CITY OF PARK RAPIDS CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING SEPTEMBER 19, 2016, 6:00 PM Park Rapids Public Library-Lower Level Park Rapids, Minnesota

<u>1. CALL TO ORDER:</u> Mayor Pat Mikesh called the City Council Meeting for September 19th, 2016, to order at 6:00 p.m.

<u>2. ROLL CALL:</u> Present: Mayor Pat Mikesh, Councilmembers Ryan Leckner, Rod Nordberg, and Paul Utke. Councilmember Erika Randall arrived at 6:06 p.m. Absent: None. Staff Present: City Administrator John McKinney, Treasurer Angela Brumbaugh, Public Facilities Superintendent Chris Fieldsend, Public Safety Director Harlan Johnson, and Clerk Margie Vik. Others Present: None.

3. PRESENTATION:

A. Police Chief Interview Results: Harlan Johnson stated Friday and Saturday interviews were conducted at city hall with the five finalists. After the interviews were concluded the six member panel rated each candidate individually. After all the scores were totaled the clear number one choice of all the panelists was Captain Jeffrey Appel from the Savage Police Department who lives in Jordon, Minnesota.

McKinney stated you have the written report. It is the recommendation of that committee that the Council make an offer to Appel. The Council would make a motion to authorize me to proceed. I would bring this back to the Council at their next regular meeting next Tuesday. I talked with him on the phone. He is excited to be considered. He has a family of three kids. He said he'd like to give his present employer at least two weeks' notice because he has a lot on his plate, and then come up here. He has made arrangements for a place to stay and that his wife and family would stay in Jordon until they sell their house. We still have to talk about insurance. If you accept the recommendation, which I hardily concur with, we'll see if I can come up with an arrangement that is acceptable to the Council.

B. Authorize Further Action: A motion was made by Nordberg, seconded by Utke, to authorize McKinney to negotiate an employment agreement with Jeffrey Appel for the position of Chief of Police for the City of Park Rapids.

Discussion: Nordberg stated I was impressed with his application. McKinney stated he interviewed well. Leckner stated his qualifications were way above the rest. Nordberg stated all five were qualified, but there was a big difference between two and three. I think the job of chief is different than being out on patrol. Doing grants and paperwork is different. McKinney stated he has broad experience. I'm tickled to get him. Johnson stated I spoke with his boss last week to check references. His boss said he's going to make a great chief and he's the one that promoted him to captain. I also spoke to the chief who

hired Appel. That chief said Appel was one of the best hires he ever made. Mikesh stated while going through his application, he just shined. He interviewed just as good. I think he will be a real good fit with the community. He was very personable.

Leckner questioned do we do more of a background check? Johnson stated yes we do. I contacted a former investigator named Gary Peterson. He is an independent investigator. I'm meeting with him tomorrow to provide the information that he needs to do a background check. His rate is \$35.00 an hour. He promised me that it would not exceed \$2,000.00. The normal rate for a jailer or bailiff is \$1,500.00. It's a lot of money, but at the same time you get the insurance that goes along with the background report.

The vote was called.
The motion carried unanimously.

Further Discussion: Randall questioned what is the range for the wage? Nordberg stated it's \$54,000.00 to \$74,000.00. Brumbaugh stated the high end is just shy of \$71,000.00. Randall stated I wanted to make sure he was told the right amount. I was told there was an incorrect amount. Johnson stated I sent out an email to all of the candidates after the last Council meeting with the specific wage range was, as I was instructed by the Council to do. The information came from city records. Mikesh stated we can put him anywhere in that scale. Randall stated that's what we're authorizing McKinney to do.

Randall questioned how long will this decision take? Johnson stated the background check will take a week. McKinney stated he wants to give his employer a two week notice. We're looking at no sooner than the middle of October. He knows we are ready to go.

Randall questioned will letters go to the other candidates tomorrow? McKinney answered yes.

Mikesh thanked everyone for helping out to make this process go smoothly. It went really well. McKinney stated we should give special note to Johnson and Brumbaugh for all their help.

4. ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Utke, seconded by Leckner, and unanimously carried to adjourn the workshop at 6:10 p.m.

[seal]	
	Mayor Pat Mikesh
ATTEST:	
Margie M. Vik City Clerk	