

VILLAGE OF SPARTA
Kent County, Michigan
Special Village Council Meeting
Monday, December 21, 2022 at 5:00 PM
75 N. Union St. (Sparta Civic Center)

Present: President Robert Whalen, Council members Brenda Braybrook, Robert Carlstrom, Dave Cumings, Courtney Mais, Tom Peoples, and Gale Taylor.

Also present: Village Manager Shay Gallagher 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. **Additions or Corrections to Consent and Business Agenda**
The Village Manager asked that item “b – WWTP Engineer Selection” be added to the business agenda.
5. **Approval of Consent and Business Agenda:** Motion by Carlstrom with a second by Mais to approve. Motion passed unanimously.
6. **Public Comment for Agenda Item**

Please Note: This Public Comment portion of the meeting is reserved for comment on agenda items.

Personal or abusive attacks on Council members, staff members, or other participants will not be tolerated and may result in the Village President taking action, up to and including, having the speaker removed from the meeting by law enforcement officers.

- a. None.
7. **Public Hearing**
 - a. None.
8. **Old Business**
 - a. None
9. **New Business**
 - a. Interim Village Manager Search Discussion: Per the Council meeting of December 19 2022, the Village Manager had reached out to two of the candidates who had submitted applications for this position (both of whom he and Julius

Suchy thought were qualified) as well as a local candidate who they also believed would be qualified. The local candidate never responded. Village Manager Gallagher reported that candidate Blaine Wing would be willing to accept the position for a salary of \$65.00 an hour for a 32 hour work week. That work week would include three days in the office as well as additional eight hours remotely including Zoom and/or phone contact. The Village would have to cover lodging expenses for two or three nights per week at a not to exceed cost of \$150.00 per night. The Village would not be paying mileage expenses or any benefits or taxes.

Mr Wing's employment would be handled through "govhrusa" which would shoulder all liability for his job performance. It was noted that Mr Wing has expressed interest in becoming the permanent Village Manager, and the Council believes that this would incentivize his job performance. Mr Wing's first day as the interim Village Manager would officially start on January 2nd although the Village is closed on the 2nd due to the holiday. During the time period between Village Manager Gallagher leaving (end of day Dec 22 2022) and the commencement of Mr Wing's tenure, (subject to the formalization of the contract with govhrusa), Police Chief Milanowski will be "in charge" in the Village.

Motion by Braybrook with a second by Cumings to approve the hiring of Blaine Wing as the interim Village Manager. Motion passed unanimously.

- b. WWTP Engineer Selection: Three engineering firms interviewed with the Village for the purpose of being designated as the Engineers of Record responsible for the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Those firms were Prein & Newhof, Fleis and VandenBrink, and Spicer Group. After much discussion and after reviewing their qualifications, there was a motion by Calstrom with a second by Cumings to select Fleis and VandenBrink as the Engineers of Record for the WWTP. The Council felt that this firm had the greatest strength in identifying and obtaining grants and other sources of funding for wastewater plant projects. Motion passed 6:1.

10. Public Comment: None.

11. Council Member Announcements: Everyone wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

12. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned by President Whalen at 5:36pm.

Submitted by Katy Shelton, Village Clerk.