



MINUTES OF PERSONNEL ACTION COMMITTEE MEETING
59 COURT ST, WESTFIELD, MA
ROOM 201
JUNE 28 2022 at 5:15 PM

The meeting was called to order by Councilor Adams at 5:15 PM.

Councilor Adams called the roll. The following committee members were present: James Adams and Ralph Figy. Brent Bean was absent. Also in attendance were President Onyski, Councilor Harris, Mayor McCabe, Media Systems Specialist Peter Cowles, Alison McMordie and Kaitlyn Bruce.

Upon motion of Councilor Figy, it was
VOTED: to SUBMIT the reappointment of Peter Cowles as Media Specialist for term to expire December 31, 2023 with a POSITIVE RECOMMENDATION.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

James Adams	Yes
Ralph Figy	Yes

Prior to the vote, Peter Cowles, Media System Specialist gave an overview of what PEG (Public, Educational and Governmental) Access has been working on noting that Westfield produces roughly 20 hours a week of original programming compared to other local communities who average 20-30 hours a month. They are doing a lot of programming with a limited amount of volunteers including community radio shows, airport shows, WTA chef show downs and governmental programming including the Senior Center programming. He shared upcoming projects over the next 5 years including virtual Senior Center fitness classes, working with the Chamber of Commerce to set up train cameras and expanding coverage at Papermill and Sadie Knox fields with the long term goals of getting all fields televised. He noted that Westfield Gas and Electric is willing to work with PEG at these locations. He is currently in the process of upgrading studio equipment for students and working with Superintendent Czaporowski on a PEG studio in the new school. In addition, he is working on eventually covering the meeting rooms at City Hall. His goal is to continue to expand. Councilor Adams thanked Mr. Cowles for doing a lot with a little. Councilor Figy asked Mr. Cowles how long he has been in this position. Mr. Cowles informed the committee that he began this position in February of 2018. Councilor Figy asked if he had enough help. Mr. Cowles informed the committee that his part time staff is doing a great job, however if they have a second studio, he believes a 2nd full time position will be needed. Councilor Figy told Mr. Cowles this would be on the agenda for Thursday's Council meeting.

Upon motion of Councilor Figy, it was
VOTED: to SUBMIT the name of Allison McMordie for the position of City Engineer with a POSITIVE RECOMMENDATION.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

James Adams	Yes
Ralph Figy	Yes

Prior to the vote Councilor Adams welcomed Allison McMordie and asked her to introduce herself. Ms. McMordie informed the committee that she was born in Springfield, raised in Westfield. She attended Syracuse University for Civil Engineering with a minor in Architecture. She is currently enrolled in Grad School at UMASS for Engineering Management. She started her engineering career as an intern and began full time for Tighe and Bond after college doing a variety of things including construction observation, record plans, design work, culvert design, pipe design, stormwater and water treatment design. She went into construction 2-3 years ago as a Project Manager, gaining experience in running sites, cost estimating, Osha regulations and safety protocols. She began her job with the City of Pittsfield, two years ago as the City Engineer where she does traffic orders, traffic studies, attends Disability Commission and Traffic Commission Meetings. She represents the department where needed, maintaining a connection with both residents and City Councilors. She expressed her love for her current job but that location and the opportunity to work for her hometown have brought her to Westfield. She shared her appreciation for all that City Engineer Mark Cressotti has done in his time here. Councilor Adams asked how big the Pittsfield Engineering Department is. Ms. McMordie stated it's shared with the Water Dept but there is an Office Manager, two Admin Assistants, a GIS Coordinator and Assistant Engineer. Mayor McCabe informed the Committee that there are positions for a GIS Coordinator and an Assistant Engineer that need to be filled in the Engineering Department. Whoever is hired as the City Engineer will be faced with hiring an Assistant Engineer. Tighe and Bond will be handling the GIS position for the remainder of the year until everything is up and running. He stated that City Engineer Mark Cressotti will be staying on through December 2022. Councilors Adams and Figy shared their appreciation that Mr. Cressotti would be on board through December to help with the transition. Councilor Adams stated he thought Ms. McMordie was going to be a great fit. Councilor Figy informed her that this would be coming out to the full Council at Thursday's meeting.

At 5:31 PM, and upon motion of Councilor Figy, it was VOTED to ADJOURN.

Respectfully submitted,
Kaitlyn Bruce, Assistant City Clerk