

Brynes, Hart agree to starting salary during meeting

CITY
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the top candidate before bringing back a proposed contract to the full council for approval.

Brynes began the discussion by stating, "We are about to perform one of the most important jobs we've got as a council. We met for 30 minutes with each, and then we met with them as a group. This is the information that I gathered out of it."

"During his initial 30-minute interview, I was told who he knew, who he meets with, representatives...a lot of name dropping. He stated he already has people working on getting the city money. If I was hiring someone to do a lot of puffing, Travis would be at the top."
— City Councilman Bill Brynes

"Lawrence McNaul has the knowledge and experience to run this city, including utilities. Looking at his information, every one of us should say he's number one," Brynes said. "But, he has been in a number of job searches over the last five years. He said that. And right now he's a finalist, or semi finalist, in Fort Walton or Palatka and was a finalist in Panama City Beach."

Brynes stated that McNaul's expected salary range would be "\$115,000 to \$130,000." "I asked the question, have you ever been fired or resigned under pressure from a job? The answer was no. The answer was less than truthful," Brynes alleged, pointing out McNaul also failed to complete the application as requested.

"On June 22, 2016 there was two votes to fire him and two no votes. And, a new member of the council voted to keep him and give him six months to change," Brynes stated.

"At a Jan. 5 (Hardee County) Board of County Commission meeting, he submitted his resignation effective March 3, but the board made it effective

immediately based on the allegations of an inappropriate relationship he had with a subordinate. Even though it was between two consenting adults, that other person was the HR person," Brynes added.

"I asked him, 'have you ever been alleged to have committed any acts of discrimination, sexual harassment or creation of a hostile workplace?' The answer was no. There were two civil claims against him in Hardee County," Brynes said.

"There was a question raised about an inappropriate relationship, and he didn't want it public, so he resigned," Brynes alleged.

"In my opinion, there's no way, on my vote, that he could come to Perry, Florida. Just not truthful is a nice way to put it. I had to subscribe to a newspaper to get all this," Brynes concluded, before moving on to discuss the next candidate.

"I met with Travis Coker. I've served with him on the DMH Hospital Board. He didn't put up a whole lot of fuss on the board...he was there," Brynes stated.

"But, if you look back, he has been at this (current) job for five years, but then he was at one for four years, then 10, three, one, three, three, two, less than one, two," Brynes said.

"In a discussion he had with a group of us at the hospital, he said he never planned to stay anywhere more than five years," Brynes stated.

"His present salary is \$101,000 plus bonuses, and he said he would expect to make what he makes now, but he never said what that was," Brynes added. "He said he had been fired twice, but gave no explanation."

"When I ran for this office, I promised people that I would vote my conscience, and my conscience tells me that John Hart would best serve this position."
— City Councilwoman Diane Landry

"During his initial 30-minute interview, I was told who he knew, who he meets with, representatives...a lot of name dropping. He stated he already has people working on getting the city money," Brynes stated. "If I was hiring someone to do a lot

of puffing, Travis would be at the top."

"Talking and making promises of grants and money is just that -- talking and promises -- There is generally no money. I've been to so many of those meetings, just like the other night when they promise and promise and promise, but there's never any money," Brynes continued.

"Mr. Coker...So, he's a good dude. Loved our talk, but in speaking with my constituents and then reading over the resumes and questioning me and I'm questioning John....we need John."
— City Councilwoman Venita Woodfaulk

Moving on to Hart, Brynes stated, "John owned and operated a business. He was self-employed until he sold the business, and then he spent a year staying on to help the new owners."

"He had employees out there. He knows what it is to have to make a payroll. I speak for myself, sometimes we didn't have money to make payroll, so we went and knocked on doors and collected money so we could meet payroll. That is a business," Brynes added.

"After he got out of school, he worked with GP the entire time. He expressed a lot of the needs of the city...new technology and reviewed city documents. When questioned about salary, he said this was not about salary, but the desire to help the City of Perry move forward," Brynes stated.

"I asked him a number of times about salary, and got the same answer, 'it is not about salary,'" Brynes said.

"It would be a good, good thing if the City of Perry had an engineer. Not a civil engineer to do this, this or this, but for what they got up here (pointing to his head). It would be very beneficial for the City of Perry," Brynes said.

"Looking at each candidate, I would have to say John has the most to offer to the City of Perry," Brynes concluded.

"I've had numerous people ask me, well, who is going to be our next manager?" Landry began.

"I told them I'm not

making a decision until I have interviewed the candidates. I don't think that's fair. Even though two of them are from our hometown. You need to talk to them and get to know them a little bit. And I did," Landry said.

"When I ran for this office, I promised people that I would vote my conscience, and my conscience tells me that John Hart would best serve this position," Landry concluded.

Councilwoman Venita Woodfaulk was next to speak, beginning with, "OK, Mr. McNaul...I have nothing to say."

"Mr. Coker...So, he's a good dude. Loved our talk, but in speaking with my constituents and then reading over the resumes and questioning me and I'm questioning John.... we need John," Woodfaulk concluded.

