



City of Colorado Springs

City Hall
107 N. Nevada Avenue
Colorado Springs, CO
80903

Meeting Minutes Council Work Session

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Tuesday, December 8, 2020

1:30 PM

Council Chambers

Special Work Session to Interview Candidates for the City Council District 6 Vacancy

How to Watch the Meeting

Coloradosprings.gov/springstv | Facebook Live: Colorado Springs City Council
Facebook Page @coscity Council | SPRINGS TV - Comcast Channel 18 / 880 (HD)
- CenturyLink Channel 18

1. Call to Order

Present 9 - Councilmember Yolanda Avila, Councilmember Jill Gaebler, Councilmember David Geislinger, Councilmember Don Knight, Councilmember Bill Murray, Councilmember Andy Pico, President Richard Skorman, President Pro Tem Tom Strand, and Councilmember Wayne Williams

1.A. [20-636](#) Interview of Candidates for the City Council District 6 Vacancy

Presenter:

Richard Skorman, City Council President and District 3 Representative

Attachments: [District 6 Applications](#)

Each of the candidates for the City Council District 6 vacancy, Mike O'Malley, Martin Lewis, Dr. Garfield Johnson, and Dr. Stephany Rose Spaulding, gave an overview of their qualifications and gave statements regarding why they were the best person to be appointed.

Councilmember Geislinger asked if Councilmember Pico is permissible to be part of the discussion. Marc Smith, Corporate Division Chief, Office of the City Attorney, stated confirmed he could, but would not be allowed to vote for the appointment.

Councilmember Murray stated he is concerned with giving Councilmember Pico authority to pick a successor.

President Skorman polled City Council as to their candidate preference. Councilmember Avila stated Dr. Stephany Rose Spaulding,

Councilmember Gaebler stated Mike O'Malley, Councilmember Geislinger stated Martin Lewis, Councilmember Knight stated Mike O'Malley, Councilmember Murray stated Dr. Stephany Rose Spaulding, President Skorman stated Dr. Stephany Rose Spaulding, President Pro Tem Strand stated Mike O'Malley, and Councilmember Williams stated Mike O'Malley.

Councilmember Geislinger stated between Mike O'Malley and Dr. Stephany Rose Spaulding, he chooses Dr. Stephany Rose Spaulding.

Councilmember Murray stated Mike O'Malley has only lived in the City less than a year and Dr. Spaulding is representative of the community. Councilmember Williams stated Mr. O'Malley showed the most knowledge regarding the City's issues and initiatives.

Councilmember Gaebler stated Mr. O'Malley's positions and initiatives most closely align with Councilmember Pico's.

Councilmember Knight stated even if Mr. O'Malley does not have as long of history in the City as the other candidates, he may be able to provide a fresh perspective and Dr. Spaulding's answers did not match what Councilmember Pico's positions are.

Councilmember Avila stated she cannot rely strictly on someone who can conduct research, she needs to go with someone who has participated in the community.

Councilmember Geislinger stated he is changing his vote to Mr. O'Malley because even though he is concerned with Mr. O'Malley's lack of longevity within the City, he has to recognize the limitations of authority and power of governmental control for a three-month assignment. He stated he was also uncomfortable with some of the statements from Councilmembers that Dr. Spaulding would be an opportunity to change things. Councilmember Geislinger stated he also changed his vote in order to support the majority.

President Skorman stated he believes they should select someone who has the knowledge base and really understands how City Council does things.

Mayor Suthers stated Mr. O'Malley was the only one who spoke about Pikes Peak Rural Transit Authority (PPRTA) and various short term funding

of measures and was the only one who contacted the Mayor's Office to obtain additional information regarding the Mayor/City Council relationship and their responsibilities.

President Skorman stated the majority of City Council has selected Mike O'Malley.

2. Adjourn

There being no further business to come before City Council, Council adjourned.

Sarah B. Johnson, City Clerk