

**ORTONVILLE CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING**

CITY MEETING ROOM

315 Madison Avenue, Ortonville, MN

Tuesday, January 19, 2010

6:00 P.M.

DRAFT

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL:

Mayor David Dinnel called the Workshop Meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. Roll Call was taken with the following present: Mayor David Dinnel, Steve Berkner, Angela Doren, Mel Reinke, Mike Dorry, Bob Meyer, Craig Randleman. Staff Present: Clerk Administrator David Lang, Deputy City Clerk Susan Lundell, Pool Director Sarah Karels. Also present: Bill Watson, Craig Ash, David McLaughlin.

Interview of City Attorney Candidate Bill Watson (6:00 PM):

Bill Watson currently prosecutes for most if not all of the other jurisdictions in Big Stone County so prosecution of City matters would be done efficiently. Bill enjoys prosecution work, but would not want to be the City Attorney for general practice and civil matters. Discussion and questions followed. There is a City Charter provision that requires the City Attorney to represent the City on all legal proceedings. Berkner believes that this option needs to be looked into for clarification. If Watson were hired for the criminal matters, another attorney would be hired to handle Ordinance violations and civil issues.

Interview of City Attorney Candidate Craig Ash (6:20 PM)

Craig Ash has been the Ortonville City Attorney the past four years. He spends about 1/3 of his working time in the Ortonville office. His main office is in Milbank. He also represents six other jurisdictions in South Dakota, including Milbank. He is the Deputy State's Attorney for Grant County, which involves criminal work. Ash stated Ortonville has a complicated city government because of OAHS, the electrical utility, and the golf course. Most of his time has been spent working directly with the City Clerk-Administrator, the Planning and Zoning Commission and OAHS. Discussion and questions followed. Craig Ash is licensed in Minnesota and South Dakota, and was licensed in Minnesota prior to becoming the Ortonville City Attorney. If Bill Watson became the City criminal prosecutor, Craig felt that the two roles would not become entangled. As a practical matter, it would not pose any issues for either Attorney.

Interview of City Attorney Candidate David McLaughlin (6:40PM)

David McLaughlin has the shared arrangement in Odessa, and it seems to be a workable arrangement. He stated the civil side is perhaps the most important aspect of being the City Attorney. David works with 8 attorneys out of the main office in Morris and this allows for specialization in representation. If other attorneys in his firm travel to Ortonville to handle legal matters for the city, there will be no travel time billed to the City. David has his personal office full-time in Ortonville. He was born and raised in Ortonville and is currently a city resident. Discussion and questions followed. David felt

that doing the criminal as well as the civil work for the City would be more efficient. If hired he would meet with the City Council to determine the scope of the City Attorney's work duties.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Dinnel adjourned the meeting by consensus at 6:52 P.M.

APPROVE:

ATTEST:

David Dinnel
Mayor

David A. Lang
Clerk-Administrator