

BOARDMAN CITY COUNCIL- SPECIAL MEETING – OCTOBER 25, 2022

Mayor Keefer called the meeting to order at 7:00pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance. All councilors were in attendance.

Councilors present: Paul Keefer, Heather Baumgartner, Cristina Cuevas, Brenda Profitt, Roy Drago Jr., Leslie Pierson and Isaac Williams

Staff: Karen Pettigrew-City Manager, Jackie McCauley-Acting Recorder, Marta Barajas-Finance Director, Rick Stokoe-Chief of Police/Assistant City Manager, (all in person) Rolf Prag-Special Projects Coordinator, Carla McLane-Planning Official, Toni Connell-Utility Clerk, (all via Zoom)

Audience: Jenn Rollins, Dian Rubanoff-City's CIS Attorney, Tonieshia Rae's Telephone, Stephanie, iPhone (all via Zoom)

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Keefer asked the council if any of them saw a reason to conduct an executive session. There was council consensus to forgo the executive session and move right into the Action Items.

ACTION ITEMS

Council Deliberation Regarding Public Hearing of October 18, 2022

Councilor Baumgartner asked Ms. Rollins if she would answer some questions regarding her testimony. She explained she was under no obligation to do so.

Councilor Baumgartner's first question was regarding the verbal direction to add 24 hours of sick time to her leave bank. She asked if Ms. Rollins followed up with an email summarizing the conversation and asked if she had asked for any clarifications or questions. Ms. Rollins said she did not as it was not the established practice at the City of Boardman to do so. She elaborated and said her emails were either ignored or not responded to.

Councilor Baumgartner asked why if the verbal conversation regarding adding the sick time occurred in August, and Ms. Rollins was out sick in August, then why were the 24 hours of sick time added to her leave bank and back dated them to July. Ms. Rollins was unable to answer the question as she did not have the documentation in front of her.

Councilor Baumgartner asked if Ms. Rollins sent an employee completed annual review to City Manager Pettigrew. Ms. Rollins said she did not because the city manager indicated she wanted Ms. Rollins to completed it and bring in a printed form to a meeting with the city manager, once scheduled, to discuss both sides.

Councilor Baumgartner asked about Ms. Rollins testimony where she said she was locked in the police department and it caused a severe trauma response. Councilor Baumgartner clarified the doors to the police department are locked on one side to restrict access into the police department, but are not locked to restrict access out of the police department. She asked Ms. Rollins at any time during this incident, did she communicate to anyone that she was having a severe trauma response. Ms. Rollins said no, it was the first time this has happened to her; she was trying to adapt and respond. She said she had only ever been on the police side of the building once, so she had no understanding on how the doors worked. She said she was not saying it was a logical response, it was an emotional response.

Mayor Keefer asked City Manager Pettigrew if she had anything she would like to share at this time. City Manager Pettigrew said she did not.

Councilor Baumgartner asked about allegedly being threatened with insubordination for not responding to text messages and voice mails. She asked Ms. Rollins if she responded to the first text messages and/or

voicemails asking for clarification as to who she could communicate with at City Hall. Ms. Rollins said no, because it was made clear to her as she was being escorted out of the building, she was told not to contact staff. There may have been miscommunication, but no contact information was provided to her when she was placed on an unpaid administrative leave indicating the numbers of staff she would be allowed to contact. She was trying to abide by the rules which were set. She was not in possession of all of the documentation. The Garrity notice was not provided until ten days after she had been placed on unpaid administrative leave. There was no clarity on who she could contact and how she was supposed to respond to.

Councilor Baumgartner asked Ms. Rollins if she completed her timesheets accurately showing daily hours worked. Ms. Rollins said to the best of her ability she did; she added she had a concussion at the time, was not an excuse, just an explanation.

Mayor Keefer asked any of the other councilors if they had any questions. Hearing none he explained it was time for a motion to either terminate Ms. Rollins or to not terminate Ms. Rollins.

Councilor Cuevas told Ms. Rollins she appreciated the information she provided at the last meeting. She has read it thoroughly and said some of the information brought forward did not apply to what was in question. She said Ms. Rollins was unable to answer two of the questions; one regarding an explanation of back-dating her sick leave to July and the other regarding completing her timesheet accurately. She felt Ms. Rollins' answers were vague and not clear. She said the evidence was not in Ms. Rollins' favor.

Councilor Cuevas made a motion to approve the termination of Jenn Rollins' employment for the reasons stated in the Pre-Disciplinary Notice dated October 6, 2022, and to direct the city manager to prepare and issue a letter of termination. She also moved to continue Jenn Rollins' paid administrative leave through the last day of her employment. Councilor Drago seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken: Councilor Baumgartner-yes; Councilor Cuevas-yes; Councilor Profitt-yes; Councilor Drago-yes; Councilor Pierson-yes; Councilor Williams-yes; Mayor Keefer-yes. The motion passed 7-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:11pm.


Paul Keefer – Mayor
Jackie McCauley – Acting Recorder