



Town of HOLLY RIDGE

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HOLLY RIDGE TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING July 31st, 2024 4:00 P.M.

Mayor Jeff Wenzel called the Regular Meeting of the Holly Ridge Town Council to order at 4:05 p.m. at the Holly Ridge Town Hall. Council members present were Councilman Misciagno, Councilman Hines, Mayor Pro-Tem Patti. Also present were the Town Manager, Heather Reynolds; Deputy Clerk, Tracy Martin; and Chief Sorg.

Invocation and Pledge

Councilman Hines gave the Invocation and Mayor Wenzel led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Wenzel said this is a Special Town Council meeting with the intention of selecting a process to replace Councilwoman Stanley's position and Mayor Wenzel's goal is to not only do the process for this one but also codify this. Mayor Wenzel said this is the process that the Town Council uses for any vacancy in the future as well too.

Adoption of Agenda

A motion was made by **Councilman Hines** and seconded by **Mayor Pro-Tem Patti** to adopt the agenda as presented. *All Agreed.*

Discussion and Vote on the Process to Fill the Vacancy on the Town Council due to Councilwoman Stanley's passing.

Mayor Wenzel said we had a process that worked well when we replaced Councilman Ritter with Councilman Parnian and here is a synopsis of it.

We advertised the position for thirty days and accepted applications. The Town Council had the opportunity to read through and reach out to the candidates regarding specific questions they may have. Mayor Wenzel said when we announced there were thirty days, we also announced when the special meeting would be and then at the special meeting, the candidates were allowed to speak for up to five minutes. Mayor Wenzel said we did allow for someone to

zoom in. Mayor Wenzel said after all seven had the opportunity to speak, the Town Council could ask candidates any questions and the questions should be specific questions.

Mayor Wenzel said the Town Council votes for one person via written ballot. The council members shall sign their name as this is open to public record and will be recorded in the minutes. If no candidate receives a majority in vote one, all candidates who did not receive a vote are eliminated. Those receiving a vote will be announced as they are the eligible candidates for vote two.

Vote two (if needed), Council members vote for one of the remaining candidates by written ballot. The Council members shall sign their name as this is open to public record and will be recorded in minutes. If no candidate receives a majority vote, results are announced and proceed to vote three.

Vote three (if needed): Runoff between top 2 candidates. The top two vote-getters from vote two are voted on by Town Council by written ballot. Note, it may be mathematically possible that two or more candidates be considered “top two vote-getters.” The Council members shall sign their name as this is open to public record and will be recorded in the minutes. If no candidate receives a majority vote, results are announced and proceed to vote four. Any candidate not receiving a vote will be eliminated.

Vote four (if needed): Motion and vote. Any Council member may nominate one of the candidates from vote three (“top two candidates”). Each council member will vote by voice. In the event of a tie, the mayor will vote. This will continue until a majority decision is made.

Councilman Hines asked if we could reduce the time down to two weeks instead of thirty days. Councilman Misciagno said he does not object to that idea he was not opposed to the idea at all.

Mayor Pro-Tem Patti said he thinks thirty days works due to people being busy and school getting ready to start, and it worked last time.

Mayor Wenzel asked Ken Bradshaw, who applied for the last Town Council position, his thoughts on two weeks versus four weeks. Mr. Bradshaw said he still has his paperwork from last time and tomorrow would be okay with him.

Mayor Wenzel asked Mr. Zabicki and Mr. Barton, who also applied for the last Town Council position, and both were fine with the two-week time frame.

Mayor Pro-Tem Patti said personally he wants the Town Council to be mindful because his wife is pregnant and due at the end of August. Mayor Pro-Tem Patti said he does not want that fact to get in the way of this decision. Mayor Pro-Tem Patti said he hopes we will help him out and not schedule something Mayor Pro-Tem Patti said at the end of August, since he is not going to be here, that takes away his vote for the council member catching this.

Mayor Wenzel said without getting too personal, is there a scheduled date. Mayor Pro-Tem Patti said August 24th, 2024, is her due date.

Councilman Misciagno said if we do a two-week period, in essence by September, we could have a new Council member in the seat.

Mayor Wenzel said the recommendation is to make a change. So instead of thirty days when it is announced officially from the Town that there is a vacancy and we will be accepting applications, it will not be two weeks. Mayor Wenzel said with that adjustment is there a motion to accept this process. Mayor Wenzel said this process will not only be for this vacancy, but this will go into our standard operating procedures for the Town Council. Mayor Wenzel asked Attorney Lee if it is okay for the Town Council to do this.

Attorney Lee said the Town Council can adopt this as a resolution and council as a standard procedure and then you can amend it by the same means.

A motion was made by Councilman Hines and seconded by Councilman Misciagno to adopt that resolution.

Voting was as follows:

*Mayor Pro-Tem Patti – No
Councilman Misciagno – Yes
Councilman Hines – Yes*

Motion Passes.

Mayor Wenzel said we will announce tomorrow that there is a vacancy and the process for them to submit their letters of recommendation for themselves. Mayor Wenzel said we need to select a date on or before August 24th, 2024, for a special meeting.

Mayor Pro-Tem Patti said this puts him a position and he knows it is his personal position, but he prays to GOD we are not using Mayor Pro-Tem Patti's personal situation to squeeze this in knowing that Mayor Pro-Tem Patti may or may not be there. Mayor Pro-Tem Patti said he understands the rules of a quorum are going to exist, but that takes his vote away if he is not here. Mayor Pro-Tem Patti said he hopes we can work together to figure this out. Mayor Pro-Tem Patti said he prays we are not squeezing this in knowing or some hoping that Mayor Pro-Tem Patti will not be here.

Councilman Hines said we are not doing that; he thinks it is the fact that we have two weeks to advertise. Councilman Hines asked how long it takes to call for a special meeting. Manager Reynolds said forty-eight hours. Councilman Hines said after two weeks, we will have a better handle on what is going on with Mayor Pro-Tem Patti.

Mayor Wenzel said he hates to give just forty-eight hours' notice because the candidates will need to make arrangements for that time to be here.

Manager Reynolds said we could schedule and then cancel if Mayor Pro-Tem Patti is not available.

Mayor Pro-Tem Patti said he is not trying to be difficult; he just really wants to be a part of this.

Mr. Barton said if we allow a candidate to come in electronically, why can't Mayor Pro-Tem Patti use technology. Mayor Wenzel said it is not codified that way.

After some discussion, the Town Council decided Monday, August 19th, 2024, would work to hold the special meeting.

Councilman Hines said he does not have a problem with the people filing electronically, but he would rather see them face to face.

A motion was made by **Councilman Hines** and seconded by **Mayor Pro-Tem Patti** to call for a Special Meeting on Monday, August 19th, 2024, to conduct interviews and fill the vacant Town Council position. **All Agreed.**

Adjournment

A motion was made by **Councilman Hines** and seconded by **Councilman Misciagno** to adjourn at 4:20 p.m. **All Agreed.**

Attest:

Jeff Wenzel, Mayor

Tracy Martin, Deputy Clerk

These minutes were recorded and prepared by Deputy Town Clerk, Tracy Martin.

DRAFT