

Special City Commission Meeting

December 18, 2023

2:00 p.m.

ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT:

Adrian Petrila, Mayor

Mark Grill, Vice Mayor, Commissioner, District 2

Chris Graus, Commissioner, District 1

Ward Friszolowski, Commissioner, District 3

Chris Marone, Commissioner, District 4

STAFF PRESENT:

Andrew Dickman, City Attorney

Wayne Saunders, City Manager

Amber LaRowe, City Clerk

Matthew McConnell, Assistant City Attorney

Mayor Petrila called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

No approval was necessary.

2. REVIEW OF SPECIAL ELECTION REQUIREMENTS FOR VACANT ELECTED OFFICIAL SEAT(S)

a. Discussion and Possible Action regarding vacancy(ies) on the Commission

Attorney Andrew Dickman began by explaining the legal research that he has conducted regarding the financial form, Form 6. If an elected official does not wish to file a Form 6 or Form 6F, they must resign from office on or before December 30, 2023. He then read Chapter 3.06 of the City's Charter which outlines the procedure for Commission vacancies. The Supervisor of Elections is charged with conducting the City's elections and has provided two options in 2024 to hold a special election; August and November. Mr. Dickman stated that the Charter refers to simultaneous vacancies and suggested that those who wish to resign do so by staggering the resignation dates to allow for the seated Commission to appoint replacements.

Vice Mayor Grill acknowledged his desire to resign from office effective December 30, 2023.

Commissioner Friszolowski stated that he would be willing to resign effective today if Betty Rzewnicki, the qualified candidate for the District 3 March election (the only qualified individual), would be able and willing to step into the role until she is officially elected in March.

Resident Betty Rzewnicki would be willing to serve until the March election when she would be "elected"; however, she is awaiting confirmation from her employer that she can accept the public office as a secondary employment. Therefore, she would not be able to accept the position today. She will continue to reach out to her employer to obtain a response.

Commissioner Marone confirmed he will be resigning from the Commission this year as well and is willing to stagger as the City seeks individuals to fill the vacant seats.

Commissioner Graus also expressed his consideration for resignation prior to the end of the year.

The Commission discussed their availability this week and next for special meetings.

Attorney Dickman asked for a brief recess so staff could discuss calendar dates to meet before the end of the year.

Mayor Petrila recessed the meeting at 2:38 p.m.

Mayor Petrila reconvened the meeting at 2:51 p.m.

Commissioner Graus confirmed that he will be resigning and will work with the City on an effective date as seats are filled.

Attorney Dickman outlined the process as follows:

- Post a notice regarding residents to file a letter of interest with the City Clerk this week.
 - Must be a resident in the district in which they express interest in representing for a period of one year before November 17, 2023
 - Must be a registered voter of Pinellas County.
 - Will be required to complete a financial Form 6/6F.
- Will need to be interviewed by the City Commission during a public meeting.

The Commission decided on the following special meetings that will be held to interview interested residents who wish to serve on the Commission until the March election (Districts 1 & 3) and until the special election (August or November) for Districts 2 and 4:

- December 21, 2023, 7:30 a.m.
- December 26, 2023, 2:00 p.m.
- December 27, 2023, 7:30 a.m.
- December 28, 2023, 7:30 a.m.
- December 29, 2023, 7:30 a.m.

Anyone interested must file a letter of interest, with a resume, to the City Clerk's Office by the end of the day, December 20, 2023.

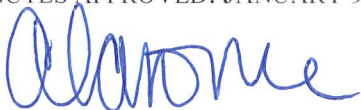
Mayor Petrila asked for any public comment.

Resident Betty Rzewnicki spoke regarding the filing of the financial form, the changes, and the people who need to step up and serve despite this new form requirement.

City Clerk LaRowe acknowledged that immediately after this meeting she will be posting the notice to the City's website and social media pages outlining the instructions and requirements. She reminded everyone that anyone who is appointed, elected, asked, requested, chosen, etc., will be required to file a Form 6 with the State of Florida if seated as a City Commissioner. Appointed board members of advisory boards and committees are not required to file a Form 6, the reporting boards for the City are the Planning Board and the Board of Adjustment and they will continue to file a Form 1.

Mayor Petrila adjourned the meeting at 3:15 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVED: JANUARY 9, 2024



AMBER LAROWE
CITY CLERK



ADRIAN PETRILA
MAYOR