

CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE

City Commission Special Meeting
Monday, March 4, 2019

The City Commission met in formal session Thursday, March 4, 2019 at 9:00 A.M. in the Alcazar Room at City Hall. The meeting was called to order by Vice Mayor Leanna S.A. Freeman, and the following were present:

- 1. Roll Call:** Leanna S.A. Freeman, Vice Mayor/City Commissioner
Nancy Sikes-Kline, City Commissioner
Roxanne Horvath, City Commissioner
John Valdes, City Commissioner

John Regan, City Manager
Timothy A. Burchfield, Assistant City Manager
John Cary, Assistant City Attorney
Darlene Galambos, City Clerk
David Birchim, Director, Planning and Building
Jim Piggott, General Services Director
Mike Cullum, Director, Public Works
Mark Litzinger, Director, Financial Services
Meredith Breidenstein, Director, Budget & Performance Management
Paul K. Williamson, Director, Public Affairs
Barry Fox, Police Chief
Carlos Aviles, Fire Chief
Robin DiAngelis, Recording Secretary

2. General Public Comments

The Commissioners heard from the following members of the public:

- Keith Willard
- Tom Reynolds
- BJ Kalaidi
- Chris Fulmer
- Ron Rawls
- David Williamson
- Jason Forrest

3. Discussion and possible appointment of the vacancy for Seat Three, designated as the mayor/commissioner seat.

Vice Mayor Freeman said that each Commissioner probably had someone in

mind for the position, and invited each Commissioner to speak about their thought process and short list candidates.

Commissioner Sikes-Kline stated her initial approach focused on candidate who met the qualifications of the law and the charter.

John Cary, Assistant City Attorney, advised the new mayor would have to be a resident of the city, and not a current office holder. Commissioner Sikes-Kline continued that she also considered candidates who had previously been duly elected, seated and served. She also felt anyone appropriate as mayor would not seek office at the end of the current term so that it would not appear that the Commission was creating a future candidate. She felt the candidate

should understand the roll of mayor, the charter, and its limits and boundaries, and who had the time to fulfill obligations. She also felt the candidate should be highly regarded and trusted. She asked to hear the list of candidates who expressed interest or were recommended to Mr. Regan.

Mr. Regan read the names he received (in no particular order):

- Bill McClure
- Alexius Ferguson
- Tracy Upchurch
- Greg Baker
- Joes Boles
- Sara Ryan
- Leonard Pellicier
- Mike Davis
- Les Thomas
- Henry Green
- Don Crichlow
- Pat Canan
- Jason Forrest
- Bill Lennon
- Hank Whetstone
- Bruce Maguire
- Todd Neville
- Martha Mickler

Mr. Cary noted a state law "Restrictions on Individuals Qualifying for Public Office" that required anyone who was a current office holder to resign at least ten days prior to the qualifying period.

Vice Mayor Freeman stated there were many great people who were suggested or willing to serve. She asked fellow Commissioners if one candidate stood out among the others.

Commissioner Sikes-Kline said Tracy Upchurch met the requirements she was seeking.

Vice Mayor Freeman agreed.

Commissioner Horvath said he was on her list as well and she felt that since he had previously served as mayor and his unique prospective from his service on the state legislative level, could bring something extra to the position.

Commissioner Valdes thanked all the citizens who threw their hat in the ring. He said the Commission had not been faced with an easy decision; however, he agreed with his fellow Commissioners that Tracy Upchurch would be an asset for the City.

MOTION

Commissioner Sikes-Kline NOMINATED Tracy Upchurch to fill the remainder of the mayoral vacancy. The motion was SECONDED by Commissioner Horvath.

VOTE ON MOTION

AYES: Sikes-Kline, Horvath, Valdes, Freeman

NAYES: None

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Commissioner Sikes-Kline said she appreciated all the comments, phone calls, emails, texts and all the people who spoke. She felt the community outreach was amazing.

Commissioners thanked Nancy Shaver for all her hard work service on behalf of the City and wished her a speedy recovery. They also expressed a wish to honor her service during a future meeting.

4. Adjournment

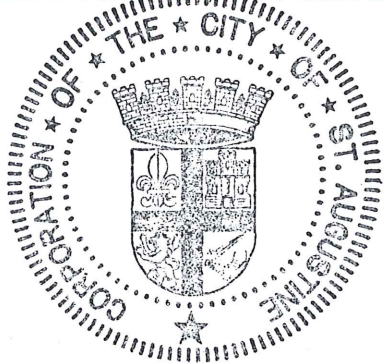
There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:37 A.M.¹



Leanna S. A. Freeman, VICE MAYOR



Darlene Galambos, CITY CLERK



¹ Transcribed by Robin DiAngelis