

APPROVED

**Council Special Meeting**

**December 28 3:00pm**

**Present:** Jeff Roberts, Eva Schectman, Catherine Lowther, Carl Etnier, Erich Zeichner, Elizabeth Jesdale, Jen Porrier

**Absent:** Rick Periera, Lauren Antler, Ashley Muscarella

**Staff:** Wynston Estis

**Guests:** Billy Donovan, Steven Farnham, Laurie Veatch, Joelen Mulvaney

**Facilitator:**

**Note Taker:** Rowan Sherwood

**3:03 pm** Carl welcomed everyone to the meeting to consider one agenda item. He opened the floor to Community Comments.

Billy asked to understand why this has to go into exec session. Carl said he will explain. He also asked where the search committee is on this – members have not been contacted yet. He wants the committee to take the role they should. He asked for the timeline. He thinks the process is being manipulated. He asked council members to act like individual council members. Why is there no democratic process around this?

Laurie Veatch agrees with Billy. She is very concerned and doesn't know why this is so secretive. It's an important process and an important decision. Agrees with what Lauren said at the October meeting, that as many stakeholders as possible should be heard in the process. Do not just turn over to Gallagher Flynn.

Annie Coughlin is not sure what the council is deciding today. If it's in regard to hiring a consultant to find candidates, she supports that. But she does not think that Columinate should be involved – it's a conflict of interest.

Elizabeth asked who Hunger Mountain Zoom was – it was Wynston.

Carl introduced the topic at hand, filling in the group on where we are at in this process since Kari's departure. The GM search committee and an outside consultant are to be used to choose a new GM. There will be ample opportunity for community input once the process can begin. The council spent a good deal of time sorting through proposals. Today they plan to vote on whether or not accept a proposal from Gallagher and Flynn.

This is being held in executive session because they are discussing specific provisions of the contract, and the vendor has asked that this remain confidential.

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Jeff moved to go into executive session. Eva seconded. No discussion. Jeff, Jen, Catherine, Eva and Erich voted to go into executive session. Elizabeth voted no. The council will proceed to executive session.

Joelen Mulvaney interrupted and said she could not get into the meeting earlier but wanted to say something.

Carl let Joelen know she could speak shortly. He then explained executive session.

Wynston explained how it will work in the Zoom: the council will go into a breakout room and return to the main room when they are done.

Carl recognized Joelen, She shared that she is on the hiring committee, and has been on other committees for hiring. She thinks the committee should be involved in choosing the consultant. She is very disappointed that they are not included in this part of the process.

**3:22pm** Council went into executive session.

**4:09pm** Council returned to open session

Carl thanked folks for sticking around. He shared that they have considered whether or not to approve the GF contact to assist the GM search committee.

Jeff moved and Eva seconded to vote to accept the contract.

Discussion: Erich shared that he is not opposed to engaging GF to help us. He is concerned that members feel shut out. He would be more comfortable if that was sorted out ahead of time. He will abstain.

Elizabeth is going to vote no because she does not believe this process is being run by the council. They should have been given a track changes version of the contract. It is also inappropriate for Wynston to be a part of the process.

Jeff appreciates Elizabeth's and Erich's concerns. Once this begins, GF will be working for the committee, not the council. GF will be engaging all stakeholders in creating the right approach. Their job is to listen to the community and the committee.

Carl recognized that he will not be voting unless there is a tie, but he wanted folks to know that they are without objection to community concerns of transparency and inclusivity. If the motion passes, he will sign the contract and convey a sense of the discussion that happened and the community's concerns. There will be a community process. They also will ask for continuity of staff working on the project. They are on the same page as community members.

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Carl called for an amendment to the motion striking the words “based on 22% of the anticipated base salary “ because they believe it is a fixed fee contract and want to remove that ambiguity. Eva moved for the amendment. Erich seconded.

Vote on amending the motion: Jeff, Eva, Erich, Jen, and Catherine voted yes. None opposed. No abstentions.

Carl asked if Elizabeth was still part of the meeting. She did not respond. The motion passed.

The council then voted on whether to accept the contract from GF with a fixed fee of \$22,000 to assist with the GM search. Eva, Jen, Jeff, and Catherine voted yes. Erich abstained. Elizabeth voted no. It passed 4-1-1.

#### **4:23 Community Comments**

Billy asked if Wynston was in the executive session Carl said yes. Billy asked why. Carl responded because she was the liaison with GF and was offering technical support. Billy said it would be nice if a better effort could be made to meet at a time when all council members can attend.

Joelen asked who will convene the search committee?

Wynston said after we deliver the contract, we will plan a kickoff meeting so GF can meet with the committee to design a process. Carl added that the council needs to finalize it’s members on the committee – this will happen in January’s meeting.

Carl will stick around.

Eva moved to adjourn. Jeff seconded. Jeff, Jen, Eva and Erich yes no nays, no abstentions. Meeting adjourned.