



City of Grand Island

Tuesday, December 6, 2022

Council Session

Item I-3

#2022-349 - Consideration of Approving Appointment of Laura McAloon as City Administrator

Staff Contact: Mayor Roger Steele

Council Agenda Memo

From: Mayor Roger G. Steele
Meeting: December 6, 2022
Subject: Appointment of Laura McAloon as City Administrator
Presenter(s): Mayor Roger G. Steele

Background

Under Neb. Rev. Stat., §16-308 and Grand Island City Code, §2-35, the office of City Administrator for the City of Grand Island, Nebraska, is an appointed position. The position is appointed by the Mayor and approved by the Council and serves through the end of the Mayor's term of office and until a successor is appointed and qualified.

Discussion

I am pleased to present Laura McAloon as my choice for appointment to the City Administrator position. Following the City Council's approval of my appointment of McAloon as the City Attorney in July of this year, McAloon returned to her hometown of Grand Island in late August of this year and began serving as our City Attorney on September 1, 2022.

Prior to joining the City of Grand Island, McAloon practiced general municipal law in the state of Washington since her admission to the bar in 2001 and she also represented local governments in tax exempt bond financings in Washington and Idaho since 2006. For over 20 years, McAloon served as the appointed city attorney or general counsel to clients ranging in size from a town of 200 with a budget around \$150,000 to a metropolitan transit authority serving a population of nearly 500,000 on a budget exceeding \$145,000,000. In addition to her role as legal counsel to these local governments, McAloon provided frequent assistance and advice to the elected Mayors and appointed Chief Executive Officers on the day to day matters related to the governance and administration of the town, city or district. In doing so, she developed extensive experience in the management of a local government, including the implementation of best practices in the areas of budgeting, procurement and employee/labor relations.

Before opening her own law firm in 2018, McAloon was a partner for ten years in an international law firm and a member for three years in a mid-size litigation and municipal law boutique firm. In both firms McAloon supervised junior attorneys, paralegals and

administrative staff in a managerial role, including supervision of annual attorney and staff performance and compensation reviews. In her management roles in her law firms, McAloon applied the real life business experience she gained in her “pre-law school” life as an administrator for an early childhood education nonprofit and as a small business owner operating a childcare center in her Omaha home. In all of these roles, McAloon has managed people, budgets, goal-setting and long range planning efforts and has applied a practical, business-based approach as she assisted mayors and CEOs in the administration of local governments, regardless of the size or scope of their operations.

McAloon has also been an active volunteer in every community in which she and her family have lived, serving in multiple leadership roles in her children’s school PTA, Girl Scouts, YWCA, a community-oriented policing non-profit and other local groups. McAloon finished her dual Bachelor of Science degrees in Business Administration and Paralegal Studies at College of Saint Mary in Omaha while her four children were in elementary school, while earning a 3.98 GPA. Based on a combination of her academic achievements and her volunteerism, McAloon was awarded the Thomas More Scholarship for public interest law to attend Gonzaga University School of Law in Spokane, Washington, where she obtained her Juris Doctorate degree with distinction. She is already volunteering for organizations here in Grand Island and intends to continue her role as an active and enthusiastic member of the community.

Ms. McAloon’s experience gained through her legal career and her business career have provided her with a fresh perspective on local government administration and the importance of community. She has indicated to me that she believes strongly in transparency, fiscal responsibility and serving the needs of the citizens and residents in the best possible way.

As City Administrator, McAloon will perform all of the duties of the position as set forth in City Code, including keeping the Mayor and Council advised as to the financial condition of the City, supervising and controlling budget expenditures, analyzing the functions and duties of each department of the City and making any needed recommendations about City operations to the Mayor and Council. She will oversee the supervision and evaluation of all City employees and make personnel recommendations to the Mayor. As City Administrator, McAloon will also facilitate the Economic Development Program of the City and serve as an ex officio member of the Economic Development Committee. Per City Code, McAloon will serve as the direct contact point for all City Council members regarding City operations, goals, ideas and any other matters that may arise. She will relay those communications to the Mayor and appropriate Department Heads and will be the point person for reporting back to the Councilmember on any inquiries, ideas or future actions.

Ms. McAloon is prepared to begin work as the City Administrator immediately following the retirement of current City Administrator Jerry Janulewicz and upon this Council’s approval of her appointment. Her starting salary will be at Step 5 of the City Administrator salary table, an annual salary of \$205,713.70, and will complete the standard probationary period that previously started on September 1, 2022.

Finally, I want to express my great appreciation to Jerry Janulewicz for the service he has provided to the City of Grand Island for the past eight years. Jerry's steady hand and calm managerial style in leading and advising the City staff officials has been invaluable to me as Mayor, especially as we navigated the unknown waters of the COVID-19 pandemic and our recovery. He will be greatly missed by everyone at City Hall and we wish him all the best in his retirement.

Alternatives

It appears that the Council has the following alternatives concerning the issue at hand. The Council may:

1. Move to approve
2. Refer the issue to a Committee
3. Postpone the issue to future date
4. Take no action on the issue

Recommendation

I recommend the approval of Laura McAloon as the City Administrator.

Sample Motion

Move to adopt the resolution approving the appointment of Laura McAloon as the City Administrator.

RESOLUTION 2022-349

WHEREAS, under Grand Island City Code, §2-30, the office of City Administrator for the City of Grand Island, Nebraska shall be appointed by the mayor and approved by the council; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor has recommended the appointment of Laura McAloon as City Administrator effective December 6, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the City Administrator appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council shall hold the position to which they may be appointed until the end of the Mayor's term of office; and

WHEREAS, Laura McAloon has accepted the offer and is prepared to start work on December 6, 2022 at Step 5 of the City Administrator salary table of \$205,713.70; and

WHEREAS, the City Administrator appointed by the Mayor may be removed at any time by the Mayor with approval of a majority of the City Council; and

WHEREAS, during such time as the duties of the City Attorney are performed by an Interim City Attorney, Laura McAloon should be authorized to represent the City of Grand Island as special attorney.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL AND MAYOR OF THE CITY OF GRAND ISLAND as follows:

1. Laura McAloon is hereby duly appointed City Administrator in and for the City of Grand Island at Step 5 of the City Administrator salary table.
2. Until a successor City Attorney is appointed, City Administrator Laura McAloon, a licensed attorney in the State of Nebraska, is hereby authorized to represent the City of Grand Island as special attorney.

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Adopted by the City Council of the City of Grand Island, Nebraska, this December 6, 2022.

Roger G. Steele, Mayor

Attest:

RaNae Edwards, City Clerk

Approved as to Form	☐ _____
December 2, 2022	☐ City Attorney