

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Mayor Karen Cronin presided and conducted the meeting. Esther Montgomery, Toby Wright, James Taylor, Nathan Tueller, Brady Lewis

CITY STAFF PRESENT: Greg Westfall, City Administrator  
Shanna Johnson, Chief Deputy Recorder

OTHERS PRESENT: Craig Hall, Robin Hall, John Egan, Chantel Egan

### **ITEM 1: CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Cronin called City Council work session to order.

#### **A. INTRODUCTION OF POTENTIAL CITY ATTORNEY**

Mayor Cronin stated the purpose of this meeting is to introduce you to Craig Hall. She said after reviewing several well qualified candidates it is her recommendation that the City extend a contract to Mr. Hall for City Legal Services. She thought the Council may want to have a chance to ask some questions and get to know him. She shared some information regarding Craig Hall stating that he recently returned from a LDS Mission in Sao Paulo Brazil where he served with his wife, prior to that he was a City Attorney for Midvale, Murray, Holladay, and South Salt Lake cities. Mayor Cronin said he has a lot of experience. Mayor Cronin said she thinks there was a movie titled "The Gods Smiled On Us" and that is kind of how she feels. We are very fortunate that Mr. Hall is interested in coming to work for Perry City. Mayor Cronin turned the time over to Mr. Hall.

Mr. Hall said he went to law school in Baylor, TX in the Watergate era (1973-1975) and that was a defining time in his life. He said Leon Jaworski was the prosecutor during Watergate and he was also the patron saint of Baylor University School of Law. He said this defined what he thinks government officials should be doing. He said they did a lot of work on impeachment when he was still at the law school. He said that he and his wife Robin both grew up in Murray, UT and they decided to come back. He said he was fortunate to be offered a part-time job of the then Mayor of Murray and over the years he became the full-time City Attorney. He said that he worked for Murray City for 23 years, stating this was a great experience. He explained that they did incredible things, not only did they build out a City, but they also instituted light rail, a power company, and the precursor to Utopia. He explained that Murray was building out fiber through the entire City before any other City. He stated that Murray City defended the right to have prayer in City Council meetings. He said that he was the main defendant in that law suit. He advised that the City also had the interesting experience of terminating a police officer who was a polygamist in 1981. He said that this was a violation of oath of office which states you will obey, support, and defend the constitution of the United States and the State of Utah. He said that the constitution of the State of Utah prohibits bigamy. He said that was the compromise when Utah became a State in 1896. He said that the City won that case, he is not sure if they

would win that case today, with recent changes made to law. Mr. Hall said he was part of the Murray Smelter Site Cleanup Project and was able to remediate the site with the City being the lead agency, ASARCO providing the money, and the EPA providing the technical advice and now you see what is there (now the home to Intermountain Health Center, Costco, and a UTA TRAX light rail station). Mr. Hall said this was a great project.

He said that he left Murray when a friend of his became the Mayor of South Salt Lake City and asked him to come and help him clean up some things. He said he was the City Attorney for 3 years, knowing that this was not more than a 4 year gig.

After leaving South Salt Lake City he went to work for Chapman and Cutler which is a national public finance firm. He said he was representing the cities that Chapman and Cutler was serving as the bond attorney for the public financing. He advised he was able to develop a successful practice for him and he was there for 9 years. He said the recession then hit and Chapman and Cutler's overhead got quite high and as a partner he was responsible for a portion of this overhead. At that time he decided to leave and spent the last 5-6 years of an employee of Midvale City but Midvale also shared his services with Holladay.

Mr. Hall said he has practiced in front of the US Supreme Court, 10<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of appeals, he said he can litigate but feels it is better for the Mayor and City Council to make the decisions rather than taking this to a judge.

Mr. Hall reported that he is involved in community activities including the Boy Scouts of America, and Religious activities. He said they like to pay it forward. He said he has a great family and a super supportive wife who is the mother of 4 kids, 11 grandchildren, and tolerates his dog.

Council Member Wright asked why Mr. Hall is interested in working for Perry. Mr. Hall said he has been home from their mission for 2 months and he is not interested in being totally consumed in a full-time job. He says he feels he has many more years of being able to give great advice to clients. He wants to be involved but he still wants time with his family. He advised that he turned down a full-time job 3 weeks ago because he does not want to be totally consumed. He said he was looking for a part-time job something that can fulfill him and something that will allow him to be resource.

Council Member Taylor asked if Mr. Hall has any ties to Perry City. Mr. Hall answered no.

Council Member Lewis asked where he lives. Mr. Hall said he lives in Day Break located in South Jordan. Council Member Lewis asked about the details of the contract. Mayor Cronin noted that the proposed contract amount is up slightly from our previous City Attorney. She said that our previous City Attorney had never worked as a City Attorney before. She stated the proposed rate is very reasonable considering the experience. Mayor Cronin said there is a 2 year term renewable by mutual agreement. She said that we have looked at putting in a clause allowing an additional \$200 per hour for litigation plus court expenses. She said that Mr. Hall has a strong back up, James Tracy. Mr. Hall explained this is a former partner of his from Chapman and Cutler he has 23-25 years experience. He said he has a lot of confidence in him. Mayor Cronin said we are very fortunate that Mr. Hall would ever consider coming to work for us in Perry. Council Member Tueller asked about the former City Attorney and if his contract was up. Mayor Cronin confirmed that his contract was up.

He chose not to renew his contract under its current terms so the city put out a Request for Proposal and encouraged him to apply, but he decided to not reapply. Council Member Tueller asked what his contract amount was before. Mayor Cronin answered \$27,000 per year and this contract proposal is an increase of \$9,000 over the course of the year.

**ITEM 2: ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Cronin closed the work session.

The meeting adjourned at 6:47pm.

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Susan Obray, City Recorder

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Karen Cronin, Mayor

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Shanna Johnson, Chief Deputy Recorder