

**OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

**RESEARCH DIVISION**

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**CITY COUNCIL PERSONNEL COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Remote meeting via teleconference**

**April 27, 2020**

**11:00 a.m.**

**Location:** Remote meeting via teleconference

**In attendance:**

Council Members Scott Wilson (President), Aaron Bowman, LeAnna Cumber, Tommy Hazouri, Joyce Morgan

**Also:** Council Members Matt Carlucci, Al Ferraro, Randy White, Terrance Freeman, Garrett Dennis, Randy DeFoor, Brenda Priestly Jackson; Kyle Billy and Kim Taylor – Council Auditor’s Office; Cheryl Brown – Council Secretary/Director; Jeff Clements – Council Research Division; Peggy Sidman and Paige Johnston – Office of General Counsel; Kristi Sikes and Laura Dyer – Council Administrative Services; Diane Moser – Employee Services Department; Steve Cassada, Eric Grantham and Melanie Wilkes – Council Staff Services

**Meeting Convened**: 11:00 a.m.

President Wilson announced that Council Auditor Kyle Billy has submitted his resignation effective June 26th and the Council needs to take action to be sure the position is filled in a timely manner. Mr. Billy has recommended Assistant Council Auditor Kim Taylor to the Committee as his replacement.

Council Member Hazouri noted that Ms. Taylor would be the City’s first female Council Auditor and is extremely qualified and has a long history with the office. He feels she is a great candidate.

Council Member Joyce Morgan said that Ms. Taylor has 25 years of experience in the office and is eminently qualified and has seen some very difficult budgets in the past, which will be tremendously helpful in this year’s budgeting exercise due to the fiscal effects of the coronavirus.

Council Member Bowman said Kim Taylor’s assistance to the Council and the Finance Committee have been impeccable over the years. She deals in facts, not emotion, and is highly respected throughout the City government and in the city at large. The Auditor’s Office has a long history of internally grooming successors to the top position.

**Motion** (Bowman): the Personnel Committee recommends Kim Taylor to the City Council as the new Council Auditor -

Council Member Carlucci echoed the comments of the previous speakers about Ms. Taylor’s outstanding dedication, attention to detail, and availability to council members. Institutional knowledge is huge in that office. He thanked Kyle Billy for his years of dedicated service to the City and the Council.

Council Member Ferraro echoed the previous comments about Ms. Taylor’s qualifications and dedication and thanked Mr. Billy for his great service.

Council Member Dennis said he thinks that a national search for the best person for this job would settle on Kim Taylor, as it did several years ago with Kyle Billy.

Council Member White congratulated Ms. Taylor on her nomination and asked how the selection of a new Assistant Council Auditor will take place. Kyle Billy described the past practice of the new Council Auditor making a recommendation to the Personnel Committee for a new Assistant Auditor.

Council Member DeFoor echoed the previous remarks thanking Mr. Billy for his outstanding service and praising Ms. Taylor’s qualifications.

Council Member Cumber said that Ms. Taylor is smart and very professional and she looks forward to her service.

Council Member Freeman said he has great confidence in Ms. Taylor’s experience, patience and ability to explain all issues.

Council Member Priestly Jackson thanked Mr. Billy for his detailed and nuanced explanations of complex issues, for his vigilance in the JEA affair, and congratulated him on his retirement.

Kim Taylor thanked the council members for all the tremendous words of support for her candidacy. She thanked Kyle Billy for being a great role model and mentor.

Deputy General Counsel Peggy Sidman said an appointment resolution has been drafted and asked what effective date the committee wants included. President Wilson asked that it be drafted as an emergency for 1 cycle approval, introduced tomorrow night at Council if possible and referred to the Rules Committee next week, with an effective date the day after Mr. Billy’s retirement. Council Member Bowman asked how a salary decision is made. Ms. Sidman noted that was the next item on the agenda, and said that typically a salary figure does not go in the appointment resolution. Council Secretary Cheryl Brown said that the Council’s Executive Committee (President, Vice President and Finance Committee Chair) typically votes on a recommended salary in a subsequent noticed meeting. Council Member Bowman suggested a salary for Ms. Taylor of $200,000.

**The motion to recommend Kim Taylor as the new Council Auditor was approved 5-0.**

Kyle Billy said that his last day is June 26th, so Ms. Taylor’s appointment should be effective as of June 27th.

**Motion** (Bowman) – recommend to City Council a salary of $200,000 for Ms. Taylor -

Council Member Hazouri asked if there should be negotiations with Ms. Taylor over the amount, or at least an opportunity for her to comment on the suggested salary. Ms. Sidman read from the Ordinance Code regarding the powers and duties of the Council Personnel Committee regarding recommendations of salaries of Council employees, which can be done in this noticed meeting. President Wilson asked that the salary be included in the appointment resolution. Council Member Cumber asked about Ms. Taylor’s current salary.

Ms. Taylor said that the recommended salary is fine and she happily accepts.

**The motion on the recommended salary was approved 5-0.**

Council Member Ferraro asked to be added as a co-sponsor on the appointment resolution.

**Meeting adjourned:** 11:32 a.m.

Minutes: Jeff Clements, Council Research Division

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