

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
OF THE
CITY OF DEARBORN

September 5, 2019

The Council convened at 7:29 P.M., President of the Council Susan Dabaja presiding. Present at roll call were Councilmembers Abraham, Bazy, Byrnes, Herrick, O'Donnell and President of the Council Dabaja. Absent: Councilmember Sareini. A quorum being present, the Council was declared in session.

DATE : September 3, 2019
TO : City Clerk
FROM : City Council
SUBJECT : Special Council Meeting

You are hereby requested to call a Special Meeting of the City Council to be held on Thursday, September 5, 2019 at 7:25 P.M. in the Council Chambers of the Dearborn Administrative Center for the following purposes:

1. Setting the salary for the City Assessor, and
2. To consider such other items of business that may properly come before the Council in relation to the above subject matters.

S/Erin Byrnes
Councilmember

S/Leslie Herrick
Councilmember

Councilmember Sareini entered the Council Chambers at 7:30 P.M.

By Bazzy supported by Byrnes.

9-396-19. WHEREAS: Long time City of Dearborn Assessor Gary Evanko is retiring. Upon his return from the County approximately ten years ago the City entered into an employment agreement with Mr. Evanko that provided for the oversight of the department on a part-time basis. This was due to other obligations he had at the time and the potential for the consolidation of the assessing function in Wayne County, and

WHEREAS: Informed by this experience and in light of current objectives the City would like to pursue, to fill this position with a full-time Level IV Assessor and believe the City has found the best possible candidate, and

WHEREAS: F. Scott Miller is a Level IV Assessor who was recently employed in the City of Detroit primarily focusing on commercial and industrial property assessing. However, his background is also heavily populated with residential property assessment experience as well as private sector experience, and

WHEREAS: Mr. Miller has been a tremendous performer throughout his career earning high regard from both supervisors and colleagues. Importantly, he has a very productive working relationship with the relatively new Equalization Director at Wayne County who annually evaluates Dearborn's assessment data to determine if the City's values meet market standards. That is important as the City completes the citywide reappraisal of our commercial sector which has closely followed the same effort recently completed for our residential sector, and

WHEREAS: Like Mr. Evanko, Mr. Miller has been in this field for enough time to see changes on the horizon. Due to the lack of Level IV Assessors throughout the state, more and more communities are pursuing alternative means for compiling, reviewing, and certifying their tax rolls. While contracting these functions out is certainly one of those alternatives (presently the city knows of approximately 22 cities in Wayne County that have chosen this path) it is believed the City can provide higher service levels with in-house staff, especially given some of the very unique challenges Dearborn faces, and

WHEREAS: This would not preclude the City; however, from taking part in and potentially leading efforts towards some form of consolidation which the City has been talking about for years. Mr. Miller certainly has the expertise and the reputation in the field to help Dearborn secure a strategic role in this potential transition, and

WHEREAS: To derive a market-driven salary for this position the Mayor first reviewed salary information from suburban communities that have Level IV Assessors. That included the following:

<u>External Market</u>	<u>Range</u>	<u>Midpoint</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Farmington Hills			\$112,616 Level IV
Southfield	\$80,255-\$108,577	\$94,416	<u>\$108,577</u> Level IV
Auburn Hills	\$72,772-\$100,896	\$86,384	\$ 94,109 Level IV
Novi	\$98,366-\$132,000	\$115,183	\$127,074 Level IV
Average Actual			\$110,594

and

WHEREAS: The Mayor then focused in on those communities that also have SEV's comparable to Dearborn's. This last metric is important because it is an indicator of the size and complexity of their tax bases and therefore the work involved in putting together their tax rolls. This eliminated Auburn Hills from the list above so Clinton Township was added for another data point. These communities have 2019 SEV's ranging from \$3.4 billion to \$4.7 billion. Dearborn's 2019 SEV is close to the midpoint at \$4.2 billion. The average of the salaries these communities are paying their Level IV Assessors is \$113,434, and

WHEREAS: In light of Mr. Miller's talents and standing, the limited number of professionals with the necessary qualifications, and his capacity to meet current and future challenges, the Mayor is asking that Mr. Miller's salary be set at \$112,500 and that he be given the benefits all appointees receive per City Charter Section 6.8. Mr. Miller is planning on joining our staff on Monday, September 9. Mr. Evanko will assist him to get acclimated and then begin his retirement; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the City Assessor's position to be held by F. Scott Miller be and is hereby set at \$112,500 and that he be given the same benefits as all appointees receive per City Charter Section 6.8; be it further

RESOLVED: That this resolution be given immediate effect.

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

There being no further business, upon a motion duly made, seconded and adopted, the Council then adjourned at 7:34 P.M.

APPROVED:

President of the Council

ATTESTED:

City Clerk