

SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

A special city council meeting was held beginning at 11:05 a.m. on Thursday, April 21st, 2022 in the Council Chambers of Coleraine City Hall.

The meeting was at the request of the Police Chief candidate, Jared Morse.

Mayor Nielsen called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance followed. Clerk Anderson conducted a roll call. Members present: Councilpersons Sobtzak, Troumbly, Sertich, and Mayor Nielsen.

Mr. Morse was given the floor. He began by informing council of other wages that other cities were paying police chiefs – specifically Nashwauk, which is paying \$41-\$42 per hour. He stated that what was going on in the area with police departments and that the cost of everything is going up. He also stated that he understood that the new Police Chief would be very involved in any possible merger and that the new Police Chief would be involved in that. He also indicated that the wages paid to patrol officers should go up. Mr. Morse specifically asked council if they would consider a higher wage in hiring him for the position.

It was stated that the union business agent is aware and that his recommendation would be to do a ‘wage opener’ as all union members would be impacted.

There was a lot of discussion. It was brought up that a wage study could be performed, and options were explored – they could reach out to individual cities to see what they are currently paying, a firm could be hired to do a wage study; these were just two of the options brought up. It was also stated that Erik Skoog, the Union Business Agent for the Teamsters, would need to be contacted as the Clerk could not answer the labor questions that were asked.

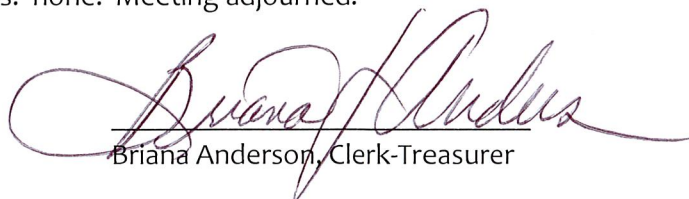
Council indicated they understood that wages are a factor in hiring and keeping officers, but that budget constraints are a major factor and that the budget would need to be reviewed as well as getting some other questions answered.

Council indicated that some research would need to be done and all will be taken under advisement. Council requested items be placed on the agenda for Monday’s regular council meeting for further discussion and asked if Mr. Morse would be able to attend.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 11:58 a.m. by Mayor Nielsen with the support of Councilperson Sertich. Ayes: all. Nays: none. Meeting adjourned.



Thomas Nielsen, Mayor



Briana Anderson, Clerk-Treasurer