



Town of HOLLY RIDGE

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HOLLY RIDGE TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING August 19th, 2024 4:30 P.M.

Mayor Jeff Wenzel called the Regular Meeting of the Holly Ridge Town Council to order at 4:30 p.m. at the Holly Ridge Town Hall. Council members present were Councilman Misciagno, Councilman Hines, and Councilman Parnian. Also present were the Town Manager, Heather Reynolds; Deputy Clerk, Tracy Martin; and Chief Sorg. Mayor Pro-Tem Patti was absent.

Invocation and Pledge

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

Adoption of Agenda

A motion was made by **Councilman Hines** and seconded by **Councilman Parnian** to adopt the agenda as presented. **All Agreed.**

Mayor Wenzel said Mayor Pro-Tem Patti is unable to make it to the meeting today due to a family emergency. Mayor Wenzel asked him if we should postpone this meeting and Mayor Pro-Tem Patti said he trusted Mayor Wenzel and the Town Council's good judgement to choose someone. Mayor Wenzel said Mayor Pro-Tem Patti would not be able to make it to another meeting or four to six weeks.

Conducting Interviews for Town Council Vacancy and Possibly make an Appointment.

Mayor Wenzel said today we have three people who have submitted their names to fill the vacant position of Councilwoman Carolyn Stanley who passed away. The three potential candidates are:

Ken Bradshaw
Walter Zabicki

Pam Hall

Mayor Wenzel said our procedures are each candidate will be allowed to speak for five minutes. The order of speaking will be alphabetical by last name and after all candidates have had an opportunity to speak, the Town Council can ask any candidate any questions. These should be specific questions to specific candidates. The Town Council has reviewed the candidate's letters and may have reached out individually to ask specific questions before the vote. At that time a voting process will begin. It will start off as written ballot and the Councilman will sign their names on the bottom of each one because they are for public inspection.

Mayor Wenzel said if no one receives a majority of the vote, all candidates who did not receive a vote are eliminated, and those receiving a vote would be announced as eligible for an additional vote and that will be vote two. If the Town Council is not able to come up with a candidate based upon the written ballot, there will be a runoff and then a motion and vote type of method for voting. If there is a tie, the mayor does have the ability to break the tie.

Ken Bradshaw said he would like to thank Nathan at Carter's barbershop for trimming his beard. Mr. Bradshaw said he is here today with the goal of being appointed to the Town Council. It is a seat left vacant after the loss of a well-loved member of our community, Carolyn Stanley. Mr. Bradshaw stated he attends almost every meeting, both regular and special meetings. Mr. Bradshaw said he has done so for more than five years.

Mr. Bradshaw said he is an active part of the community, volunteers when asked, and he does what he can for those in need. Mr. Bradshaw said he has the time to listen to people, which is different than hearing. Mr. Bradshaw said it is important to listen when your role is to represent the whole community. People want to feel that their concerns are being heard. Mr. Bradshaw said we are not always going to agree, but we should keep an open mind and learn from each other.

Mr. Bradshaw said he is an active part of the community that has the time to listen, learn and make sure no one from our community is left out. Mr. Bradshaw said he promises this community that if you choose Mr. Bradshaw to fill the vacant seat, he will give this job his heart and soul and will do his very best to make this community proud. Mr. Bradshaw said he does not have an agenda other than to make Holly Ridge a better place to live, work and play.

Pam Hall said she is here today to request to be considered for the position for the Town Council. Ms. Hall said she has already served eight years on the Town Council and during that time there was much growth in Holly Ridge. Ms. Hall said she was committed to understanding and supporting the efforts of the Town Hall, the community needs and the Town Council's responsibilities.

Ms. Hall grew up in Holly Ridge but left twenty-five years ago to chase a career and returned about thirteen years ago. Ms. Hall opened a business and became interested in what was going

on in Holly Ridge. Ms. Hall got involved first with the Parks and Recreation department and then ran to be elected to the Town Council. Ms. Hall said with her business, there were a lot of opportunities to converse with citizens that came into my business which was so helpful to her. The conversations encouraged Ms. Hall to research what was already being done, and to be open-minded about what could be done.

