

**VILLAGE OF SPARTA**  
Kent County, Michigan  
**Special Village Council Meeting**  
**Wednesday, February 8, 2023 at 5:00 PM**  
**75 N. Union St. (Sparta Civic Center)**

**Present:** Village President Robert Whalen, Council Members Brenda Braybrook, Robert Carlstrom, Dave Cumings, Courtney Mais, Tom Peoples, and Bill Taylor.

**Also present:** Ada Township Manager Julius Suchy and Village Clerk Katy Shelton.

**1. Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 5:00pm.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance:**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**3. Roll Call:**

Formal roll call was taken. Those in attendance/absent are noted above.

**4. New Business:**

This special meeting was held in order to have in person interviews with candidates for the permanent Village Manager position.

**a. Candidate Brandon Mersman was the interviewee.** He gave a brief biography and then responded to questions posed by Council President Whalen. After those questions, various council members also questioned Mr Mersman. At the conclusion of those questions, Mr Mersman was able to question and address the Council. He then left the meeting.

**b.** After the candidate had spoken, Mr Suchy, who is spearheading the search for the new Village Manager, and the Council then discussed all three candidates: the two from last night (Blaine Wing and James Lower) and Brandon Mersman

from tonight. At the conclusion of that discussion, a motion was made by Braybrook with a second by Peoples to extend an offer to James Lower for the Village Manager position. Motion passed unanimously. Mr Suchy then discussed the next steps to be taken after this decision by the Council.

**5. Adjournment:**

Meeting was adjourned by President Robert Whalen at 7:26pm.

Submitted by Katy Shelton, Village Clerk