Councilman Ward Ketring began by stating, "Mr. McNaul....scratch."

"I feel like both candidates have very good benefits for the city in very different ways. It is one of those situations where you wish you could hire both of them.

"However, at the end of the day I've come to lean toward -- as far as the overall operation and running the city -- I tend to lean toward Travis Coker," Ketring said.

"I wish I could hire Mr. McNaul, but -- there's a but -- so I'm gonna leave that be," Hampton said.

After expressing she was "torn between Mr. Hart and Mr. Coker," Hampton asked, "So, what do we do now?" before stating that she was casting votes for both Hart and Coker, which she said would give Hart a total of four votes and Coker two votes.

After Curtis clarified Hampton could not vote for both candidates, Brynes made a motion to enter into negotiations with Hart.

During the roll call vote, Brynes, Landry and Woodfaulk voted in favor of Brynes' motion, while Ketring voted against.

Hampton took several minutes to decide, before finally announcing her "no" vote, which meant Brynes' motion passed by a 3-2 margin.

Curtis asked for guidance from the council on negotiating the starting salary, stating he and the mayor (Hampton) would meet with Hart and bring back a proposal.

However, Brynes quickly stated, "\$85,000 with six months probation and then \$95,000."

When Curtis asked for input from other council members, he did not receive

a reply.

"It is also good for the candidate to hear that is what the council expects us to be negotiating around," Curtis said.

City Finance Director Penny Staffney shared that the city's current budget has City Manager Taylor Brown's base salary at \$110,000, not including a \$5,600 car allowance and an "incentive bonus, since he didn't use the health insurance."

Several council members stated they objected to a car allowance going forward, stating that the city would pay mileage or provide a city car.

"You are not paying Florida Retirement System (FRS) on the car and the incentive, so that comes to about \$137,000 or \$138,000 is what is budgeted," Staffney said.

"Would you accept \$85,000?" Brynes shouted across the room directly to Hart.

"OK, get the contract," Brynes stated after getting a nod from Hart.

"Not quite that simple. I hear what you are saying, but we are sticking with our procedure and setting up a meeting, and we will come back with something specific in writing and not a handshake across the room," Curtis replied.

"However, at the end of the day I've come to lean toward -- as far as the overall operation and running the city -- I tend to lean toward Travis Coker."
— City Councilman Ward Ketring

When asked for a start date, Hart replied, "Tomorrow."

"Presumably he'll be hanging around every day at City Hall with staff trying to learn things before his actual start date," Curtis stated.

"I have talked at different times to every department head and they are all 100% behind whoever is selected.

"And I told them I am all for 110%," Brynes added.

"That was only after they found out you couldn't be it," Curtis joked.

"So we agree with him starting out at \$85,000?" Woodfaulk asked.

"He agrees," Brynes replied.

"The devil is always in the details. The last city council

said yeah, around \$85,000 or so, but then there were negotiations back and forth over health insurance and a stipend..." Curtis said.

"This will be simple," Brynes interrupted.

"Not quite that simple. I hear what you are saying, but we are sticking with our procedure and setting up a meeting, and we will come back with something specific in writing and not a handshake across the room"
— City Attorney Ray Curtis

"Well, maybe, but there is a lawyer involved, so..." Curtis joked.

The council agreed to meet again on Feb. 21 at 4 p.m. to review and possibly consider a written contract with Hart.

At the end of the meeting, during individual council member requests and comments, Ketring addressed the two local candidates in attendance about his vote.

"I just want to say with the city manager situation, to me, it was difficult. Two really great people. I voted the way I voted based on my conscience. I welcome you (Hart) to the board," Ketring said. "I'll do everything I can to help you succeed, because when you succeed, we all succeed. I look forward to working with you."

"We gonna bring you out of that shell," Woodfaulk commented.

"We had two really good candidates. I was torn between the two of you. I voted my conscience. I voted my direction. I was welcoming Mr. Hart to the board and if everything works out with the contracts and everything is done the way he wants, I am looking forward...I wish we could have both of you," Ketring said to Coker.

"I wish him the very best," Coker responded.

"They both were very good candidates," Woodfaulk agreed.

"The very best (candidate) experience wise was not even selected, but he may be in jail now," Brynes said, drawing laughter from some council members.

"I concur with what you said, Vice-Mayor Ketring," Hampton said.

LEGALS

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date of death was October 9th, 2021, File #22-581CP, is pending in the Circuit Court for Taylor County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is Post Office Box 620, Perry, Florida 32348. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THIS NOTICE.

NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED. JUDY NICHOLLS 722 Raymond Dr. Solon, IA. 52333 ANGELA M. BALL, Attorney for Petitioner FL BAR NO.: 0796557 Post Office Box 734 Perry, Florida 32348 (850) 584-896

DATES OF PUBLICATION: February 10, 2023 and February 17, 2023.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT, THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR TAYLOR COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION CASE #22-660CP
IN RE: The Estate of HOWARD GLENN SIMONS Decedent.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
The administration of the estate of HOWARD GLENN SIMONS, deceased, whose date of death was December 5th, 2021, File #22-660CP, is pending in the Circuit Court for Taylor County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is Post Office Box 620, Perry, Florida 32348. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THIS NOTICE.

ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL BE FOREVER BARRED. NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED. Linda Satterwhite

210 West Oak Street Perry, FL 32347 ANGELA M. BALL, Attorney for Petitioner FL BAR NO.: 0796557 Post Office Box 734 Perry, Florida 32348 (850) 584-8960 DATES OF PUBLICATION: February 10, 2023 and February 17, 2023.

NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS - MOWING

Taylor Coastal Water and Sewer District (the District) is soliciting proposals from Florida-licensed and insured mowing contractors to perform various mowing tasks on its properties. An RFP including a Statement of Services may be obtained from the District Office located at 18820 Beach Road or by calling (850) 578-3043. A copy of the RFP may also be found at www.tcwsd.org. Responses must be received by 4:00 P.M. on Thursday, March 16, 2023. The District reserves the right, in its sole absolute discretion, to reject any or all proposals, to cancel or withdraw this bid solicitation at any time, and to waive any irregularities in the RFP process. The District reserves the right to award any contract to the respondent that it deems to offer the best overall service; therefore, the District is not bound to award any contract based on the lowest quoted price or rates.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR TAYLOR COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION CASE NO.: 2023-80-CP

In Re: Estate of GLEN WILSON COXWELL, JR., Deceased

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS OR DEMANDS AGAINST THE ABOVE ESTATE:

The administration of the Estate of GLEN WILSON COXWELL, JR., deceased, File No. 2023-80-CP, by the Circuit Court for Taylor County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is Post Office Drawer 620, Perry, FL 32348. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

ALL INTERESTED PERSONS ARE NOTIFIED THAT:

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against Decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is served must file their claims with this Court WITHIN THE LATER OF THREE MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR THIRTY DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM (Sections 733.702 and 733.710 of the Florida Statutes).

All other creditors of the decedent and persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent must file their claims with this Court WITHIN THREE MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

ALL CLAIMS AND DEMANDS NOT SO FILED WILL BE FOREVER BARRED. The date of the first publication of this notice is February 17, 2023. O. M. HOWARD, III, P.A. Person Giving Notice: KIMBERLY COXWELL Personal Representative 3075 Slaughter Rd. Perry, FL 32347 O. M. Howard, III

Attorney at Law, P.A. Florida Bar No. 013551 P.O. Box 22 Perry, Florida 32348 (850) 584-4980

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR TAYLOR COUNTY, FLORIDA GENERAL JURISDICTION DIVISION CASE NO. 22000183CAC

UNION HOME MORTGAGE CORP., Plaintiff, vs. KIMBERLY RUSSELL, et al. Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated November 29, 2022, and entered in 22000183CAC of the Circuit Court of the THIRD Judicial Circuit in and for Taylor County, Florida, wherein AMERIHOM MORTGAGE COMPANY, LLC, is the Plaintiff and KIMBERLY RUSSELL are the Defendant(s).

Gary Knowles, Jr. as the Clerk of the Circuit Court will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at the East Door, Taylor County Courthouse 108 N. Jefferson St., Perry, FL 32347, at 11:00 AM, on March 23, 2023, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit: COMMENCING AT RAILROAD SPIKE IN CENTERLINE OF COUNTY ROAD #361 AT SOUTHWEST CORNER OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 2, TOWNSHIP 4 SOUTH, RANGE 7 EAST, TAYLOR COUNTY, FLORIDA; THENCE RUN NORTH 0 DEGREES 15 MINUTES EAST 50 FEET TO THE NORTH RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF SAID COUNTY ROAD #361; THENCE RUN NORTH 89 DEGREES

16 MINUTES EAST ALONG SAID RIGHT-OF-WAY 213 FEET FOR THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE FROM SAID POINT OF BEGINNING CONTINUE NORTH 89 DEGREES 16 MINUTES EAST 210.7 FEET; THENCE RUN NORTH 0 DEGREES 17 MINUTES 20 SECONDS WEST 420.0 FEET; THENCE RUN SOUTH 89 DEGREES 16 MINUTES WEST 206.75 FEET; THENCE RUN SOUTH 0 DEGREES 15 MINUTES WEST 420.0 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. CONTAINING 2.105 ACRES, MORE OR LESS.

Property Address: 1924 PISGAH RD, PERRY, FL 32347

Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the lis pendens must file a claim in accordance with Florida Statutes, Section 45.031. Dated this 14 day of February, 2023. Gary Knowles, Jr. As Clerk of the Court

By: Kathryn Lago As Deputy Clerk IMPORTANT AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT: If you are a person with a disability who requires accommodations in order to participate in a court proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, the provision of certain assistance. Please contact: Carrina Cooper, Court Administration, 173 NE Hernando Avenue, Room 408, Lake City, FL 32055; Phone: 386.758.2163. Contact Court Administration at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days if you are hearing impaired call 711.