

**MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 5, 2016 SPECIAL SESSION
GREEN COVE SPRINGS CITY COUNCIL**

Call to Order

A duly called Special Session of the Green Cove Springs City Council was called to order Tuesday, January 5, 2016, at 5:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 321 Walnut Street, Green Cove Springs, Florida.

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

The invocation was given by Mayor Royal followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Roll Call

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

C. Felecia Hampshire
Pamela J. Lewis
Roy M. Timberlake, Jr.
Vacant, Vice Mayor
B. Van Royal, Mayor

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

L. J. Arnold, III, City Attorney
Julia W. Clevinger, City Clerk
Janis Fleet, Development Services Director
Marlena Guthrie, Finance Director
Cynthia Hunter, Personnel Director
Danielle J. Judd, City Manager
Robert Musco, Chief of Police
Mike Null, Asst. City Mgr. / Public Works
Director / Interim Electric Utility Director

**Mayor to call on members of the audience wishing to address
the Council on matters not on the Agenda.**

There were none.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

- 1. City Council acceptance of the resignation of D. Ray Braly, Seat 5 effective December 31, 2015. *Royal***

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER TIMBERLAKE TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION [OF VICE MAYOR D. RAY BRALY EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 31, 2015]. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER HAMPSHIRE. THERE BEING NO FURTHER DISCUSSION, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED BY THE FOLLOWING ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES – COUNCIL MEMBERS C. FELECIA HAMPSHIRE, PAMELA J. LEWIS, ROY M. TIMBERLAKE, JR., AND MAYOR B. VAN ROYAL. NAYS – NONE.

- 2. Discussion regarding the appointment of a replacement to fill City Council Seat 5 vacancy and complete related term of office through May 17, 2016. *Royal***

Mayor Royal explained that he had called for the Special Session to ensure the City Council's transparency relating to the resignation of the Vice Mayor and for the City Council to be able to discuss the process and possible parameters for appointment of a replacement. Protocols were discussed including the possibility of any advantage that the appointee may have over other candidates in the upcoming election in April. It was agreed that there would be no advantage. It should be of no concern to the City Council if that person chose to run for a City Council seat in the April election.

Council Member Timberlake recalled how the Charter dictated the protocols the City Council must follow. The City Council was agreed that whomever was to be nominated must express their interest and commitment to the position and the City for the remainder of the term.

Mayor Royal recognized Bob Lewis, 203 North Street, Green Cove Springs, who inquired if the remainder of Vice Mayor Braly's term would be considered or count as a "term" for whomever was appointed as a replacement. Mr. Arnold explained that it would not. He acknowledged that the language in the Charter could certainly be "cleaned up".

Upon further discussion, and under advice of the City Attorney, it was agreed that the City Council would make their nominations and vote on an appointment at the meeting on January 12th. The appointee would then be sworn in at the meeting on January 26th.

Mayor Royal inquired about placing an item on the January 12th Agenda. The City Manager's Employment Contract was due to expire on March 23, 2016. Due to her recent personal issues and to avoid taking up her contract in March, he stated he had discussed with Ms. Judd the possibility of extending her Employment Contract for six (6) months or one (1) year. He advised that Ms. Judd would be comfortable with an extension through the end of the year.

DECLARING THIS ITEM AS AN EMERGENCY, A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER HAMPSHIRE TO EXTEND THE CITY MANAGER'S CONTRACT UNTIL JANUARY 2017.

Mayor Royal contended he did not have a problem waiting for this item to be placed on the Agenda for January 12th. Ms. Judd concurred. Mr. Arnold clarified that it was the City Council who deemed what items were to be considered emergency Items. Council Member Hampshire emphasized that she considered this to be an emergency item. It was also clarified that the intent of Council Member Hampshire's motion was to extend the City Manager's Contract through January 5, 2017.

THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER TIMBERLAKE. THERE BEING NO FURTHER DISCUSSION, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED BY THE FOLLOWING ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES – COUNCIL MEMBERS C. FELECIA HAMPSHIRE, PAMELA J. LEWIS, ROY M. TIMBERLAKE, JR., AND MAYOR B. VAN ROYAL. NAYS – NONE.

Ms. Judd thanked the City Council for their support. She requested the City Attorney be directed by the City Council to bring forward an appropriate document on the January 12th Agenda which would allow public debate.

Ms. Judd distributed a Committee Meeting Notice of the Energy and Utilities Subcommittee in Tallahassee on Monday, January 11th from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. She explained how critical it was that the City be represented by its elected officials. She explained the bills being proposed by Rep. Mayfield and co-sponsored by Rep. Van Zant. She would also arrange for transportation as necessary.

3. Adjournment.

There being no further business to come before the City Council, the meeting was adjourned at 6:13 p.m.

CITY OF GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FLORIDA

B. Van Royal, Mayor

Attest:

Julia W. Clevinger, City Clerk