

CITY OF ESSEX JUNCTION
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, AUGUST 30, 2023

COUNCILORS PRESENT: Raj Chawla, President; Amber Thibeault, Vice-President; Marcus Certa, Elaine Haney

ADMINISTRATION and STAFF: Regina Mahony, City Manager

OTHERS PRESENT: Annie Cooper, Resa Mehren

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Chawla called the special meeting of the City Council to order at 6:30 PM.

2. AGENDA ADDITIONS/ CHANGES

None.

3. APPROVE AGENDA

No changes, thus no approval required.

4. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD

a. Comments for Public on Items not on Agenda

None.

5. BUSINESS ITEMS

a. Discussion and Consideration of Health Officer

Ms. Mahony said that the Health Officer's role is to ensure that the state's health code is enforced at a local level. The current Essex Junction Health Officer is on leave. Claire Contreras, a former stormwater intern and Environmental Public Health graduate is interested in serving in this role. If the City Council recommends Ms. Contreras, she will need to be appointed by the Department of Health. Ms. Haney asked for clarification about the former Health Officer's possible return. Ms. Mahony said that the current Health Officer is on personal leave, and that this position needs to be filled in the interim. Mr. Certa asked why interviews were not being held for this role. Ms. Mahony said that this role must be filled under state status, otherwise it would be the responsibility of the Chair of the City Council. She said that it has been advertised to all current staff members and will eventually be a part of a new staffer's responsibility. Mr. Chawla requested public input. Ms. Cooper said that she believes that this should have been publicly advertised, especially if it is intended to turn into a full-time role. Ms. Mehren said that the affidavit was signed and dated yesterday without Ms. Contreras being formally appointed, which makes it seem like a foregone conclusion. Ms. Mahony said that this was done to ensure that the paperwork would be sent out tomorrow morning should Ms. Contreras be approved. Ms. Thibeault clarified that this is a part-time, on-call position, with a stipend, not a full-time role.

ELAINE HANEY made a motion, seconded by RAJ CHAWA, that the City Council make a recommendation to the Department of Health to appoint Claire Contreras for the position of Health Officer for the City. Motion passed 4-0.

6. CONSENT ITEMS

None.

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7. READING FILE

None.

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

9. ADJOURN

MARCUS CERTA made a motion, seconded by AMBER THIBEAULT, to adjourn. Motion passed 4-0 at 6:43 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Darby Mayville
Recording Secretary