

SPECIAL CALL
WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE MEETING
Municipal Center Council Chambers
February 21, 2024, 8:30 am

AGENDA

- I. **Call to Order:** *Mayor Labriola called the meeting to order at 8:30 am.*
- II. **Pledge of Allegiance**
- III. **Roll Call:**

Present at Meeting: John D. Labriola, *Mayor*
Brad Belt, *Committee Member*
Madeleine Kaye, *Committee Member*

Present Via Zoom: Michael Heidingsfelder, *Chairman*
Russell Berner, *Committee Member*

Also Present: Stephanie Tillerson, *Town Administrator*
Dorota Szubert, *Finance Director*
Mac McQuillin, *Haynsworth Sinkler Boyd*

IV. **Citizens' Comments (Agenda Items Only):**

Maura McIlvain – 146 Blue Heron Pond Road

Ms. McIlvain stated that there was no attorney contract made available for the public to review, noting that she had concerns with the past contracts.

Ms. McIlvain stated that she appreciated that the Town had increased the amount budgeted for legal services in order to get a firm with a deep bench, a very good reputation in the state of South Carolina and that having a firm with a lot of balance, and depth of experience would be a good thing for the Town.

V. **New Business:**

- A. **Review and Recommendation to Town Council for Approval for the Engagement of Haynsworth Sinkler Boyd as the Next Town Attorney**

Chairman Heidingsfelder stated that based on the request of the Mayor, a selection committee was created, including Committee Member Berner, former Municipal Judge Strauch, Ms. Tillerson, and himself. The Town received five very detailed proposals, which were reviewed, and very quickly, the top two proposals that met the outlined criteria were selected. These candidate firms were interviewed at length, and very quickly, there was a common agreement among the members of the Selection Committee to recommend Haynsworth Sinkler Boyd (HSB) to the Town Council. Committee Members Belt and Kaye were also given the opportunity to meet with HSB, and the results were very positive.

Committee Member Berner stated that HSB was a very large, extremely well-known, and prestigious firm. He noted that very early on in the interview, it was abundantly apparent to him that HSB was the firm to select for recommendation. HSB, as noted by Ms. McIlvain, has a great deal of depth with specialty areas in litigation, Municipal Law, Environmental Mediation, and Real Estate, which are all areas that the Town needs. He was also very impressed by the attorney interviewed and was extremely comfortable with the selection.

Mr. McQuillin stated that Haynsworth Sinkler Boyd was honored to be considered for the position and hoped to serve the Town well in the role of Town Attorney. They will do their absolute best and look forward to working with everyone and doing what they can to benefit the community.

Ms. Tillerson stated that while the firm is being considered, Mr. McQuillin will be the point person working with the Town, the Town Council, and the Mayor. She noted that the recommendation consideration was originally scheduled for the March meeting, but with the current legal activities, she consulted with the Mayor, and he agreed it was in the Town's best interest, that if approved, to begin working with Mr. Wilson to begin the transitioning process. The copy of the proposed contract just distributed and the proposal were reviewed by the Town's Labor Attorney, YCR (Young Clement Rivers). The Committee could consider making edits or recommending to the Town Council the contract and appointment of HSB with the caveat that the contract has to be reviewed and negotiated.

Committee Member Belt appreciated the work of the selection committee, and having spent some time with Mr. McQuillin, he also consulted with the South Carolina Bar, and the firm was highly recommended. He had no issue with the recommendation from the selection committee and recommending it to the full Council, but there are issues with the proposed contract, and while comfortable with engaging HSB, he recommended deferring the consideration of the contract.

Committee Member Belt made a motion that the Ways and Means Committee accept the recommendation from the Selection Committee and recommend to the Council engagement of Haynsworth Sinkler Boyd as Town Attorney and to defer consideration action on the contract. Chairman Heidingsfelder seconded the motion.

Chairman Heidingsfelder suggested that all the comments relating to the proposed contract be submitted to Ms. Tillerson in writing.

Committee Member Belt discussed HSB providing an engagement letter so that the firm could begin representing the Town. He felt the best first step would be to have a standard engagement letter presented to the town and say that it would be subject to a subsequent contract to be entered into.

Following the discussion, the motion was unanimously passed.

VI. Citizens' Comments:

None

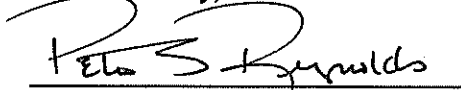
VII. Committee Member's Comments:

None

VIII. Adjournment:


Committee Member Kaye made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:54 am. Committee Member Berner seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Submitted by,



Petra S. Reynolds, Town Clerk

Approved by,



Michael Heidingsfelder, Chairman

03/08/2024
Date