

Pontiac Public Library

Special Board Meeting

June 10th, 2021

- I. Roll Call:
- II. Silent Prayer
- III. Public Comment

The First Public Comment was Renee Beckley. She stated all the issues that she had with Board actions in regards to the firing of Director Green and what lawsuits that it could open up the library to. She explained all the programs at the library that she was part of and enjoyed, then reiterated issues with behavior of each Board member involved in the vote.

The second public was made by Malcom Stewart. He began by giving his opinions on each member of the current Board and how their public behavior has affected people's views on the library. He took issue with people being blocked out of meetings and the termination of Director Green as well as accusations of misappropriations of funds.

The Third public Comment was by Christopher Carodine. He voiced concerns that one of the reasons the city of Pontiac seems messed up with because people do not step up to do the right thing and come together. He feels that the Board mishandled the firing of Director Green and deemed there to be a lack of oversight on Library Board actions.

The fourth public comment was made by DeVon Jackson. He is a commercial real estate broker and spoke on a private entity leasing space from the library. His primary issue was it would take over 20 years for the library to recoup the funds in rent that it was spending in upgrades. His second concern was the legality of a public entity such as the library leasing exclusive rights to a private organization for use of public groups. To the best of his knowledge in the real estate business, he believes that the action is illegal.

The fifth public speaker is Shanell Weatherspoon. First she echoed the concerns of previous speakers in regards to termination of the Director and condemned the behavior of the board. Second concern was the use of library property for a private business and believes that it is against library bylaws. She also voiced concern about oversight on the upcoming budget.

The sixth public speaker was Christian Marcilli. His primary concern was poor audio in the previous board meeting and feeling it was done to keep things for the public.

Final public speak was Tameka Ramsey. Her first issue was the lack of transparency in Board activities and concerned the public gets no answer when they ask questions.

Chair Hatchett thanked everyone that made public comment and stated that in three and a half years this type of involvement hasn't happened. Then Chair Hatchett announced they need to go into closed session with the attorney and called for a motion.

Motion to go into closed session by Secretary Rutherford, supported by Treasurer Maxey.

Roll Call: Chair Hatchett – Yes, Treasurer Maxey – Yes, Trustee Richardson – Yes, Trustee DuVall – Yes, Secretary Rutherford – Yes, Vice Chair Earl – yes

Motion Passes

Enter Closed Session

Return from Closed Session

Motion to come out of closed session by Trustee Richardson, support by Vice Chair Earl

Roll call: Chair Hatchett – Yes, Vice Chair Earl – Yes, Trustee Richardson – Yes, Trustee DuVall – Yes, Treasurer Maxey – Yes, Secretary Rutherford

Motion Passes

IV. XP League

Motion made by Trustee Richardson to table discussion on XP until the Board meeting later in June, (could not hear who supported)

(Could not hear Vice Chair Earl's comments)

Roll Call: Trustee Richardson – Yes, Vice Chair Earl – Yes, Chair Hatchett – Yes, Treasurer Maxey – Yes (Could not hear Trustee DuVall or Secretary Rutherford's vote)

Chair Hatchett said she will be in touch with the people behind the XP Gaming League and Vice Chair Earl will continue to sit on the sub-committee

V. Library Budget

Chair Hatchett stated that the Board must do a public presentation of the budget on Thursday, June 24th at 4pm.

At 5:30, June 24th at 5pm will be the monthly board meeting and the budget must be voted on by July 1st.

(Could not hear Vice Chair Earl's comments)

VI. Hiring of Interim Library Director

Trustee Richardson made a motion that the library board post the position for a new library director. Treasurer Maxey supported the motion.

Trustee DuVall wanted to go on record that she felt the firing of Devan Green was hasty and replacing a director during a budget season was ill timed because new administration may not be up to speed on budget details.

Trustee Richardson believes that the information that the accountant has is sufficient enough to move forward with a budget meeting.

(Could not hear Trustee Richardson's comments in regards to the budget)

Treasurer Maxey – Yes, Chair Hatchett – Yes, Trustee Richardson – Yes, Vice Chair Earl – Yes, (could not hear trustee DuVall)

Motion Passes

VII. Reports

Chair – none

Director – None

Board Comments

Chair Hatchett will make a public statement at a later time and place. Vice Chair Earl thanked everyone that stood up and came to make public comments.

Trustee Richardson comment that decision have to be made that would keep the library open

VIII. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Trustee Richardson, support by Treasurer Maxey

Roll call: Vice chair Earl – Yes, Chair Hatchett – Yes, Treasurer Maxey – Yes, Trustee Richardson – Yes

Meeting adjourned