

CITY OF TRUSSVILLE
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
SPECIAL WORKSHOP

APRIL 7, 2017

The City Council of the City of Trussville met in a special workshop session on Thursday, April 7, 2017 at 8:30 a.m. at Trussville City Hall, to discuss how interviews for the upcoming Board of Education seat will be conducted. Council President Brian Plant presided and City Clerk Lynn Porter served as recording secretary.

Those members present were as follows:

Council President Brian Plant
Councilman Perry Cook
Councilman Jef Freeman
Councilman Alan Taylor

Absent: Councilman Zack Steele

Others present in Official Capacity: Mayor Buddy Choat
City Attorney Rick Stotser

The workshop was convened and Councilman Freeman was recognized and stated that as liaison to the Board of Education, he recognizes the importance of this task. We will conduct our due diligence in an open manner. We have a number of great applicants willing to take on this task. There are twelve applicants for one position. He suggested we narrow the pool. He proposed that each Councilmember pick his own top five, and give these to the Mayor to compile a list. He also suggested that each Councilmember turn in three interview questions, also to be compiled by the Mayor. He recommended a total of no more than ten questions be asked of these candidates. He suggested a rotation with each Council member asking two questions. He suggested the time line be finalized by our Tuesday meeting, and that the appointment be approved by the second April meeting, so that the new member can attend the May Board meeting.

Councilman Taylor suggested the Mayor and Councilman Freeman contact each of the applicants and explain the time commitment required for this position and the training required to insure that each candidate is willing and able to go forward.

Council President Plant suggested we establish the base items in person or by phone.

Councilman Taylor stated this will also allow us to get to know some of the applicants that we do not know.

Councilman Cook stated a phone interview may be good for time's sake, but he felt that a face to face was better. He asked could the Council sit in and observe the original contacts made by the Mayor and Councilman Freeman, and was told no due to the Open Meetings Act.

Councilman Taylor stated that sitting down with twelve would take time. He stated he felt the telephone was fine and any of us could call.

Councilman Taylor stated we have been requested to appoint Sid McNeal to Gayle Glenn's term, as she is stepping down. The new board member will serve the full five-year term in the position Sid McNeal currently occupies. He stated he liked the idea of narrowing down the field, as it is almost impossible to interview twelve applicants. He suggested this group be narrowed to five for interviews. If the top selections among the Council members come up with 3, 4, or 6 that pop out, so be it.

Councilman Freeman asked the Council to be open to what he and the Mayor come up with.

Councilman Taylor stated the hardest part was conducting interviews in public and discussing the strengths and weaknesses of candidates.

Councilman Freeman suggested the top five and the questions be given to the Mayor by Tuesday night.

Ms. Corrie Merchant, Skyline Way, stated she appreciated the Council listening and taking action. She suggested in the future that a job description and an explanation of the time commitment be included with the application. She stated the State Board of Education has a job description that Vestavia uses.

Ms. Diane Rottenberry, 6628 Happy Hollow Road asked would the Council be open to input from the community as to questions, and would the public be able to ask these questions in the interview process, and was told no. She asked how this will be publicized?

City Clerk Lynn Porter stated she is required under the Open Meetings Act to post a notice on the bulletin board and to distribute notice to the list of people who have requested e-mail notification. She acknowledged that while this is the requirement, it does not necessarily provide notice to the greatest number of people. She stated in addition to this we can notify the Trussville Tribune and post it on the city website.

Councilman Cook stated anyone can contact him at his e-mail address pcook@trussville.org. He stated each of the Councilmembers has a similar address with first initial, last name.

Ms. Christy Jones, Sloss Circle, thanked the Council for being open minded and working with them.

There being no further business, the workshop was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn B. Porter
City Clerk