

Breezy Point City Council March 19, 2025 - 9:00 am Special Meeting Minutes Administrator Interviews

Call to Order

The meeting called to order at 9:00 AM.

Mayor Roggenkamp and council members Rebecca Ball, Steve Jensen, and Michael Moroni were in attendance. Brad Scott was absent. Interim Administrator Jerry Bohnsack and MGT Consultant Michael Brethorst were also present.

City Administrator Interviews

Fred Ventresco Interviewed at 9:15 AM.

Richard Baker Interviewed at 10:30 AM.

The meeting was reconvened at 11:55 AM for Deliberation of Administrator Interviews.

Fred Ventresco

Public Works Employee Jory Carlson spoke on behalf of the staff after meeting with each candidate. The staff provided feedback on Fred Ventresco's interview. They noted that he was more experienced and polished, answering questions as expected due to his interview experience. The staff viewed him as a "turnkey" candidate who could be easily integrated into the role due to his knowledge of city operations. However, they mentioned that he was less personable and might be more challenging to communicate with on a one-on-one basis, especially for daily office interactions.

Richard Baker

The staff reported that Richard Baker was more approachable and personable. They found him willing to step in and do whatever was needed. Although less experienced, the staff believed he might be better suited to learning the city's specific needs and was more adaptable. They noted that his interview responses were more direct and to the point.

Overall, the staff indicated a slight preference for Richard if they had to choose between the two candidates. However, they also expressed openness to reopening the search for potentially better-suited candidates.

City Council Deliberations with Staff Input

Council members shared their thoughts on both candidates. Council member Jensen agreed with the staff's assessment, noting Fred's greater skill set and background in infrastructure and finance. However, they expressed concerns about Fred's communication skills. Regarding Richard, Council member Jensen did not think he interviewed well and felt his answers were too narrow in scope. They did not see Richard as a suitable city administrator candidate.

Council member Ball echoed similar sentiments, stating that Fred had a better interview process and skill set but might lack in communication. They felt comfortable with Fred but would not oppose reopening the search for additional candidates.

Council member Ball liked aspects of both candidates but found Fred's interview boring. They acknowledged Fred's superior qualifications but were concerned about his ability to connect personally. Regarding Richard, Council member Ball thought he would need significant time to get up to speed and would be better suited as an assistant rather than an administrator.

The Mayor expressed concerns about both candidates. For Fred, the Mayor worried about potential longevity issues given his history of moving between states. While acknowledging Fred's qualifications, the Mayor was not fully convinced. Regarding Richard, the Mayor liked his personality but felt he lacked the necessary skills for the position, particularly in handling large-scale projects.

The council discussed the possibility of reopening the search for more candidates. They acknowledged the potential drawbacks, including a delay in the timeline and the possibility of a similar candidate pool. However, they agreed that making the right decision was crucial, even if it meant extending the process.

Mike with MGT consulting firm provided input on the situation, noting that the candidate pool might not change significantly if they reopened the search. He also mentioned that they offer a one-year certification for the selected candidate.

After deliberation, the council decided to table the selection of a city administrator and to continue the search process.

Motion: Council member Ball Second: Council member Moroni to table selecting a city administrator for the city of Breezy Point at this time. Motion Carried 4-0

Motion: Moroni Second: Jensen to have staff work with Mike at MGT firm to allocate funds for marketing and create an aggressive timetable to seek further candidates for an interview process. Motion Carried 4-0

The council also confirmed with Mr. Bohnsack, the interim administrator, that he was willing to continue in his role until the process was completed.

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn at 12:18 pm. Motion: Moroni Second: Jensen, Carried 4-0