

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL
Southwest Ranches, Florida

Thursday 7:00 PM

November 14, 2019

13400 Griffin Road

Present:

Mayor Doug McKay

Andrew Berns, Town Administrator

Vice Mayor Gary Jablonski

Russell Muñiz, Assistant Town Administrator/Town Clerk

Council Member Bob Hartmann

Martin D. Sherwood, Town Financial Administrator

Council Member Denise Schroeder

Keith Poliakoff, Town Attorney

Special Meeting of the Town Council of Southwest Ranches was held at 13400 Griffin Road in the Southwest Ranches Council Chambers. The meeting, having been properly noticed, was called to order by Mayor McKay at 7:02 PM. Attendance was noted by roll call and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Town Attorney Poliakoff explained that former Council Member Freddy Fisikelli resigned from his position prior to his death. The Town's Charter requires that if a vacancy exists with more than one year left on the term a Special Election of the Town's electorate would be required to take place. The Town then reached out to the Broward County Supervisor of Elections (SOE) informing them that the Town would require a Special Election within 60 days in accordance with the Town's Charter. The SOE informed the Town they could not comply with the Town's request as they were in the midst of updating the voter rolls in compliance with State law. He advised that he then reached out to the Florida Attorney General for guidance. The Florida Attorney General's Office advised that the Florida Courts have always preferred that a vacancy be filled rather than leaving it vacant. As such they believed that the Town was on firm ground to appoint a successor. The Town's position was further strengthened by the fact that the vacancy would be filled within one year of the next election in November of 2020.

He believed the purpose of this meeting was for the Town Council to make an appointment from among the candidates that have submitted their interest. If no candidate was selected by the Town Council than the Town Council could choose to have an election in March of 2020.

Assistant Town Administrator/Town Clerk Muniz explained that each candidate would be given up to three minutes to explain why they believed they were the best choice to be selected as the District 3 Council Member for the remainder of the unfilled term. The following applicants addressed the Town Council:

3. Appointment - District 3 Vacancy
 - a. James Allbritton, Applicant
 - b. Delsa Amundson, Applicant
 - c. Mary Gay Chaples, Applicant
 - d. Omaida Delgado, Applicant
 - e. Yardiel Fuentes, Applicant
 - f. Louis Gregory, Applicant (Absent)
 - g. Anna Koldys, Applicant (Abesnt)

- h. Nicolas Lampariello, Applicant (Absent)
- i. Barry Neunzig, Applicant
- j. Dave Reiff, Applicant
- k. Alexis Rivero, Applicant
- l. Andres Vasquez, Applicant

Mayor McKay advised if the Town Council couldn't make a decision at this meeting there would be elections in March the Town could piggyback on that would make the cost very cost effective.

Vice Mayor Jablonski expressed that this job was one of the most rewarding jobs one could have. He hoped that the person selected would not have a predetermined agenda but rather would be willing to serve to do what is best for the Town.

Council Member Hartmann expressed concern about selecting someone that he would have just met at this meeting. As a result, he called each of the applicants to get to know them better. He felt that each of the applicants cared about the rural lifestyle. He enumerated all of the traits that he wished the selected member would have. He disagreed with Mayor McKay, and expressed a desire to select someone at this meeting, as there was a lot of Town business that needed to be resolved.

Council Member Schroeder expressed concern with the Town Council appointing someone as Council Member Fisikelli was elected by the Town's residents. She supported letting the residents decide at a Town election.

Mayor McKay reminded the Town Council of the sentiment expressed by the Town Council at the last meeting to have a "united front" and have a unanimous vote in appointing someone. He felt that based on Council Member Schroeder's statements this evening the Town Council needed to decide what they wanted to do as it appeared that a unanimous vote would not take place at this meeting, but only three votes were required. Bob Hartmann expressed his support for a unanimous vote. Vice Mayor Jablonski agreed.

Town Administrator Berns asked the Town Council to complete their ranking sheets of applicants they would like to consider further.

The Town Council decided to rank their top three candidates. After a short recess, Council Member Schroeder announced that if the remaining Council Members could agree on a candidate that she would support that candidate and make the vote unanimous.

Town Administrator Berns announced that after tallying all of the votes the only name that was on all of the ranking sheets from the Town Council was Delsa Amundson.

The following motion was made by Council Member Hartmann, seconded by Mayor McKay and passed by 4-0 roll call vote. The vote was as follows: Council Members Hartmann, Schroeder Vice Mayor Jablonski and Mayor McKay voting Yes.

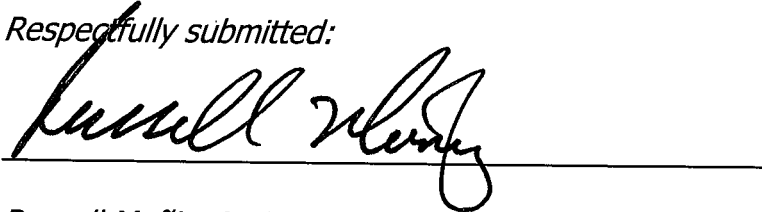
MOTION: TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION.

Delsa Amundson thanked the Town Council for their support and confidence in her.

4. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Russell Muñiz, Assistant Town Administrator/Town Clerk

Adopted by the Town Council on this 9th day of April, 2020.



Doug McKay, Mayor

PURSUANT TO FLORIDA STATUTES 286.0105, THE TOWN HEREBY ADVISES THE PUBLIC THAT IF A PERSON DECIDES TO APPEAL ANY DECISION MADE BY THIS COUNCIL WITH RESPECT TO ANY MATTER CONSIDERED AT ITS MEETING OR HEARING, HE OR SHE WILL NEED A RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS, AND THAT FOR SUCH PURPOSE, THE AFFECTED PERSON MAY NEED TO ENSURE THAT VERBATIM RECORD OF THE PROCEEDING IS MADE, WHICH RECORD INCLUDES THE TESTIMONY AND EVIDENCE UPON WHICH THE APPEAL IS TO BE BASED THIS NOTICE DOES NOT CONSTITUTE CONSENT BY THE TOWN FOR THE INTRODUCTION OR ADMISSION OF OTHERWISE INADMISSIBLE OR IRRELEVANT EVIDENCE, NOR DOES IT AUTHORIZE CHALLENGES OR APPEALS NOT OTHERWISE ALLOWED BY LAW.