



To: Mayor and City Council
From: Dylan Mulfinger
Subject: City Attorney Search
Date: 10/10/2022

Pat Dillon is resigning from the City effective December 31, 2022. This leaves a vacancy the city council will need to fill. The questions Council must answer are below:

- Do we want a local attorney?
- Do we want to use a large attorney firm that specializes in cities?
- Do we need an attorney to attend council meetings?

Research was gathered on several cities that responded below:

City	Firm	Local	Present at Meetings
Mt. Vernon	Yes		No
Humboldt	Yes		No
Asbury		Yes	No
Marshalltown	Yes		No
Webster City		Yes	Yes
Charles City		Yes	Yes
DeWitt		Yes	Yes
Oskaloosa		Yes	Yes
Burlington	Yes		No
Sioux Center		Yes	Yes
Keokuk		Yes	No
Centerville		Yes	No
Estherville		Yes	Yes
Washington	Yes		Yes
Harlan		Yes	Yes
Hampton		Yes	No
Adel	Yes		Yes
Bondurant		Yes	No
Creston	Yes		No
Manchester		Yes	Yes
Independence	Yes		Yes

The City Administrator recommends bringing in a large firm and only requesting an attorney at meetings as necessary. The city uses Lynch Dallas for Human Resources and Dorsey and Whitney for TIF and



bonding. Larger attorney firms have more resources and usually have no local conflict of interest as they do not represent anyone locally. Without an attorney at meetings, the city council will need to adopt meeting procedures. The city will also be limited in answering questions during public comment, which should not be a problem. We should not be creating discussion during citizen comment. Cleaning up this portion of the meeting will help everyone involved. We will need to move fairly quickly with this process so direction should be clear and concise from council.