

March 31, 2021

Mayor Flatness called to order a special meeting of the Rockwell City Council in the Community Room for the Council to discuss Chief Whitney's retirement resignation at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 31, 2021 All Council members were present as well as Chief Whitney. Also present and via Zoom were numerous citizens and Dick Fridley via Zoom.

Chief Whitney stated that it is no secret that he is ready to retire, previous discussions may have expedited retirement, but Chief stated he is ready to move on.

Mayor Flatness stated that the meeting is for the Council to accept or not accept the retirement resignation of Chief Whitney and if accepted, if the Council wants to proceed with a Police Department. Mayor Flatness reviewed the previous meeting discussions and Code review in reference to public safety and the Police Department in Rockwell.

Mayor Flatness stated that Chief Whitney had submitted a letter of retirement resignation on March 18, 2021. Wentz moved to accept the letter of retirement resignation from Chief Whitney. Motion seconded by Gauley. Mayor Flatness called for a roll call vote; Ayes; Worley, Wentz, Gauley, Koob, Meyer. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Flatness opened the discussion to the public for input on continuing to support a Police Department. With several of the citizens present voicing their concerns with continuing to have a Police Department.

Mayor Flatness asked for Council discussion on continuing with a Police Department.

Worley stated he still wants to have a town officer, noting we will be losing twenty years of service to our town, he knows the town inside and out. Worley thanked Chief for his years of service.

Meyer stated he is all for having an officer in town, noting it is important for growth in our community. Meyer noted it is deceiving that we have an Officer on duty 24/7 when the Officer works forty hours a week, but will take emergency calls as needed with overtime or comp time.

Gauley felt it is important to have an Officer in town, noting there are things that Chief has done that everyone doesn't realize as well as the patrol through the camp grounds, business checks and EMT calls that he is on.

Wentz stated that he had went with Chief Whitney on a ride along one night and stated that Chief knows the hot spots and what is going on that others are not aware of and thanked Chief Whitney for his years of service. Wentz also feels it is important to have an Officer in Rockwell.

Koob stated that he is not against a Police Department in Rockwell but feels we need to have policies and procedures put in place.

Following discussion Meyer moved to proceed by advertising for a replacement for the Rockwell Police. Motion seconded by Koob. Mayor Flatness stated this is to maintain and support one hundred percent a Police Department in Rockwell, and asked for roll call vote. Aye: Worley, Wentz, Gauley, Koob and Meyer. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Flatness stated we will start the hire process to pursue a new officer.

With no further business, Wentz moved to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Koob, carried unanimously.

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Michael Flatness, Mayor

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Lorna Weier, City Clerk