

**YOLANDA FORD**  
Mayor

**VASHAUNDR A EDWARDS**  
Councilmember at Large Position No. 1

**CHRIS PRESTON**  
Mayor Pro Tem  
Councilmember at Large Position No. 2



**CHERYL STERLING**  
Councilmember District A

**JEFFREY L. BONEY**  
Councilmember District B

**ANTHONY G. MAROULIS**  
Councilmember District C

**FLOYD EMERY**  
Councilmember District D

## CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

The City Council of the City of Missouri City, Texas, met in special session on **Thursday, July 16, 2020**, at the City Hall, Council Chamber, 1522 Texas Parkway, Missouri City, Texas, 77489, at **6:30 p.m.** to consider the following.

*Due to the COVID 19 Disaster and the Center for Disease Control's recommendation regarding social distancing measures, the Mayor, City Council, City Staff members, and members of the public were not physically present during this meeting. The meeting was made possible through the cloud-based video conferencing platform Zoom.*

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Ford called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Those also present: Mayor Pro Tem Preston, Councilmembers Edwards, Sterling, Boney, Maroulis, and Emery; Interim City Manager Atkinson, City Attorney Iyamu, City Secretary Jackson, Assistant City Manager Martel, Director of Human Resources and Organizational Development Russell, and Director of Communications Walker.

The Mayor announced the City received public comment requests and each speaker would have three minutes to speak before City Council.

**Noel A. Pinnock** spoke in reference to his concerns regarding the integrity and rationale with the city manager process and contract.

**Charlie Butera**, 3010 Sun City Ct., stated he did not want to say much as he felt his words have been ignored by City Council for the last six (6) months and yielded the remainder of this time to Robin Elackatt.

**Robin Elackatt**, 3827 Indian Pt., spoke in reference to his concerns and opposition to the direction the City was going and the selection of the city manager; recommended to place a thirty-day evaluation for the incoming city manager; and, to think of the citizens, staff, and morale of the city in the hiring of the next CEO for the City.

**Fred Grates**, 3902 E Creek Club Dr., noted his objection with the hiring of the city manager and yielded the remainder of this time to Mr. Elackatt.

Mr. Elackatt had no further comments.

### 2. CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

After proper notice was given pursuant to the Texas Open Meetings Act, the City Council went into Executive Session at 6:42 p.m.

**Texas Government Code, Section 551.074** – Deliberations concerning the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline or dismissal of a public officer or employee: the city manager and the city attorney.

### **3. RECONVENE**

At 7:47 p.m., City Council reconvened into open session.

Mayor Pro Tem Preston moved to authorize the Mayor to negotiate and finalize the terms of the city manager contract. Councilmember Edwards seconded.

Councilmember Maroulis requested that the motion include HR and legal with the negotiations of the contract. Mayor Ford stated she did not have an issue with the request. Mayor Pro Tem Preston agreed.

Councilmember Emery stated what has been done in the past was to take the comments, suggestions and considerations of City Council and a contract was drawn up based on this and finalized before they were presented to the applicant; and, he stated he was opposed to giving carte blanche authority to anyone to negotiate on his behalf.

Councilmember Boney thanked Councilmember Maroulis for tagging the item during the last meeting so that City Council could have more time to review. He added for the City to receive a contract, which was set to encumber the City for a large amount of money, the contract should have been sent to City Council days before, not hours, for review. He stated the City Attorney's job was to adequately review and advise City Council on such matters. Therefore, allowing her to review the contract for an hour and a half and for City Council to be provided with less time to consider prior to it being tagged, was concerning to him. Councilmember Boney ended by stating he was adamantly opposed to the process.

Councilmember Maroulis stated that in an effort to understand the candidate's performance better, he requested a copy of the city manager's performance evaluation for Jones; however, none was available. He also requested an employee or climate survey and again, none was available as the City of Hutto does not conduct such surveys. He asked how residents would be able to measure the next CEO if no such information was available. He also asked how was the process to be trusted if potential resumes were routed to Communications and not the Human Resources Department. In his opinion, he believed the City failed in transparency and was opposed to the process.

Councilmember Emery added that should the City continue on this process, he would strongly ask to consider his position regarding the termination, transfer, or reassignment for 12 months of any executive manager, director and the LGC general manager of the City. He believes this was owed to City Staff members to give them some sense of comfort knowing that as long as they perform properly, they should have no concerns on future or on-going employment with the City.

Mayor Ford added Communications was involved in the process because HR stated they did not have the bandwidth to put the position out as they were also trying to get an executive search firm on to do the portions of the search they needed them for. She added that Communications was involved because during the meeting, they were asked if they have the ability since they have more staff and HR stated they did not have the bandwidth to do it.

Councilmember Maroulis thanked the Mayor for her comments; however, everything she mentioned was disclosed in closed executive session which also shows resumes went to the director and someone who reports to the director.

Mayor Pro Tem Preston moved to authorize the Mayor, HR and legal to negotiate and finalize the terms of the city manager contract. Councilmember Edwards seconded. **MOTION PASSED.**

Ayes: Mayor Ford, Mayor Pro Tem Preston, Councilmember Edwards and Councilmember Sterling

Nays: Councilmember Boney, Councilmember Maroulis and Councilmember Emery

**4. ADJOURN**

The special City Council meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Minutes PASSED AND APPROVED this the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of August 2020.

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Maria Jackson, City Secretary