs, Mr. Elliot explained that his first allegiance will be to the city council and to the citizens.

In response to a question from Councilor Walsh, Attorney Elliot explained that he has supervised and trained new attorneys as a member of CPCS. He explained he was supervised and hired law clerks.

In response to a question from Councilor Lederman, Attorney Elliot stated that he would not seek any outside employment.

Attorney Elliot stated that he has not dealt with any zoning issues.

4. Attorney Nancy Ramos

Attorney Nancy Ramos explained that she is interested in the position because she is a resident and a business owner in Springfield.

Attornet Nancy Ramos explained that she has intepreted laws and regulations for the past 15 years.

Attorney Ramos stated that she is familiar with the open meeting law from her work with the Springfield Housing Authority and participating in trainings by the Attorney General's Office.

Attorney Ramos explained that she would respond quickly to requests from councilors.

Attorney Ramos explained that she prepares the budget for her office.

In response to a question from Councilor Edwards, Attorney Ramos stated the first priority is to the public.

In response a question from Councilor Walsh, Attorney Ramos explained that she has hired, trained and terminated employees in her law office.

In response to a question from Councilor Lederman, Attorney Ramos stated that she would commit her full time to the office of city clerk and that she would not have any outside employment.

In response to a question from Councilor Hurst, Attorney Ramos explained that she dealt with zoning issues as a real estate agent and that she would work with her law partner on zoning cases.

5. Discussion

Councilor Fenton moved to forward Attorney Tasheena Davis and Attorney Nancy Ramos to the full council.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Williams.

The motion passed by a unanimous vote.