

SCA Summary – City Council Meeting 10/16/2025

- **Council announced that the City Administrator was on paid Administrative leave**
 - Council noted that this was not a disciplinary action
 - This is pending an independent investigation into concerns the Administrator has raised
 - The hiring of the investigator is being managed by the City Attorney to ensure there is no bias
 - **Council did not provide further details, however anyone who has been paying attention to the continuing trail of disclaimed audits, and ongoing saga of the FY22-23 audit can easily speculate that the Administrator's concerns are regarding mismanagement of finances.**
- **Mayor Richardson then led Council in the appointment of a new interim City Administrator**
 - Mayor Richardson had apparently managed the entire process to come up with two candidates prior to the meeting.
 - Councilor Winfrey raised concerns and abstained from the motion. She noted that candidate's application letter referenced prior discussion with Mayor Richardson on October 6th (well before the decision to place the current City Administrator on leave). She also noted that there was no opportunity for public input.
 - Mayor Richardson rebutted (and mostly ignored) the concerns, saying that the City needed someone to sign paychecks. (SCA notes that this wouldn't be needed until end of month, leaving plenty of time for more discussion.)
 - The person appointed to the job is Dale Shattuck, who was a prior administrator in Shady Cove in the 2009 timeframe. Mayor Richardson noted that she has worked with Mr. Shattuck in the past when she was on the budget committee.
 - Mayor Richardson said she'd "bridge the gap" with City Administrator duties until the interim administrator came on-board
- **Council made appointments for both open Council positions, and as expected "recycled failed leadership"**
 - Two-time quitter Kathy Nuckles was re-appointed
 - Mr. Jeffrey Vanier was appointed to the second seat
 - A citizen (Mr. Hank Hohenstein) of Shady Cove accused Councilor Mitchell of interviewing Mr. Vanier (and only Mr. Vanier) prior to the appointment; saying he'd personally witnessed Councilor Mitchell discussing Mr. Vanier at a Planning Commission meeting he attended recently.
 - Both Councilor Mitchell and Mr. Vanier denied the allegations. No other potential candidates were apparently interviewed. **Mr. Hohenstein has indicated he is considering filing an ethics complaint, which per ORS 40.320 would force involved parties to testify under oath/affirmation**
- **Kathy Nuckles noted that the City needs a supplemental budget for 2025**
 - She claimed the City was overspending on planning fees, however SCA believes the reality is that Council's actions and years of failures in fiduciary duties supervising the prior City Administrator have been the primary contributing factor.
 - Attacks on the City Administrator have likely raised legal fees
 - The City is now forced to pay for an interim administrator, while continuing to pay the current Administrator salary
 - Continuing problems with audits have continued to raise auditor fees far beyond budget
 - Council likely knows they will be facing additional legal liability from multiple lawsuits
 - There are likely other unpaid liabilities that Shady Cove will be responsible for

Note: Unless Shady Cove Council has a hidden pot of money (what are the odds??), they likely have no budget for these expenses. Pay close attention to the next budget process!!!

- A resident provided a letter to the Council on his concerns regarding abandoned property at Yew Wood Drive, which burned last year. He asked for Code enforcement.
 - Mayor Richardson dutifully read his letter aloud.
 - Then the Council... simply moved on to the next agenda item with no discussion
 - Councilor Steve Mitchell, who never misses an opportunity to talk himself up, discussed his prior experiences with code enforcement during Council comments, even though for the past 8 years that he's been a Councilor, the City has never acted upon, nor budgeted for code enforcement.
 - ***In a small sign of hope for residents, new Council member Jeffrey Vanier offered to contact Eagle Point to see what they were doing for code enforcement.***
- The City announced there will be a workshop next week for Water and Ordinance 299 revisions

References

Link to 10/16/2025 Council meeting agenda packet: [VFB-Oct-16-2025-City-Council-Agenda_Redacted.pdf](#)