

Wednesday – October 17, 2018 - 4:00 p.m.

## Special Meeting

Present: Mayor Esther E. Manheimer, Presiding; Vice-Mayor Gwen C. Wisler; Councilman Brian D. Haynes; Councilman Vijay Kapoor; Councilwoman Julie V. Mayfield; Councilwoman Sheneika Smith; Councilman W. Keith Young; Acting City Manager Cathy Ball; Interim City Attorney Sabrina Rockoff; and City Clerk Magdalen Burleson

Mayor Manheimer opened the special meeting and said that City Council is holding this special meeting in order to vote on executing a contract with the anticipated City Manager candidate.

Mayor Manheimer explained the process City Council used in the City Manager selection process. City Council's initial intention had been to hold a community Meet and Greet for the finalists; however, the anticipated candidate was so well aligned with the input received from the community, City Council and staff that City Council has decided to move forward with the anticipated candidate. The anticipated candidate had strong support from community stakeholders, City Council and City leadership team.

### **RESOLUTION NO. 18-264 - RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT WITH DEBRA CAMPBELL AND APPOINTING DEBRA CAMPBELL AS CITY MANAGER**

Mayor Manheimer read the resolution: "WHEREAS, the City Council began its search for a new City Manager in Spring of 2018; and WHEREAS, the City Council sought community and employee input regarding desired qualifications for the new City Manager; and WHEREAS, the City received 75 applications for City Manager; and WHEREAS, after a careful and deliberate process involving community members, City employees and City Council, City Council narrowed the candidates to six possible candidates; and WHEREAS, after conducting interviews of those six candidates, involving community members, City employees and City Council, and reviewing input from those groups, City Council deliberated and agreed that Debra Campbell was their unanimous choice for the role; and WHEREAS, Ms. Campbell has agreed to the terms of an Employment Agreement presented to Ms. Campbell contingent upon ratification by the City Council, whereby she will begin employment with the City of Asheville as City Manager on December 3, 2018; and WHEREAS, pursuant to Article III Section 19 of the City's Charter, City Council appoints the City Manager; and WHEREAS, pursuant to N.C. General Statute §143-318.11(a)(6) such appointment shall take place in an open meeting; and WHEREAS, this special meeting was properly noticed and called for the purpose of appointing Ms. Campbell as City Manager and ratifying the Employment Agreement; NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE THAT: Debra Campbell is hereby appointed City Manager as of December 3, 2018, and is so employed as of that date pursuant to the terms of the Employment Agreement she has signed, hereby ratified by City Council."

Councilman Young moved to adopt Resolution No. 18-264 appointing Debra Campbell as City Manager, effective December 3, 2018. This motion was seconded by Councilman Kapoor and carried unanimously.

Council welcomed Ms. Campbell to Asheville and looked forward to her leadership.

Ms. Campbell said she was blessed, honored and excited to be named Asheville's City Manager. She commended the Mayor and City Council, community partners who participated in the process, staff and the search firm for their inclusive, thorough process to recruit for this coveted position. She thanked her co-workers, elected officials, community and business partners in Charlotte for the amazing experiences that helped develop her skills professionally and prepared her for this incredible opportunity in Asheville. Now, she realizes that she has a lot of hard work ahead of her to convince Mayor and City Council, staff and the broader community that they should keep her as their City Manager. To do this, she hoped they will never have to question her competency, her character and her commitment to this position, to this organization and to this community. Asheville has a lot of positive momentum to build on, but there is a lot of heavy lifting ahead of us to address social, economic, environmental and trust issues. She is anxious to get started. This is about what we can get done together. She thanked her family and friends for their support, love and encouragement through this process. She will not let Asheville down.

**RESOLUTION BOOK NO. 40 - PAGE 163**

Mayor Manheimer adjourned the meeting at 4:17 p.m.

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City Clerk

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Mayor