

The City Council for the City of Junction City, held a Special Meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 29, 2022 in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 680 Greenwood Street, Junction City, Oregon and in a virtual meeting format via internet and phone.

PRESENT: Mayor, Beverly Ficek; Council President, Ken Well; Councilors Sandie Thomas, Sidney Washburne, Andrea Ceniga, John Gambia, and Karen Leach. City Administrator, Jason Knope; City Attorney, Mark Wolf; and City Recorder, Kitty Vodrup.

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Ficek opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m., led the Pledge of Allegiance, and took roll call.

Mayor Ficek initiated conversation and expressed her concerns that the meeting was not properly noticed, and that four Councilors had called this special meeting to discuss police matters. She noted that if people had complaints, there was a complaint process in place. She reminded the Council that they did not have hiring or firing authority of personnel, and that task and day to day operations were the job of the City Administrator; the Council only had hiring and firing authority of the City Administrator.

Councilor Gambia expressed concerns on four Councilors calling the special meeting without violating public meetings law. Councilor Wells responded that everything was done properly.

Councilor Ceniga asked Attorney Wolf if he had any concerns that anything was done illegally. Attorney Wolf responded no.

Administrator Knope stated that the meeting had been properly noticed. Staff had checked with legal counsel, and House Bill 2560 excluded executive sessions from the requirement to have virtual access; however, the City had created a link anyway for people to join virtually for the opening of the meeting and would continue to do so going forward.

Attorney Wolf added that the Council had a properly noticed Executive Session for tonight.

Mayor Ficek asked citizens in the audience if they had any comments or questions.

Mr. Darin Olson, 1715 W. 1st Avenue, Junction City, stated that his understanding was that the Council would only be focusing on any employee that they had authority over, such as the City Administrator and City Attorney. Mayor Ficek responded that was correct.

Mr. Bill DiMarco, 1790 Rose Street, Junction City, encouraged the Council to have this discussion publicly as he thought this discussion might be about the Police Chief and did not think the statute that the Executive Session was being called under was transparent. He continued that if there were legitimate complaints about the police department or chief, there was a process for that. He expressed his disagreement with legal counsel that the meeting was properly noticed, as he had notified staff this afternoon that there was no virtual link. He understood that Executive Sessions were exempt, but the Council had now been talking at this meeting in open session for over 20 minutes.

MOTION: Councilor Gambia made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion died, for lack of a second.

2. Executive Session per ORS 192.660(2)(i) to Evaluate the Performance of a Public Officer

Mayor Ficek announced Executive Session at 7:02 p.m. Regular session ended at 8:36

3. Adjournment

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Kitty Vodrup, City Recorder

Beverly A. Ficek, Mayor