

Alma, Michigan
February 22, 2018

Mayor Mapes called a special meeting of the Alma City Commission to order at 3:00 p.m. at the Alma Municipal Building.

Present: Ayers, Harrington, Mapes, Mott, Nyman and Piccolo.

Absent: Allman.

The purpose of this special meeting was to interview interested individuals for the City Manager position.

All members of the City Commission having been duly notified of the meeting and the business to be transacted thereat, at least 12 hours before the time of the meeting, in accordance with Section 2.13(b) of the Charter of the City of Alma. Public Notice was also given in compliance with Act 267, of the Public Acts of Michigan, 1976.

Mayor Mapes asked the City Commission and members of the audience to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Mayor Mapes discussed the Agenda for tonight's meeting.

All candidates will be asked to introduce themselves and talk about what interests them in the City of Alma Manager position. Five questions developed by the Selection Committee will be asked of each candidate by the Commissioners.

1. Give an example of how you have worked across administrative units, or how you successfully encouraged collaboration between administrative units in your organization.
2. Describe how you have worked with citizens on a complex or contentious issue? What worked and what did not? What, if anything, would you change?
3. Tell us about a conflict you had with a peer or supervisor; how did you resolve the conflict and what is your current relationship with this person?
4. What are the biggest challenges that you see for Michigan's small cities, particularly Alma, in the next 5 years? How would you prioritize them?
5. Describe your experience in preparing a departmental operating budget and monitoring cost/expenditures for adherence to established financial goals and objectives.

City Commissioners interviewed three interested individuals for the City Manager position. Interviewed were: Matthew Lane, St. Charles City Manager of St. Charles MI at 3:00 p.m., Neil Rankin, Village Manager of Edmore/City Manager of Montrose of Midland MI at 4:00 p.m. and Matthew Schooley, Interim City Manager of Alma, of Alma, MI at 5:00 p.m. The above introduced themselves and presented their views and visions for the City of Alma through the questions asked by the Commissioners.

Mayor Mapes thanked all the candidates for their time and interest in the position after each interview. He congratulated them all for making the top three candidate list.

Mayor Mapes opened the floor for Public Comments.

Mark Williams, Interim Public Safety Director thanked all three candidates for interviewing. He is here tonight to support Matthew Schooley. He has known Candidate Schooley since 1998, when Mr. Williams was first hired into the Police Department. He has found him to be a unifier. He excels people to do their best. He trusts his employees. He would like to see Mr. Schooley officially voted as City Manager.

Kim Powell, Alma Police Officer stated that she came to work for the City because of Mr. Schooley. While in

the Police Department and still now he is her mentor. She feels that leadership starts at the top. Good leaders make happy employees. Mr. Schooley is a man of integrity.

Kathy Roslund, Assessor expressed that Mr. Schooley is a positive leader. He has done an incredible job bringing us together as a team. He respects the employees and feels he is the right man for the job. She thanked the other two candidates for their interviews but feels that Mr. Schooley is the right man for the job.

Bryan Dinwoody, Alma Public Library Director has been with the City for 42 years and has seen a lot of City Managers. He was here when Mr. Schooley was first hired into the Police Department and has followed him through his career up the ranks in the Police Department to Transportation Director to Interim City Manager. Mr. Schooley is very capable and wants to be a team builder. Mr. Dinwoody supports Mr. Schooley. He thanked the other two candidates for taking the time and effort in applying for the position.

Robert Albrecht, Public Works Superintendent stated that he and Mr. Schooley started with the City at the same time. Mr. Schooley is community oriented, believes in this Community. He has righted the ship to put a new person into this position would set us back. Mr. Schooley is the best decision for our organization. He is the man for the job.

Daren Johnson, Wastewater Superintendent spoke that he has also worked for the City for 28 years. He wanted to speak of Mr. Schooley's last seven months as Interim Manager. He wanted to thank him for the complete transformation within the City.

Harold House, Fire Chief wanted to say that Mr. Schooley is a good listener and a good decision maker. He thanked the other candidates for coming and giving good interviews.

Alan Leute, Public Services Director relayed his thanks to the other candidates, they are great Administrators. He then stated to the Commission that he has been with the City for five weeks now and Mr. Schooley is the reason he accepted employment with the City. Mr. Leute love this place and that is because of Mr. Schooley's passion for the employees and the Community. His passion shows through, he is the right choice for the job. You have given him a seven month interview process, where he has proven himself over and over.

Cynthia Michels, Controller spoke that this was a difficult year but the Commission could not have picked a better person for the interim position. She supports Mr. Schooley for the City Manager position.

Gary Barthlow, City employee for 27 years wants it to be known the Mr. Schooley is a fair guy. Mr. Schooley is guiding, leading us in the right direction. He should stay in the position.

Mayor Mapes asked for Commissioner comments.

Commissioner Ayers thanked all the candidates. He found the whole process of selecting the candidates very interesting. He felt that these top three candidates really showed they were the top picks. He was disappointed that more of the Public did not come out to watch the interviews. He thought there would be more interest in who the Commission would pick for the next City Manager.

Commissioner Piccolo also found the selection process interesting and felt there was a strong pool of applicants for the position.

Vice-Mayor Harrington thanked the other candidates for coming. It is a difficult situation when you are asked to compete against a very strong Interim Manager. Thank you for coming and allowing us to speak and meet with you. She wishes them well in the future.

Commissioner Mott was very impressed with the gentleman. He appreciated them for coming to the interviews.

Mayor Mapes wanted to compliment the selection team for their work. He also thanked the candidates for their interest in the position and the Community. He wished that he could hire the other two candidates to add to the talent of our team.

Motion by Commissioner Piccolo as supported by Vice-Mayor Harrington to allow Mayor Mapes to enter into negotiations with Matthew Schooley for City Manager position.

Yes: Ayers, Harrington, Mapes, Mott, Nyman & Piccolo.

No: None

Motion by Piccolo as supported by Ayers to adjourn this special meeting at 6:20 p.m.

Yes: Ayers, Harrington, Mapes, Mott, Nyman & Piccolo.

No: None.

Gregory S. Mapes, Mayor

Sheila Letourneau, City Clerk