



**CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
May 22, 2024**

The City Council met for a Special Council Meeting at 3:00 p.m.  
City Hall  
102 Butler St., Saugatuck, MI 49453.

**Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Stanton at 3:00 p.m.

**Attendance:**

Present: Mayor Stanton, Mayor Pro-Tem Baldwin and Councilmembers Anderson, Gardner, Muncey and White.

Absent: None.

Others Present: Attorney Jake Witte and Clerk Wolters.

**Guest Speakers:** None.

**Public Comment on Agenda Item Only:**

Dan Fox, resident: Had concern regarding the number of candidates selected to interview and suggested using a different recruiting firm.

**Discussion Items:**

Frank Walsh from Walsh Municipal Services gave a recap of the City Manager search. He noted that his firm completed an exhaustive search in Michigan and also in the Midwest. The search was narrowed down to 14 candidates, two candidates that the City Council chose not to interview became employed in the last two weeks and one candidate that was scheduled to interview accepted a position elsewhere. There is a strong list of candidates to interview this evening.

City Council interviewed three candidates for the role of City Manager. The interviews were as follows: Will Joseph interviewed at 3:00 p.m., Ryan Cummins interviewed at 4:00 p.m. and Michael Sheahan interviewed at 5:00 p.m.

*Motion by Baldwin, second by Anderson to extend a conditional offer of employment to Ryan Cummins to serve as Saugatuck City Manager contingent on successful background check and contract negotiations. Via roll call vote, motion carried 5-2. Yes- Anderson, Baldwin, Dean, Stanton, White. No- Gardner, Muncey.*

Muncey was not ready to make a decision, he would like to take time to think about it and review

the interview videos.

Dean was ready to support the motion.

Baldwin noted the reasons why she made the motion to hire Ryan Cummins.

Anderson was ready to support the motion.

Gardner agrees with Muncey and wanted to get community feedback and more time to reflect prior to making this important decision.

White shares the call for more time to make the decision.

Mayor Stanton was ready to support the motion.

**Public Comment:**

Mark Klungle, resident: Suggested touching base with constituents about their thoughts on the interviews.

Dan Fox, non-resident: Thinks that the City threw away \$10,000 if the City planned on hiring internal candidate Ryan Cummins.

**Correspondence:** None.

**Council Comments:**

- Councilmember White:
  - Thanked the candidates for coming in today.
  - The interviews are an extremely important part of the process which is why he would have liked to see what other people thought about them.
  - He is extremely excited for the future of Saugatuck.
  - There is a lot of work to be done and Ryan will be extremely diligent and with Council support will succeed in this role.
  
- Councilmember Muncey:
  - Wants Saugatuck to succeed.
  - Ryan will get the same amount of respect that he would give any person in the City Manager position, and he will have his upmost support.
  - He respects Ryan for stepping up to help when the City really needed him.
  - More time possibly would have changed some people's minds.
  - He would have liked more time since there is still around 30 days left before the deadline to hire a City Manager.
  - He did not vote no because he doesn't think Ryan isn't capable of doing a great job, great job with the support of the Council giving him the tools and keeping the communication going so that he can grow.
  - Reminded everyone of the Memorial Day parade.
  
- Councilmember Dean
  - The four candidates, three of them came for interviews, their resumes and details about them were presented by Mr. Walsh at a previous meeting and have been included in packets.
  - He has heard from a number of constituents about their impressions and have been listening to them in great detail.
  - He was perplexed why folks think they need more time.

- The City Council was elected by the citizens of Saugatuck to make decisions on their behalf.
- He did not see anything that was suddenly a red flag for anyone, they all interviewed very well.
- The process has been incredibly transparent.
- Mayor Pro-Tem Baldwin:
  - Appreciates the Council comments as well as the candidates themselves and recruiter's work.
  - She has heard from many constituents; a lot of people have a lot of experience with Ryan Cummins.
  - Ryan Cummins has been through a lot with the City, and she is glad he is still up for the position.
  - She is excited to be working with him going forward.
- Councilmember Gardner:
  - Humbled to be part of the process.
  - Appreciates the Council and public comments during the process.
  - Looks forward to working with Ryan and finding ways to help him be successful as a Council.
  - It is incumbent on the Council to take a leadership role with the City Manager.
- Councilmember Anderson:
  - Impressed with all the candidates.
  - Congratulations to Ryan Cummins.
  - Heard and respect the councilmembers that wished for more time.
  - She heard from constituents during the process, so she feels confident making decision.
  - She is excited about the new City Manager.
- Mayor Stanton:
  - She voted for Ryan Cummins because staff supports him, and she has heard from a number of constituents. There were not many people in attendance to listen to the interviews, which happen on occasion at Council meetings.
  - More time would not have changed her mind and sounds like the majority of Council would not have changed their minds given more time.
  - There were originally four people interviewing and one candidate accepted a position in Zeeland Township.
  - She wants to give the other candidates an opportunity to continue looking for other jobs and other communities.
  - The City is lucky to have such a qualified individual and thankful he applied for this position. He wants to lead the City and he will do a fantastic job.
  - She appreciates everything Ryan Cummins has done for the City for the last few months.

**Adjournment:**

*Motion by Muncey, second by Dean to adjourn the meeting. Upon voice vote, motion carried unanimously. Mayor Stanton adjourned at 6:20 p.m.*

Respectfully Submitted

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Jamie Wolters, City Clerk