

MAYOR
Pat Bentley

DEPUTY MAYOR
Stephen Phrampus

COUNCIL MEMBERS
Diana Adams
John Dittmore
Daniel McDow
Andrea Young



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CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING

MINUTES

October 17, 2023

1. CALL TO ORDER

Interim Mayor Phrampus called the special meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND MOMENT OF SILENT MEDITATION

Interim Mayor Phrampus led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

3. ROLL CALL

Attending: Interim Mayor Stephen Phrampus, and Council Members Diana Adams, Pat Bentley, John Dittmore, Daniel McDow, and Andrea Young.

Attending Remotely: Council Member John Dittmore

Also present: City Manager Tim Rhode, City Attorney John Cary, Police Chief Gregory Vesta, Systems Administrator Christian Arsenault, City Clerk Cynthia Hanscom, and members of the public.

Council Member McDow moved to approve the remote attendance by Council Member Dittmore. Council Member Adams seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.

4. JUSTIFICATION OF MEETING

Council Member Adams moved to determine the Special meeting was justified. Council Member Bentley seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.

5. PUBLIC FORUM

There were no speakers for the public forum.

6. SELECTION OF MAYOR

Interim Mayor Phrampus explained the process for the selection of the Mayor and noted that nominations would be accepted and then a paper ballot selection would be conducted.

Council Member McDow asked the options should the Council not be able to come to a majority vote. City Manager Rhode stated that, if a Mayor is not selected in 60 days, there would be a special election. He noted that there was a meeting scheduled in November if a decision could not be reached today.

Council Member Young noted both herself and Interim Mayor Phrampus were currently running for Mayor in the 2024 election. Given that both would benefit from being selected, she nominated Council Member Bentley. Council Member Bentley accepted the nomination.

Council Member Dittmore stated that it was important that the individual selected could move the City forward and heal any divisions that have been created on Council.

Interim Mayor Phrampus stated that providing an unfair advantage is what is being done each time a Council Member is selected and then runs for office. It was a factor for Council Member Dittmore and Council Member Adams when they were appointed by the Council and then ran for office. He hoped that same principle would be applied for the next Council Member appointment. He stated that he would not be submitting his name for selection for Mayor.

Interim Mayor Phrampus spoke on the recent issues that caused division on the Council. He stressed the importance of following the facts and making informed decisions that were not based on personal feelings. He spoke about an incident that occurred at the recent Florida League of Cities conference in August and the treatment received by both Council Member Dittmore and both of their wives. Based on that, he could not support Council Member Bentley for Mayor.

Interim Mayor Phrampus nominated Council Member Adams for the position noting that she was well-represented and had shown that she could be a leader in the community. Council Member Adams appreciated the comments and accepted the nomination, but believed that Council Member Bentley would do a good job.

Council expressed their concern for what had happened at the Florida League of Cities conference. Council Member Bentley noted that he had apologized to both Mr. Phrampus and his wife for the incident and thought it was settled. Interim Mayor Phrampus stated that although they were being cordial at the time, hurt feelings were still there.

Council Member Dittmore asked if Council Member Adams was aware that appointment to Mayor would trigger her resignation of her seat on Council. Council Member Adams stated she was aware.

Council Members spoke about the two nominations for Mayor and the benefits that could be brought to Council and the City through each candidate.

A paper ballot was conducted for the Mayor position with results showing five votes for Council Member Bentley and one vote for Council Member Adams, the latter provided by Interim Mayor Phrampus.

Council Member Adams moved to appoint Pat Bentley for Mayor to fulfill the remaining term. Council Member McDow seconded the motion, which passed 5-1, with Interim Mayor Phrampus in opposition.

City Clerk Hanscom conducted the swearing in of Pat Bentley for Mayor, with a term ending November 2024.

Mayor Bentley expressed his appreciation for the support and confidence.

7. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the special meeting was adjourned at 5:35 p.m.