

**ASHLAND CITY COUNCIL  
CITY ATTORNEY INTERVIEWS  
Thursday, November 2, 2023  
Council Chambers, 1175 E Main Street**

**CITY ATTORNEY SELECTION  
Friday, November 3, 2023  
Council Chambers, 1175 E Main Street**

**Thursday, November 2, 2023**

**Executive Session**

Mayor Graham, Councilor Hyatt, Bloom, Dahle, Kaplan, DuQuenne and Hansen were present. Staff present included Human Resources Director Molly Taylor, and Deputy City Manager Sabrina Cotta. The item discussed was:

1. To consider the employment of a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent, pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(a)

**Friday, November 3, 2023**

**Executive Session**

Mayor Graham, Councilor Hyatt, Bloom, Kaplan, DuQuenne and Hansen were present. Councilor Dahle was not present. Staff present included Human Resources Director Molly Taylor and Deputy City Manager Sabrina Cotta. The item discussed was:

1. To consider the employment of a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent, pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(a)

**12:00 p.m. Special Called Business Meeting\***

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Tonya Graham called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

**II. ROLL CALL**

Mayor Graham, Councilor Hyatt, Bloom, Kaplan, DuQuenne, and Hansen were present. Councilor Dahle attended the meeting via Zoom.

**II. NEW BUSINESS**

**Presentation by Emily Rehder from Jensen Strategies**

Recruitment started with Council adopting the position profile. The profile guided the development of the recruitment materials. The positions was advertised for four weeks nationally. The recruitment team performed initial zoom interviews with the semi-finalists. The Council then selected the candidates to move forward as finalists. Those candidates were interviewed by

Department Directors and the Council. Mayor Graham added that in the Executive Session earlier that morning the Council considered the applications.

**1. City Attorney selection announcement**

**Council Hyatt/Bloom m/s - I move council extend an offer of employment for Carmel Zahran for the position of Ashland City Attorney.**

**Discussion** – Hyatt expressed her thanks to the candidates. Mrs. Zahran’s application was strong and compelling, and she has the perfect balance of litigation and transactional experience. Zahran is dedicated to this community and is the right choice for the City moving forward. Bloom stated that he agrees with Hyatt. Kaplan added his appreciation to the candidates and thanks to Dough McGeary for his service. He is looking forward to full time person in seat. Hansen spoke that he is excited in cultivating a new long-term relationship with our new Attorney and Zahran is an excellent candidate and awesome human being. Dahle expressed this thanks to the applicants and appreciation to all those involved in this process. DuQuenne looks forward to working with Zahran and her passion for the community. Graham spoke that the City attorney office has been in transition for a while and excited to bring on a full time attorney.

**Roll Call Vote: Councilor Dahle, Kaplan, Bloom, Hyatt, DuQuenne, and Hansen, YES. Motion passed.**

**III. ADJOURNMENT OF BUSINESS MEETING**

**Councilor Bloom/DuQuenne m/s to adjourn the meeting at. Voice Vote: ALL AYES. Motion passed.**

The meeting adjourned 12:06 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Attest:

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City Recorder Alissa Kolodzinski

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Mayor Tonya Graham