

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
February 10, 2020
East Conference Room

Present: Councilmembers Bullock, Litten, O'Malley, Neff, Shachner, Rader

Also Present: Clerk Bach, Director Corrigan, Deputy Clerk Lascu, several members of the public and at-large applicants

Start time: 6:07 p.m.

President O'Malley made a motion, seconded by Vice President Litten to approve the minutes from the February 1st Committee of the Whole Meeting.

All members voted in favor. Motion passed.

President O'Malley made a motion, seconded by Vice President Litten to approve the minutes from the February 3rd Committee of the Whole Meeting.

All members voted in favor. Motion passed.

RESOLUTION 2020-11 - A RESOLUTION to take effect immediately provided it receives the affirmative vote of at least two thirds of the members of Council, or otherwise to take effect and be in force after the earliest period allowed by law, appointing _____ to the Lakewood City Council as an at-large member for the remainder of the four year term ending December 31, 2021. (Referred to COW 2/3/20)

President O'Malley noted that Council met most recently on February 3rd to discuss the appointment of an individual to the at-large seat vacated by Mayor George. Council concluded its interviews of candidates at that meeting. Interviews were conducted on February 1st and 3rd during open Committee of the Whole meetings. Brief discussion was had on the 3rd in executive session to deliberate on the candidates' interviews. He committed to making a decision on the appointment that night or next Monday, the 18th.

President O'Malley proposed re-entering executive session at that time to finish deliberations. He stated his preference not to deliberate in executive session, but noted he felt obligated to in order to preserve aspects of the public interest and in considering the privacy rights of individuals. An attempt was made to have deliberations in public in the first Committee of the Whole meeting regarding the matter, however it was unsuccessful and executive session was entered.

President O'Malley made a motion to enter executive session in order to discuss personnel matters, specifically to deliberate on the applicants for the open Lakewood City Council seat, choosing to include Council staff and the Law Director, which was seconded by Vice President Litten.

A roll call vote was taken:

Yeas: Bullock, Litten, O'Malley, Neff, Shachner, Rader

Nays: None

All members voted in favor. Motion passed.

Executive session was entered at: 6:12 p.m.

President O'Malley made a motion, seconded by Vice President Litten to exit executive session.

A roll call vote was taken:

Yeas: Bullock, Litten, O'Malley, Neff, Shachner, Rader

Nays: None

All members voted in favor. Motion passed.

Executive session was exited at 7:40 p.m.

President O'Malley noted the great difficulty that came with making the decision due to the high quality of applicants that applied for the position.

President O'Malley stated that he is going to make a motion to appoint Sarah Kepple to the position. He highlighted her experience as the leader of her own business and non-profit experience. Ms. Kepple has a history of working with important Lakewood organizations, including the Northeast Ohio Grassroots Coalition and Action Together Lakewood area, and has a personal story that is extraordinary and compelling. She came very highly recommended to Council. She is the owner of GigaLearn LLC, which is a technology education company that provides services to libraries, schools, and private clients that help customers of all ages build competence and confidence in grasping the digital age. She worked for the Cuyahoga County Public Library system after earning her Master of Library Science degree.

President O'Malley made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Rader to amend Resolution 2020-11 by inserting the name Sarah Kepple into the blank.

Discussion: Councilmember Rader thanked those in attendance for their applications and participating in the process. He noted how difficult the decision was to make due to the high quality of applicants. He believes she will serve competently and will be able to work with all members on Council to work towards the body's collective goals.

A roll call vote was taken:

Yeas: Bullock, Litten, O'Malley, Neff, Shachner, Rader

Nays: None

All members voted in favor. Motion passed.

President O'Malley made a motion, seconded by Vice President Litten to recommend adoption of Resolution 2020-11.

A roll call vote was taken:

Yeas: Bullock, Litten, O'Malley, Neff, Shachner, Rader

Nays: None

All members voted in favor. Motion passed.

President O'Malley made a motion, seconded by Vice President Litten to adjourn

All members voted in favor. Motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:48 p.m.