

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Stow City Council held on Friday, December 28, 2018, at 8:00 p.m.

Council Members Present: Riehl, Lowdermilk, Adaska, D'Antonio & Rasor

Council Members Absent: Costello

Call to Order

Mr. Riehl called the meeting to order. Mr. Rasor led the prayer and pledge of allegiance.

Business Items

Appointment of a Public Official

Mr. Riehl stated that the purpose of this meeting was to discuss the appointment of a public official. This vacancy was created when Mr. Pribonic won his election for Mayor. We asked for letters of interest and resumes. We received eighteen.

The whole purpose to go out, talk to people and collect this information was when he was on the other side of the rail and wanted to get on Council in 2005, there was a vacancy on Council on June 6th and on June 9th they appointed somebody without going out to the public, without talking to the residents and it was done so fast and so slyly that in the end, like a week later, that person had to resign because there was a conflict of interest.

So this time what we did was we went out and solicited letters of interest and resumes and every member of Council had the ability to select one applicant to interview. Mr. Costello, who was an applicant, opted not to select anybody or be a part of the process except he was interviewed earlier tonight.

It was a strong field. We had a former Mayor and Council Member for 15 years, a noted attorney, a Purple Heart recipient, a PGA professional and a former City Council Member and marketing professional who interviewed with us tonight.

Mr. Rasor thought everyone on this panel would agree that we had a vigorous discussion or maybe he would call it a debate. There was no predetermined outcome. Frankly, even just deciding who to call for an interview was a daunting process because a lot of people, including people in this room, were very qualified and definitely could have been back there with us. He apologized that they weren't.

He thought Mr. Riehl at the end of the day had made the right decision to do something like this that had a procedure and was not done without any sort of public participation.

With that said, the At-Large decision to him comes down to experience, which he thought was how you decide any sort of job opening. Although this man does not share a political party with him and has vehemently disagreed with a lot of things he had pushed forward during his nine years on City Council, he didn't think that they could disagree that Jim Costello was the most qualified and most experienced person.

MOTION:

Mr. Rasor moved and Mr. D'Antonio seconded to appoint Jim Costello to fill the At-Large vacancy.

Mr. Lowdermilk wanted to reiterate what Mr. Rasor had said. They had a lot of good applicants once again. Some were interviewed. For those that weren't, he wouldn't take that as they weren't qualified or were uninterested, they just had to narrow it down.

As you can see, we spent two-three hours just going over this to come-up with who we think might be the best candidate for this spot in the City. Although he was sure there may be some disagreement, he had no doubt of Mr. Costello's service here. He has done a great job for the City. He stepped up when they needed somebody to be Mayor. He couldn't agree more from an experience standpoint.

However, he was looking at this a little differently. Although it may be an experience standpoint, who else was interested in this position could use this or benefit from this experience come 2019 when term limits kick-in and we have several new Council Members up here. So he had taken a little bit different approach, but certainly Mr. Costello was qualified. He sat next to him. He thought they worked well together, but he had just a little bit different philosophy.

Mr. D'Antonio echoed what everyone else had said. Although Mr. Costello and him didn't share political affiliation either, strictly looking at resumes for this particular position Mr. Costello was certainly the most qualified for it.

He also would reiterate that it was very difficult because with the five people that were interviewed tonight, everyone was highly qualified and people were in there battling for these people. They were only allowed one resume to turn in. That was probably a harder decision than even after the interview process tonight.

MOTION:

Mr. Riehl moved and Mr. Rasor seconded to amend the motion to have it take effect at 12:01 a.m. on January 2nd.

Yes Votes: Riehl, Lowdermilk, Adaska, D'Antonio & Rasor.

No Votes: None. The motion to amend carried.

Yes Votes: Riehl, D'Antonio & Rasor.

No Votes: Lowdermilk & Adaska.

Mr. Riehl stated by a 3-2 vote Mr. Costello was appointed to the At-Large position to take effect at 12:01 a.m. on January 2nd.

Mr. Rasor stated they have now created a vacancy in Mr. Costello's Ward II seat effective on January 2nd. He proposed that they address that tonight. They had just collected resumes and held interviews for the At-Large position. Ward II is encapsulated within At-Large so presumably anyone who would want to apply for Ward II would have at least considered At-Large.

In the selection process he had selected Sindi Harrison to be interviewed, not because he had a particularly close relationship with her, he knew her as an acquaintance, but she has a very sterling resume. He thought she would add a level of legal expertise to this field that they need now and will need next year when there will be no other lawyer on City Council to protect the interests of this body and the City.

He thought she had shown her dedication to the City by being a Parks Board Member, which was not the most glamorous way to serve your community. She has also been a member of the Planning Commission, so she has a good grasp of perhaps what's the hardest thing to grasp as a City Councilman – planning.

With all that said, and it pained him to do it because he liked Doug Herchick a lot and he thought he was going to be a great Councilman next year after the 2019 election, he nominated Sindi Harrison to take that Ward II position concurrently with that vacancy on January 2nd.

MOTION:

Mr. Rasor moved and Mr. D'Antonio seconded to appoint Sindi Harrison to fill the vacant Ward II Council position as of 12:01 a.m. on January 2nd.

Mr. Lowdermilk thought that now that this has happened, it left them with only three candidates. He thought they had some strong candidates there. He wasn't sure there was a consensus for all three.

He thought Mr. Herchick would be a good Council Person in the future. He thought Mr. McKinney would be a great Council Person in the future too. If Mrs. Harrison decides to run, and he thought there were indications that that may happen, she would be a good Council Person too.

He agreed with Mr. Rasor. He didn't know if anything would change by getting more resumes and dragging this out.

Yes Votes: Riehl, Lowdermilk, D'Antonio & Rasor.

No Votes: Adaska. The motion carried.

Mr. Riehl congratulated Mrs. Harrison on her appointment to City Council. She would be contacted by the Clerk of Council, who was on vacation this week, with further instructions. They looked forward to seeing her on January 2nd.

Adjournment

MOTION:

Mr. Lowdermilk moved and Mr. D'Antonio seconded to adjourn.

Yes Votes: Riehl, Lowdermilk, Adaska, D'Antonio & Rasor.

No Votes: None. The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Matt Riehl
President of Council