

1:52:20-2:04:12 [After Executive Session]

Mr. Brown: So we, um, I guess I'll start off, um, uh, with a suggestion. Uh, we discussed a lot of options, and, uh, different, uh, legal ramifications and courses of action, and, um, I guess I would like to, uh, suggest, uh, for the purpose of achieving consensus, that we, uh, direct City Attorney to prepare, um, a draft of a contract, uh, that we could use to make an offer of employment from Mr. Larry Lorentzen, who was one of the finalists in, um, in our last search for city administrator. Um and I think that should be done, um, as expeditiously as possible.

Mr. Bowers: I agree. And, uh, I think the expeditious part needs to be emphasized. Mr. Lorentzen was second, and he's a good candidate. And I would hope the mayor would speak with him and possibly do the contract through Mr. Kahn to negotiate since he's interested in that position.

Mr. Granzella: Yeah. I also agree. I think this would be the most seamless, um, process for us to follow. Mr. Lorentzen was one of the finalists. He's right there at the top. And, uh, I think, uh, we'll eliminate the interim administrator. We're right into a new administrator. We'll still have our guides, and uh .. what uh ... What did we call those? The, uh, ..

Voice: The scope of work.

Mr. Granzella: Well, the scope of work. But also the three month, six month .. six month um .. probation. Is it probation? Probation type period. Trial period. Yeah. I think that would be the most seamless way to move forward.

Ms. Hallett: I agree with Rusty.

Mayor: Anyone else?

Mayor: Okay. Um. Mr. Kahn, I guess uh uh, we'll let you ...

Mr. Kahn: I'll get to work on the contract based on the prior model and have a draft to circulate to Council prior to, um, showing it to Mr. Lorentzen. Okay.

Mr. Bowers: Do you think that's enough or do we have to have a vote.

Mr. Granzella: Oh, I think we can send it.

Mr. Bowers: Okay.

Mr. Granzella: I guess. Thank you.

[1:55:05]

Mayor: Uh, we ought to be in new and old business, so .. um ..

Mr. Brown: Uh, I would uh

Mr. Kahn: May I ...

Mayor: Yes, you're excused.

Mr. Brown: I .. I'm not ... I'm not ... I think more appropriately it comes under old business because we have actually talked the subject in some form before. And, uh, that is the fact that we .. we've all received .. uh .. a number of emails .. uh, um, .. today or yesterday. I've kind of lost track, about work being done by a .. the city attorney .. um .. that was driven by the efforts of one member of Council. And I think we need to have a discussion on the .. the, uh, relative benefits to the entire council and to the entire city .. um .. for generating that kind of expense. Um, and um, so I would like to have that put on the um .. the agenda of a future meeting, .. um .. to discuss the cost versus the benefits of .. um .. of the .. um .. work that is being asked of the city attorney by one particular council member.

Ms. Hallett: In the past, we had some um, um decisions that were made that .. particularly I can definitely see where we need some kind of consensus from the council when we have expenses that are involved that are ... particularly when they're duplicates == duplicating the procedures. And I think this is an instance where we really need .. um.. to discuss and vote on .. um .. going forward with this. All right. I do vote ... um, I mean I do recommend that we do need to bring this up at next council meeting.

Mr. Granzella: I'm fine with it, as long as we talk about the overall picture of the attorney situation .. um, not just this one, in the past, our expenses over years. What we need, what we need to get more control of. Is that what you're talking about?

Ms. Hallett: Yeah, uh, I mean you've already .. I mean that's been brought up. Now it's a matter, do we want it to go further than it already has? I think it's been really hashed over quite a bit.

Mr. Granzella: Oh ...

Ms. Hallett: You've gotten the information. But we haven't done a microscopic one. I think at this point in time, I think that's what we're looking at ..

Mr. Granzella: I don't ...

Ms. Hallett: ... when we review these bills right now.

Mr. Granzella: I don't think we hashed over it. I think we've seen information. We haven't had a discussion as a council.

Mr. Brown: And I agree. I think we need to have that discussion as a council ..

Mr. Granzella: About the whole picture.

Mr. Brown: About the entire picture of who directs and controls the city attorney. Who .. who assigns work. Who .. who uh .. and how do we .. uh .. direct the attorney to perform work that results in billings to the city. That's ... And it's been .. We've had kind of general talk about that. Uh, but now ...

Ms. Hallett: I guess where this ... where I was hoping this was gonna go was whether we were going to allow one person to carry on this kind of .. uh .. procedure when we haven't as a council agreed to, that that be taken forward.

