

Special City Commission Meeting
December 28, 2023
7:30 a.m.

ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT:

Adrian Petrilă, Mayor – via Zoom
Ward Friszolowski, Vice Mayor, Commissioner, District 3
Karen Marriott, Commissioner, District 1
Nick Filtz, Commissioner, District 2
Rich Lorenzen, Commissioner, District 4

STAFF PRESENT:

Andrew Dickman, City Attorney – via Zoom
Wayne Saunders, City Manager
Amber LaRowe, City Clerk
Matthew McConnell, Assistant City Attorney

Vice Mayor Friszolowski called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attorney Dickman discussed an email that he received last night from Attorney Ken Weiss. This email was distributed to the Commission and is made a part of the record. Attorney Weiss's email alleges the illegality of reopening the submittal period for letters of interest, more specifically he mentioned District 2. Attorney Dickman finds no legal case that speaks to the allegations outlined. He reminded the Commission of the work performed by the City's administration to understand the Charter, the Law, and what the Supervisor of Elections would do regarding a special election. The City must follow the Supervisor of Election's schedule for holding elections with the next option after March being in August.

Vice Mayor Friszolowski reviewed the process of resignations and of Betty Rzewnicki's qualification for District 3 Commissioner for the March 2024 election; she was the only individual to turn in the paperwork and qualify during the November period.

Ms. Rzewnicki appeared via Zoom to discuss her employer's requirement for authorization to accept a second job, which this position is. As of today, no confirmation or denial to accept the job has been received by her employer. Due to the holidays, staff at her employment will not be back in the office until January 8th, and she hopes to have a definitive answer then. Based on this information, Ms. Rzewnicki would not be able to fill the vacancy today.

Vice Mayor Friszolowski stated that he will wait until December 30th to tender his resignation and is hopeful that at the January 9th City Commission meeting, Betty Rzewnicki will have heard from her employer and been giving the authorization to accept the position. He opined that this is the best path for the City because she is set to be the District 3 Commissioner after the March 19th elections.

Commissioner Marriott agreed with the Vice Mayor's opinion.

Regarding Commissioner Lorenzen's question about the difference between today's selection versus District 1, Vice Mayor Friszolowski stated that District 1 had two residents qualify to run for office; therefore, they will be on the ballot in March and elected by the voters; District 3 only had one resident, therefore, no election will happen, but she won't be in the seat until after the March election.

City Clerk LaRowe asked the Commission to provide clear intent on what is to happen on January 9th so that she can inform the individuals of the process. She stated that based on the other meetings, interviews are

approximately 30 minutes per person and asked the Commission to keep that in mind for January 9th as there are other items on the agenda that need to be discussed and approved by the Commission.

1. AUDIENCE COMMENTS

Resident Deborah Schechner inquired what happens if Ms. Rzewnicki does not hear from her employer before January 9th. She encouraged the new Commissioners to review the Planning Board meeting from November where the Sirata Conditional Use Permit was heard.

Resident Sharon Cavanaugh echoed similar comments as Ms. Schechner and opined the Commission should interview the individuals who took the time to attend today.

Resident Will Lawson spoke of his views on what he has witnessed during the last week of Commission meetings and appointments.

Resident Mike Sequin encouraged the Commission to interview the individuals present today and expressed his opinions on the process.

Commissioner Marriott spoke of her views of the process and the conflict she is facing with waiting to hear from Ms. Rzewnicki's employer versus interviewing the individuals for the position today.

2. DISCUSSION OF COMMISSION VACANCIES AND POSSIBLE APPOINTMENTS

This did not occur because Vice Mayor Friszolowski did not resign today; his resignation is effective December 30th.

Vice Mayor Friszolowski gave his final remarks before leaving office on Saturday. He thanked several staff members, the Commission, and the Sheriff's Office. He discussed several projects that he was proud to be a part of during his 32 years as an elected official. He recapped his path to office, the individuals who helped him be a successful Commissioner and Mayor, and thanked the new Commissioners for stepping up during this time.

The Commission canceled the meeting for tomorrow, December 29, 2023.

Vice Mayor Friszolowski adjourned the meeting at 8:46 a.m.

MINUTES APPROVED: JANUARY 9, 2024



AMBER LAROWE
CITY CLERK



ADRIAN PETRILA
MAYOR