

Eldora City Council  
Special Council Meeting  
July 22, 2021 -- 5:30 pm

The council gave the option to meet via conference call, Zoom or in the Eldora Fire Dept.

Eldora City Council met in Special Council Session with Mayor David Dunn presiding. Council members Blake Jones, Cindy Johns, Jerry Kramer, Melody Hoy, and Greg Priske were present at the council meeting along with and City Administrator Aaron Budweg, City Attorney Erika Allen, and Chandra Kyte. Also, present were department heads, citizens, and newspaper reporters either by Zoom or in the Eldora Fire Department. A list is attached. Renee Springston also live streamed the meeting on Facebook and the attendance by those are unknown.

Mayor asked for a motion to accept the consent agenda. Council member Hoy motioned, seconded by Jones to approve the consent agenda. The consent agenda approved consisted of the June 7, 8 and 29 minutes and the July 13 minutes. The monthly claims and the financial for May and June. Roll call vote: "ayes": Hoy, Jones, Priske, Johns and Kramer; "nays": none; absent: none. Motion carried.

The Mayor open the citizen comment period and Renee Springston presented the council with a petition to officially hire Eldora acting Police Chief Anthony Schrad as Eldora Chief of Police with over 250 signatures. These were placed all over town in businesses and she has already removed the names of those not living in Eldora but do shop or do business in Eldora. Carey Morton said that Anthony was a good man and a loyal public service with no discipline mark on his record. She said it appears to be a personal issue. She wondered how not promoting Anthony would affect Nick Hassebrock who was promoted to Captain and Carson Lutterman who was hired as a police officer. She said the current police staff support Anthony for Chief. Troy McDonald, Pat McKenna, Richard Evans, and Judy Neymeyer all agreed with Carey and passed on their turn to speak. Andy Place said Anthony has lots of support and a large number has showed up at this meeting. Anthony treats citizens fairly and with respect. He is well educated, and you would be hiring a leader for the department. Attracting someone for this position would be hard to fill and Anthony is already here. Sam DeVilder told of his experience with Anthony, when he had Anthony do a wellness check for him. Anthony was professional, of good character and a human also. Dave McDaniel said Anthony wants to be in Eldora and the pool for this position is shallow. He is a great asset for Eldora. His wife and kids are part of the community. He has worked with Anthony and strongly encourage the council to keep him as Chief. Judy Neymeyer wanted to thank all the police staff for keeping the community safe and feels all of them should be kept. Diana Dickenson asked the council why they don't want Anthony as Chief. Cindy Johns replied that it is based on facts and not personal reason but for legal reason she can't go into it more. The Mayor confirmed that in a meeting with some council persons that facts were discussed. Carey Morton then questioned if it was facts, then why is it not in his personal file. The Mayor stated that the City Code states the Mayor appoints the Police Chief and the State Code states the Mayor appoints the Police Chief with the Council majority consent. After Mike Ludwigs took a leave of absent for medical reason, the Mayor appointed Anthony as acting Police Chief in May 2020. The City placed an ad for Police Chief after Mike Ludwigs left the City in February 2021. They received 12 or so applications and four applicants were selected to interview. With Aaron's help, a committee was formed including Aaron Budweg,

David Dunn, a retired Waterloo Police Chief, Bernal Koehrsen and Jerry Kramer from the personnel committee. After the interviews, they all agreed that Anthony Schrad was the best candidate for the position. The Mayor said the Council's job is not to evaluate the candidate for the position but to consent if the candidate was qualified. The Mayor feels this candidate is qualified, educated and trained for the position. He could understand if his Police Chief candidate was not qualified the council would not consent.

Resolution 07-21-2971, Resolution for promoting and setting wage adjustment for Anthony Schrad was up for discussion. The council discussed the City and State code for appointing the police chief again. Where the City Code states the Mayor appoints and the State Code states the Mayor appoints with the Council consent. They asked Erika Allen for clarification, and she said that the Home Rule would win as long as it does not conflict with the State. In this case the City would refer to the State Code where the Mayor appoints and the Council consents. Melody also state that her discussion was based on facts. She has taken this very seriously and reviewed all the facts. She was wondering if the council could widen the search and bring forth another candidate. The Mayor said Anthony is a qualified candidate for the position, he has a BA and Master's degree, resides in Eldora and active in the community. Carey Morton was wondering of the citizen could get copies of any evaluation and the Mayor declined her request since they are personal City files. Greg Priske said he reviews the facts and does his best for the City. It has been a pleasure serving Eldora but will not be seeking another term. Blake Jones said the City has hired Wendy Bradley for HR services and should let her do her job. Anthony has continued to do his job through all this and supports his appointment to Police Chief. Council member Kramer motioned, seconded by Jones, to approve Resolution 07-21-2971. Roll call vote: "ayes": Kramer, Jones and Priske; "nays": Hoy and Johns; absent: none. Motion carried.

Resolution 07-21-2969, Resolution approving the hiring and setting wages for Carson Lutterman as a full-time police department employee was brought before the Council.. Council member Kramer motioned, seconded by Jones, to approve Resolution 07-21-2969. Roll call vote: "ayes": Kramer, Jones, Priske, Johns, and Hoy; "nays": none; absent: none. Motion carried.

Mayor Dunn asked for a motion to adjourn. Council member Hoy so moved; meeting adjourned at 6:35 pm.

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David W. Dunn, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Chandra Kyte, City Clerk