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SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
INTERVIEW CANDIATES FOR THE
POSITION OF FIRE CHIEF

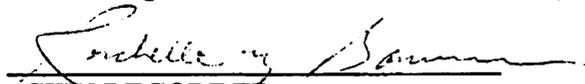
JANUARY 24, 2006

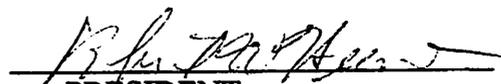
A Special Meeting of the Arcadia City Council was held on January 24, 2006 at 5:00 p.m. in Room D of the Way Building at 23 N. Polk Avenue. Councilmembers attending were: Heine, Goodman, Whitlock, and Fazzone. Council Member Johnson was absent. Also in attendance were: Administrator Strube, Attorney Holloman, Coordinator Hewett, and Recorder Baumann.

Mayor Heine called the special meeting to order and stated that the purpose of the meeting is for Council to continue to interview applicants for the Fire Chief position. Harvey R. Sweeting was scheduled to be interviewed

Harvey R. Sweeting then addressed the Council. He was asked to introduce himself and to take a few minutes and tell the Council about himself. Harvey stated that he has worked for the City for twenty-two (22) years. He is a State Certified Fire Inspector, a Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) certified Police Officer and a State Certified Fire Officer. Harvey was asked "Why do you feel you are the most qualified or best candidate to become the next City of Arcadia Fire Chief" to which he noted his experience of 22 years stating that he works well with the guys and feels he would be a good leader. He was then asked "Are you familiar with the proposal by DeSoto County to merge the City and County Fire Departments and if you are what is your opinion of the merger proposal" to which he replied that he was familiar with the proposal. He has been involved with some of the meetings. He believes that a merger will be good for the citizens of the City and County, it would be better for everyone. Harvey was then asked "What is your best or biggest asset or quality that you bring to the City of Arcadia if selected as the next Fire Chief" to which he replied that he likes to think things through and to understand both sides of an issue before making a decision. He was then asked "Do you think the City of Arcadia/ Arcadia Fire Department is capable of working with DeSoto County / the DeSoto County Fire Department" to which he replied yes, most of the staff of both agencies are friends, grew up together and work well together. Harvey was then asked "What is the most important factor the City of Arcadia – the Arcadia Fire Department faces as far as consolidation relative to the merger" to which he replied that the equipment will be moved around and used in different areas, he does not want to see the City loose any services. Harvey was then asked "Do you think the money side of the merger is an issue that might encourage the consolidation" to which he stated yes it is, the City currently needs to hire staff and can not afford to. He was then asked "IF selected as the City of Arcadia Fire Chief and if the City of Arcadia and DeSoto County agree to consolidate their Fire Departments will you work with the City of Arcadia City Council and DeSoto County Commissioner to make the merger a smooth transition" he replied that he would love to have the opportunity to work with both groups and get it going, he believes that he can work with the Council and Commissioners. Harvey was then asked "Do you have any questions of the City of Arcadia Council or anything else you would like to add at this time" to which he replied that he would love to keep with the City but if we need to merge then he is for it.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.


CITY RECORDER


PRESIDENT