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## **CITY COUNCIL UPDATES CITY MANAGER RECRUITMENT PROCESS**

The Vallejo City Council met in closed session Tuesday evening to discuss the efforts to recruit a new city manager and examine the recruitment process.

Interviews were held with several candidates earlier this summer which did not result in a job offer. Rather than going back out with another full recruitment effort, the City Council decided to postpone the search so as to give Interim City Manager John Thompson more time to get the City's finances and other issues under control.

"Mr. Thompson has done a fabulous job in the short time he has been here. The City is on the right track," said Mayor Anthony J. Intintoli, Jr. "Some members of the public may have been critical of the Council for not rushing out to hire a new city manager. But we concluded that we will ultimately get stronger candidates by waiting a few months while the City Council works with the city manager and his staff to resolve pressing issues."

One issue is an estimated \$4 million deficit in the City's General Fund which covers most municipal services. The City Council adopted a "placeholder" budget in June which reduced the General Fund by \$4 million so that ongoing expenses will match ongoing revenues. The details of where those reductions will actually be made are scheduled to be decided by the Council in October. The city manager has been talking with employee bargaining groups about their cooperation on salary and benefit savings while at the same time developing a budget cut plan in the event those talks aren't successful. Based on advice from Avery Associates, the firm the City is using to assist in the city manager recruitment process, getting a resolution to the budget deficit will eliminate a major obstacle in attracting good candidates.

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Thompson, who is not a candidate for the permanent position, is very positive about Vallejo and the opportunity it provides for a strong city manager. “It is one of the best City Councils I’ve worked with in my career,” he said. “They are hard working, intelligent, and courageous and can have different opinions on public policy issues while still being civil to each other and to staff. They are committed to the Council-Manager form of government and are eager to welcome a new city manager as a partner.”

While the City has not re-engaged a major public recruitment effort in recent months, Avery Associates has identified several potential candidates for the job who reportedly are buoyed by the progress being made in Vallejo. The City Council will be setting an interview date for mid-October.

“Vallejo has some big economic development projects, a bright future and a good City Council,” Thompson said. “But it’s not a job for someone who wants to ease into retirement or learn on the job. We need a seasoned person who wants to put all of his or her management skills to the test and get excited about helping a city realize its potential.”

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