

BOARD OF MAYOR AND COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
January 11, 2010
7:30 p.m.

MINUTES

Members Present: Ed Rieker, Mayor
Sandra Varian, Mayor Pro tem
Lyda Steadman, Commissioner
Michael Payne, Commissioner
David Milliron, Commissioner
Terry Giager, Commissioner-Elect
Gene Lee, Commissioner-Elect

Staff Present: Clai Brown, City Manager
Juliette Sims, City Clerk

Item No. 1 Meeting called to order at 7:32 p.m. by Mayor Rieker.

Item No. 2 Welcome extended to residents and guests

Mayor Rieker welcomed everyone to this special night for installation of officers which only happens every couple of years. Mayor Rieker stated that there are a couple of outgoing commissioners who have done a tremendous job and a couple of new commissioners who are very excited to be here today.

Item No. 3 Invocation (Commissioner Payne)

Item No. 4 Pledge to the Flag

Item No. 5 Adoption of Agenda

A motion to adopt the agenda as presented was made by Mayor Pro tem Varian, seconded by Commissioner Steadman, passed with all ayes (5-0).

Item No. 6 Approval of Minutes

Regular Meeting – November 16, 2009
Regular Work Session – December 9, 2009
Regular Meeting – December 14, 2009

Item deferred until the January 25, 2010 Special Called Meeting

Item No. 7 Farewell comments from Mayor Pro Tem Varian and Commissioner Steadman

Item No. 8 Installation of Newly-elected Members of the Board of Mayor and Commissioners:
a) Oaths of office administered to commissioners-elect Terry Giager and Gene Lee by Judge Stephen Nicholas

Item No. 9 Selection of Mayor Pro tem

Mayor Rieker stated that the Mayor Pro tem serves as the Mayor when the Mayor is not able to serve in that capacity. Mayor Rieker stated that Mayor Pro tem Varian stepped down so the board does have to elect a new Mayor Pro tem and he would

highly recommend that this board consider Commissioner Payne. Mayor Rieker noted that Commissioner Payne has been a long time resident of the City and has served this City in many capacities and he appreciates everything he has done the last two years on this board.

A motion to nominate Commissioner Payne as Mayor Pro tem was made by Commissioner Giager; not seconded.

Mayor Rieker stated that if there is no second he will second the motion.

Mayor Rieker asked if there was discussion.

Commissioner Lee stated that he has been thinking about this for awhile and he and Commissioner Giager have talked about. Commissioner Lee stated that neither he nor Commissioner Giager should have the position since they are new and the Mayor already has his position so it is left between Commissioner Milliron and Commissioner Payne. Commissioner Lee said he has been going back and forth on this as to which gentlemen he feels wants the position. Commissioner Lee stated that it is nothing against Commissioner Payne but he feels that at the end of the day Commissioner Milliron is a knowledgeable person and brings up issues at meetings that he does not necessarily always agree with but nonetheless it's a voice and there is something to be said for that.

Commissioner Giager stated that he has known Commissioner Payne a long time and they are former teammates, he has been around and he is a lawyer. Commissioner Giager stated that he feels both Commissioner Milliron and Commissioner Payne know Robert's Rules Order in the absence of the Mayor, both are extremely highly qualified. Commissioner Giager stated that it goes back to that they want to be a team and all work together and he feels Commissioner Payne would bring consensus to the board to get more things done as a team. Commissioner Giager stated that Commissioner Milliron's knowledge is incredible and he depends on him for a lot of things but to get the board to work together he feels Commissioner Payne would be the man to do it.

Commissioner Payne stated his opinion as he expressed to Commissioner Milliron, Commissioner Lee and the Mayor as well is that he would serve if they wanted him to but he was not going to lobby or nominate himself. Commissioner Payne stated he will serve two more years on the commission and he has no political ambition or any political agenda. Commissioner Payne stated that he does feel like Commissioner Milliron would want to be the Mayor Pro tem more than he does and he has worked hard at being a Commissioner and he respects that.

Commissioner Milliron stated that he respects the comments from the board. Commissioner Milliron stated to address Commissioner Giager's comments, his goal is and always has been is that this board communicate and work together. Commissioner Milliron stated that his hand has always been out there for this board and any resident at anytime. Commissioner Milliron echoed some of the sentiments Commissioner Payne did in that they all work extremely hard as commissioners. Commissioner Milliron stated that he does not take his position lightly and never has. Commissioner Milliron stated that a lot of these comments are about a position that in reality only exists in the Mayor's absence so as long as the Mayor does not leave town they never have to execute anything but that is all it is they are all commissioners.

A motion to nominate Commissioner Payne as Mayor Pro tem was made by Commissioner Giager; seconded by Mayor Rieker; failed (2-0).

A motion to nominate Commissioner Milliron as Mayor Pro tem was made by Commissioner Payne, seconded by Commissioner Lee; passed with all ayes (3-2).

Item No. 10

Citizen Comments

Kenny Newman, 7 Lakeview Place stated that last month she mentioned that Tom Merriam was stationed in Afghanistan. Ms. Newman noted that he is in a tent and can only receive letters and packages. Ms. Newman noted that City Clerk Owens has his address and it would be a nice gesture if residents would write or send him packages which she knows he shares with the other members in his platoon. Ms. Newman stated that she has sent him some warmers that he can use in his shoes and pockets.

Lyda Steadman, 3118 Majestic Circle stated that she would have liked to have seen Commissioner Payne be chosen as the Mayor Pro tem. Ms. Steadman noted that Commissioner Payne has been a wonderful Commissioner to work with. Ms. Steadman noted that Commissioner Payne does his work at the table and in the public, speaks his mind and puts it on the table and when a decision is made he goes with it, and he stands by the City and is respected by everyone in the community. Ms. Steadman stated how appreciative she is of the work Commissioner Payne has done.

Sandra Varian, 3259 Wiltshire Drive stated that she echoes exactly what Ms. Steadman stated. Ms. Varian stated what she witnessed at the last commissioner meeting was appalling to her and she feels it was a set-up against the Mayor by Commissioner Milliron. Ms. Varian stated that the week before that meeting the board had talked about annexation for quite a long time and she felt everything was settled until she came to next meeting which was the night the City got a Charter School. Ms. Varian noted that at the last minute Commissioner Milliron put annexation on the agenda and what she witnessed in the audience from some people including Commissioner Milliron against the Mayor was appalling to her. Ms. Varian stated that she was sorry Commissioner Payne did not vote for himself tonight. Ms. Varian stated that she was very amazed tonight by Commissioner Lee who never came to meetings and never saw what really was going on and she does not understand how he could make a judgment like he did tonight. Ms. Varian thanked Commissioner Giager and she thanked Mayor Rieker for being such a good Mayor.

Laura Leckband, 5 Exeter Road thanked Sandra Varian and Lyda Steadman for their service.

Item No. 11

Announcements (Commissioner Payne)

- a) City Hall will be closed Monday, January 18th in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday.

- b) On Saturday January 30th from 10:00 a.m. to Noon Corporal Paul Conroy will hold an Adults Only Firearms Safety Program at City Hall. For more information and to RSVP contact Sherri Dickens of the Neighborhood Watch Program.
- c) Arbor Day in Avondale Estates will be Friday, February 19, 2010.
- d) The Avondale Ladies Tea will be held on Sunday, February 28th from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Avondale Estates Community Club.

We regretfully announce the death of:
Eugenia Estes, Former Resident
Helen Trentadue, 1064 Hess Drive

Item No. 12

Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn at 8:05 p.m. was made by Commissioner Payne, seconded by Commissioner Lee, passed with all ayes (5-0).