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Bixby's city manager resigns

BY TIM STANLEY World Staff Writer
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BIXBY — A suspended city official resigned from his position Tuesday evening as part of an undisclosed settlement with the city.

Members of the City Council voted 5-0 after a two-hour executive session to accept the resignation, effective immediately, of City Manager Micky Webb and to have the city attorney formally prepare the agreement.

The action officially brought to a close Webb's three-week dispute and 16-year tenure with the city.

In a joint statement released afterward, Webb, who was suspended May 6, and Mayor Ray Bowen agreed that the resignation was in both parties' best interest.

In the statement, Bowen acknowledged the city's growth and development under Webb and expressed the city's appreciation for his service.

Both Bowen and Webb said they would not comment further on "this personnel matter."

Chris Camp, Webb's attorney, also would not say more, noting only that "we have resolved the dispute to the mutual satisfaction of both sides."

The council has refused all along to say why it suspended Webb, but the action came just days after the city manager accused the council of violating the city charter and the state Open Meeting Act during an executive session April 27.

During that session, Webb alleged in a letter, the council pressured him to fire several employees, which the city charter does not give them the authority to do.

Bixby's city charter states that "neither the council, the mayor, nor any of its other members may direct or request the appointment of any person to, or his removal from, office or employment by

the city manager."

Webb said the alleged actions also violated the Open Meeting Act because they were not listed on the meeting notice or agenda and were not publicly voted on by the council.

Webb sent a letter recounting the alleged breaches to Tulsa County District Attorney Tim Harris, who responded with a letter to the council advising it of the complaints and warning it to follow state law.

Harris decided not to investigate the allegations, however.

Webb's contract with the city was renewed in March and was effective through June 30, 2010.

He had been the city manager for 16 years.

City Treasurer Becky Byers, who was appointed as the acting city manager when Webb was suspended, will continue to serve in that capacity while the city searches for a new city manager, officials said.



RESIGNATION ENDS DISPUTE

City Manager Micky Webb: He accused city councilors of violating the state's Open Meeting Act on April 27 by illegally pressuring him to fire several employees and by not listing the intention on the agenda. He was suspended days later, although councilors have not said why.