

CITY OF NEWARK  
DELAWARE

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

November 4, 2013

Those present at 6:07 pm:

Presiding: Acting Mayor Jerry Clifton, District 2  
District 1, Mark Morehead  
District 3, Doug Tuttle  
District 4, Margrit Hadden  
District 5, Luke Chapman  
District 6, A. Stuart Markham

Staff Members: City Secretary Renee Bensley  
Alderman Lisa Hatfield  
Clerk of the Court Barbara Wilkers

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1. Acting Mayor Clifton called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

2. **1. CHRISTOPHER SIPE INTERVIEW**

Mr. Sipe was introduced to the Council members, who asked various questions regarding his background, experience with the law, scheduling availability, potential conflicts of interest, interest in the position, views on the types of cases over which the deputy alderman presides, work style, experience in working with the University, and views on the ethical responsibilities of the position.

Mr. Sipe indicated that he has extensive arbitration and legal experience. He also stated that he believes students should be treated as adults in the court, but is not in opposition in utilizing the mechanism of probation before judgment. He does not anticipate having to recuse himself from many cases. He does have a flexible schedule as a solo practitioner, but would like some predictability in his schedule. He views the position as a public service opportunity, has enjoyed his past work in arbitration, and would like to take this position as a part of that. He believes that he works well in both solo and team settings.

3. **2. VANCE A. FUNK, IV INTERVIEW**

Mr. Funk was introduced to the Council members, who asked various questions regarding his background, experience with the law, scheduling availability, potential conflicts of interest, interest in the position, views on the types of cases over which the deputy alderman presides, work style, experience in working with the University, and views on the ethical responsibilities of the position.

Mr. Funk indicated that he has experience as an attorney and as a law enforcement officer and has a lengthy history with the City of Newark. He also stated that "the law is the law" and should be followed, but was not opposed to utilizing probation before judgment. He does not anticipate having to recuse himself from many cases. He has a flexible schedule that would be able to work around the schedule of the Court. He views the position as a long-term commitment that continues the tradition of public service to Newark of which his family is a part. He believes that he would work well with the current Alderman and the staff of the court. He stated that the Deputy Alderman position is a job that he would love to have and looks forward to filling that position in the future.

Mr. Clifton stated that Council would recess for several minutes.

4. **3. DONALD GREGORY INTERVIEW**

Mr. Clifton resumed the Council meeting after a brief recess.

Mr. Gregory was introduced to the Council members, who asked various questions regarding his background, experience with the law, scheduling availability, potential conflicts of interest, interest in the position, views on the types of cases over which the deputy alderman presides, work style, experience in working with the University, and views on the ethical responsibilities of the position.

Mr. Gregory indicated that he has no issue with enforcing the laws of the City of Newark and has represented several individuals in Alderman's Court, so he is familiar with the Alderman's Court setting. He also relayed that he has arbitration and criminal law experience. He does not anticipate having to recuse himself from many cases. He has a flexible schedule that would be able to work around the schedule of the court with advance notice. He believes he would work well with the current Alderman and the Court staff. He views this job as a public service opportunity that is opening at a time where the demands of the position fit well with his life at this time.

5. Deputy Mayor Clifton adjourned the Special Council Meeting at 8:25 p.m.

Renee K. Bensley  
City Secretary