

<http://www.MSCNews.net/news/index.cfm?nk=18483>

Falls City Council Approves Change in City Attorney

(KLZA) Falls City Mayor Tim Hersh announced Monday night at the beginning of the meeting that he had removed Doug Merz and Robert Meyer from their positions as City Attorney and Deputy City Attorney. (play audio :12 seconds)

Later in the meeting the Council voted unanimously to confirm the Mayors appointment of a new City Attorney and Deputy City Attorney's. (play audio :11 seconds)

We asked Mayor Hersh to comment on why the change was made following the meeting. (play audio :09 seconds)

In October Deputy City Attorney Meyer met with the Council to discuss raising the rate from the \$60 per hour the City has paid the Weaver & Merz Law firm for services to \$120 per hour. No action was taken on the matter.

On October 17th Merz sent a letter to the Mayor recusing himself from handling any further legal matters involving the City of Falls City. On October 23rd Mayor Hersh sent a letter to Merz and Meyer seeking their resignation from their positions representing the City. On October 28th Merz sent a letter to Mayor Hersh requesting additional time to consider the Mayors request for their resignations.

Under the agreement approved with the Halbert, Dunn & Halbert law firm the City will pay an hourly rate of \$150 for legal services provide Michael Dunn, Christopher Halbert and Richard Halbert, \$60 per hour for a legal assistant and \$30 an hour for a staff assistant. The City will also be charged for all out-of-pocket disbursements for expenses incurred by the firm when representing the City.

Many Signals Communications