Mr. Brown: Yeah. And the thing that I think Rusty's pointing out is that .. that we as a council .. uh .. have not come to .. uh .. a consensus as to how do that. **What is the process for directing the city attorney to do work that costs us money?**

Mr. Granzella: It kinda started out with the mayor wanting everything to go through him. And I don't know if we've deviated from that or were

Mayor: I don't think we would have got to that point.

Mr. Granzella: We didn't get to that point.

Mayor: We've ...

Mr. Granzella: We've got a lot to discuss.

[Voice] I agree.

Mr. Granzella: And then, we can throw in .. uh .. **The mayor was against valuations of our city attorney.** But you thought we should just, if we didn't like him we should fire him. I think you said that. Uh, but, I think the overall discussion ... I would like to see an outline ahead of time to know, instead of just throwing a bunch of discussion [1:59:32] topics at one time. Some sort of an outline that we could, you know, kind of follow. Cause that could be a long discussion.

Mr. Brown: Yeah. It sounds I'm beginning to think now that maybe it oughta be more a work session .. a work session.

Mayor: It sounds like a work session to me.

Mr. Brown. Yeah. Can we just, you know, have a ...

Ms. Hallett: I .. I mean, I can agree with a lot of that. But it's in some instances here we had some extenuating circumstances aren't normal, but ... should be addressed.

Mr. Bowers: I don't have a problem with it.

Mayor: Work session?

Mr. Bowers: It concerns **me that we have people who are digging around in the files and causing staff unnecessary redundance.** I .. I think it's redundant for them to have to go back through it. And it's taking staff time away from .. um .. what we could probably have .. **have the mayor address and instead** of everybody going in and wanting to look through the records, and do this and do that, and explain this and explain that, and one thing or another. And if its questionable, yes, and we should ,, we should look at it. But to create more of a problem and increase legal bills because of some questions, I don't agree

with that, and I don't think anybody else does. Not , you know, our staff's trying to work through a lot of this stuff and keep going .. keep going back, and pulling this up, and well what about that? And, I mean, there comes a time when you gotta say "hey look, is there some problem here? And if there is, have the mayor look at it. See what the mayor thinks, and go from there.

Mr. Granzella: I don't understand what extra legal bills we're getting.

Mr. Bowers: Don't what?

Mr. Granzella: I don't understand what extra legal bills we're getting when we're just looking at billing.

Mr. Bowers: But when you're asking attorneys to provide extra copies of stuff ...

Mr. Granzella: Who are we paying for that? Who ..

Mr. Bowers: Well, the attorney.

Mr. Granzella: We're paying the attorney to look at our own bills?

Mr. Bowers: Well, he has to spend time ..

Mr. Granzella: Yes or no Mayor?

Mayor: No. We're paying the attorney to provide council member with some information she could not find on the .. uh .. uh .. within the conversion of the billing that was put from one lap top to the other lap top. And it don't... and uh, at that point, I decided, well, she had four or five different items that she could not find, so I provide that .. I requested the attorney to .. to .. uh .. look into that and it cost us three and a half hours of work. And I sent that memo out this morn... this afternoon.

Mr. Granzella: So there's a pretty good confusion there?

Mayor: Uh, not with ...

Mr. Granzella: Really?

Mayor: Not with me.

Mr. Granzella: So you could explain it to this .. to this investigator?

[Laughter on council]

Mr. Granzella: I think .. I think we need to talk about it. Not right now. Our time's running out.

Dr. Brown-Kovacic: Yeah. I do think we need to talk about it. And um, .. I just .. It seems like with all our bills, we have procedures of certain people .. um .. reviewing all the bills and signing off on them before they go to finance. And so we should look at all of that. And there are models that we have, for instance, in the county. Uh .. the .. uh .. attorney in the county does a monthly report .. uh .. to the

county commissioners, where she explains what she worked on, and how many hours, and so on, on a monthly basis. That's a standard operation.

Ms. Hallett: .. nobody ... then, cause that's something that's never been done in that respect.

[voice]: .. the discussion ...

Dr. Brown-Kovacic: Yes. You know, there are some things that we can look at like that are models from some other places. It might help all of this flow a little bit better.

Mayor: I agree with that. So a work session? Are you okay with a work session?

Dr. Brown-Kovacic: Yes ..

Mayor: Okay. Anything other old or new business? I'll entertain a motion to adjourn then.

[2:04:02]