

**September 25, 2019  
Special Session  
City of Gaston**

**Present:** Mayor David **Meeker**, Council President Bill **Martin**, Mario **DePiero**, and Andrew **Sewall**, Sarah **Branch**, Suzy **Carver**, and Don **Richter**. Representing AKS Engineering: Jason **Wuertz**, City Interim Engineer, Zach **Pelz** City Interim Planner, and John **Christiansen**.

**Absent:** None

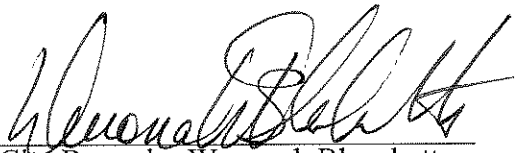
**Staff Present:** City Recorder Wenonah **Blanchette**.

- I. Mayor David **Meeker** called the special meeting to order at 6:33 PM.
- II. **ROLL CALL:** City Recorder **Blanchette** conducted the roll call for the record with:  
Councilor Mario **DePiero**: present  
Councilor Andy **Sewall**: present  
Councilor Bill **Martin**: present  
Mayor David **Meeker**: present  
Councilor Sarah **Branch**: present  
Councilor Suzy **Carver**: present  
Councilor Don **Richter**: present
- III. **Discussion AKS Engineering & Forestry Billings:** Mayor **Meeker** introduced AKS Engineering announcing they are here to discuss billings and turned the meeting over to Jason **Wuertz**. Jason **Wuertz** spoke about a letter addressed to Council regarding several concerns with providing engineering services to the City. Jason **Wuertz** explained in the letter AKS Engineering does not wish to move forward with executing a contract for engineering and planning services as well as discussed concerns Council had regarding invoices for City's projects that the City felt were unusually high. Other discussion items included AKS providing interim planning and engineering services until a new engineer is selected; explained how the grant projects will offset those billings in question with reimbursements made to the City; and difficulties with Gaston Heights phase 2, more specifically requests from the developers for exemptions to ADA standards. Council clarified to AKS that after receiving a letter from the City attorney citing concerns had with AKS Engineering as engineers of record for the City; it was advised to discuss these issues directly with them. Council and AKS Engineering agreed that there was a breakdown of communication with projects and their costs as well as communication with staff.  
  
Consensus was had between Council and AKS Engineering to further discuss ADA issues with Gaston Heights as well as discuss contract for engineering and planning services with the City Attorney on Monday September 30, 2019 at 6:30PM. Councilor **Branch** and Councilor **Sewall** asserted that the next step moving forward with engineering services would be for the City to deliberate price negotiations as part of the process with AKS Engineering but if they choose not to enter into contract with the City; Council will then need to move forward in the RFQ process selecting their second choice for engineers.  
  
Discussion heard for the reasons behind miscommunication between AKS and the Council. It was requested to have AKS forward all emails with information to the City Recorder to then forward to Council. AKS Engineering left the meeting at this time.
- IV. **Direct City Attorney to Negotiate Cost Contract with AKS Engineering & Forestry or Restart RFQ Process:** Councilor **DePiero** made a motion to continue services with AKS for City Planning and Engineering in the interim to either enter into contract negotiations or restart the RFQ process. Councilor **Sewall** seconded the motion with aye votes heard from **DePiero**, **Sewall**, **Martin**, **Meeker**, **Branch** and **Richter**. Nay: 0. Abstain: **Carver**.

Recorder **Blanchette** announced to Council a meeting scheduled for September 26<sup>th</sup> at 10AM with Hiland Water to discuss them acting as the City DRC (direct responsible in charge) for the City's water system until Public Works Director **Worley** can obtain his level 1 water distribution certificate. Also discussed is the level of service that Hiland Water can provide; DRC services only or provide DRC with support services for the City's water department. Councilor **Branch** requested to have information provided from tomorrows meeting with Hiland Water to the meeting scheduled for Monday September 30<sup>th</sup> to review and make decisions on. Councilor **Sewall** confirmed he will be attending the meeting as well.

- V. **ADJOURNMENT:** Councilor **DePiero** motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:34PM with second heard by Councilor **Martin**. Motion carried unanimously.

  
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Mayor David Meeker

Attest:   
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City Recorder Wenonah Blanchette