



## MINUTES OF AN OFFICIAL MEETING:

Special Meeting: Legislative & Licensing Committee  
Date and Time: Tuesday, September 29, 2020 @ 6:00 pm  
Location: Council Chambers at City Hall, 2000 N Calhoun Road, Brookfield WI

Members Present: Alderman Gary Mahkorn\*, Alderman Brad Blumer, Alderman Bill Carnell, Alderman Mark Nelson, Alderman Rick Owen (\*Denotes Chair)

Others Present: Attorney Jenna Merten, City Clerk Kelly Michaels, Mayor Steven V. Ponto, Alderman Christopher Blackburn, Alderman Dan Sutton

### 1. Roll Call

Alderman Mahkorn noted a quorum present and called the Legislative & Licensing Committee meeting to order at 6:05 pm. Introductions were made to the three candidates in attendance.

Alderman Mahkorn noted the meeting was being held in open session as required, however he asked candidates to consider leaving the room until their own interview, in a sense of fairness to all. He explained that obviously the last interviewee has a distinct advantage in that they will be listening to all of the great answers given by the other candidates interviewed before them. He noted it is completely voluntary; however, it would be the right thing for them to voluntarily do so that it is a fair process for everyone. All candidates agreed and exited the Council Chambers except the first candidate.

### 2. Interview of Candidates for Recommendation of Appointment to Vacant District 1 Aldermanic Position for remaining term effective October 6, 2020 to April 16, 2024:

The following three candidates who submitted letters of interest/resumes were interviewed in a randomly drawn order as follows:

Jim Fontanini, 4410 N 135<sup>th</sup> Street, Brookfield WI

David O. Christianson, 3435 Cardinal Drive, Brookfield WI

Jacob LaFontain, 4460 N 147<sup>th</sup> Street, Brookfield WI

Candidates gave a brief introductory statement and then answered the following questions posed by committee members, during their 15 minute interview:

A. Why are you interested in serving on the Brookfield Common Council?

- B. What qualifications do you have that you feel would make you an effective Council Member?
- a. How did you obtain your opportunities for your leadership positions? (Christianson)
  - b. What is it about you or allows you to be placed in a leadership position? (Christianson, LaFontain)
- C. Describe your involvement in the Community.
- a. Have you been interested in running for Alderman before? (Fontanini, LaFontain)
  - b. How did you choose the City of Brookfield as your home? (Christianson)
  - c. What does your position as President of The Wisconsin Club entail? (Christianson)
- D. Do you anticipate any conflicts of interest that could arise if you are appointed to the Common Council, and, if so, how would you intend to handle them?
- E. As a summary of your interview, tell us why you think you are the best candidate?
- a. What do you think will be the biggest challenge for our community in the coming years? (Fontanini, Christianson, LaFontain)
  - b. Do you have any additional housing projects in mind? (Fontanini)
  - c. What do think are the most important or controversial issues the city has had to deal with, if any, in the last four to five years? (Fontanini, Christianson, LaFontain)
  - d. Are there any decisions made by the council or Mayor that you felt was contentious? (Fontanini)
  - e. How would you describe your debating style? (Fontanini, Christianson, LaFontain)
  - f. What are the boundaries of Aldermanic District 1? (Fontanini, Christianson, LaFontain)
  - g. What guides your decision making; what is your approach? (Fontanini, Christianson, LaFontain)
  - h. Have you attended or watched any of the Common Council meetings? (Christianson, LaFontain)
  - i. Do you have any understanding of the constraints the city is under in developing its budget for next year? (Christianson, LaFontain)
  - j. As you are an Alderman for your district and for the city as a whole, how do you make a decision on what is best for your district and the city as a whole? (LaFontain)

### **3. Discussion and Selection of Candidate to recommend to the Common Council for Appointment to fill the vacancy in the 1<sup>st</sup> Aldermanic District**

Committee members discussed how painfully difficult the decision would be as all three candidates gave thoughtful answers and were high quality candidates. All candidates were well educated and would be a great fit on the council. Members discussed methods for coming to a decision. After brief discussion, it was decided that each member would list the three candidates with number 1 being their first choice, on a sheet of paper that the Clerk would then tally. They would then decide if more discussion would be needed or if the decision was decisive.

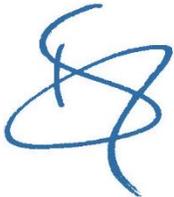
Clerk Michaels tallied the sheets from all members and stated the choice was obvious, as four of the five-committee members had chosen the same candidate as their top choice and the fifth member had chosen that same candidate as their second choice. Each committee member summarized their rankings and indicated their reasons for such rankings.

***Motion by Alderman Carnell, second by Alderman Nelson to recommend David Christianson, be appointed to the District 1 Aldermanic position for a term effective October 6, 2020, expiring April 16, 2024. Motion carried 5-0.***

#### **4. Adjournment**

***Motion by Alderman Owen, second by Alderman Carnell to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:12 pm.***

Respectfully Submitted:



Kelly Michaels, MMC, WCPC  
Brookfield City Clerk

*Clerk Note: The audio recording of this meeting is available upon request.*