Ms. Hall said change for the sake of change is not good but change for a good reason is good. After Ms. Hall's unsuccessful bid to return to the Town Council, Ms. Hall took a break from attending the meetings, but she was watching them online. Ms. Hall said she realized she still wants to be involved in what is going on in Holly Ridge, especially on the Town Council. Ms. Hall said to be considered to take the responsibilities of being on the Town Council and to take it at heart and to be sincerely committed to what needs to be done. Ms. Hall said for that reason, Ms. Hall appreciated your consideration for the position.

Walter Zabicki said he has been a resident of Holly Ridge since November 2010. Mr. Zabecki said he served eight years in the Marine Corps in Onslow County, so he has around twenty-two years in Onslow County. Mr. Zabicki said he retired with twenty years in the Marine Corp, twelve years in the private sector and ten years in law enforcement. Mr. Zabicki is currently a substitute teacher in Onslow County.

Mr. Zabicki said the priorities are and in no order are number one we are not like the Federal Government, and we have a balanced budget. We need to teach our children that do not spend more than what we have. Mr. Zabicki said he wants to make sure that services and infrastructure keeps pace with our growth. Mr. Zabicki said we must make sure with the new apartment buildings, town homes and the more people we have here, that we have enough water and sewer capacity.

Mr. Zabicki said we want to have commercial businesses in Holly Ridge. Mr. Zabicki said he wants to make sure our streets are clean and safe and that we have family-oriented activities and a safe learning environment for our students.

Mr. Zabicki said if elected, he will work with the County Commissioners to make sure we get our fair share. Mr. Zabicki said he will attend school board meetings and meet with congressmen and state senators as well as our surrounding local town officials.

Mr. Zabicki said he is a life member of the Veteran's of Foreign War. Mr. Zabicki said he has been Commander, Senior Vice, Junior Vice and Veteran Service Officer. At the district level Mr. Zabicki has been the Chaplain, and the Veteran's Service Officer, life member of the Military Organization of America, yearly member of the United States Marine Corps Order Transport Association. Mr. Zabicki is also a member of the Knights of Columbus. He has been Deputy Grand Knight and Grand Knight and on the state level, Mr. Zabicki works with the life ministry. Mr. Zabicki said his area that he is responsible for is persecuted Christians throughout the world.

Mr. Zabicki said he would like to be considered for the position, he is a fighter, and he will work.

Mayor Wenzel said the next portion of this will be for the Town Council to ask any or all the potential candidate's questions.

Councilman Parnian said he is going to ask two questions to each of the candidates. Question number one is it is inevitable that as Councilmembers there will be disagreements and conflict of opinions, so what is your approach with conflict management?

Question two is what are the top three priorities that we should focus on as we go through the next couple of years.

Ken Bradshaw said about question one, conflict is normal and the desire to solve it must come from within. Mr. Bradshaw said he looks for solutions instead of problems. Councilman Parnian asked Mr. Bradshaw how he solves conflicts. Mr. Bradshaw said the best way is to put a group of people together like yourself and hash it out.

Ken Bradshaw said for question number two said he feels like we have a handle on the Industrial Park. Responsible development would be one of my answers and the other would-be infrastructure.

Pam Hall said conflict resolution is something that when you work in a manufacturing world you must be on your feet. People come from different backgrounds, and they have different mental models. They are coming to a place where we can't understand, and until you figure that out, you are not going to resolve it. Ms. Hall said she asks herself, who is that person saying that, where are they coming from, and can I meet them halfway? Where is Ms. Hall coming from and is she wrong or are they wrong or is it something we can compromise on? Ms. Hall said she and Councilman Hines have conflicted over the years many times. Ms. Hall said we always come out in the end and say that is not what I wanted, but we go our separate ways and the next time we go up against each other, we are going to do the same thing.

Ms. Hall said as far as her top three, Ms. Hall started some things before, but she does not know how far along they are, but Ms. Hall is really interested in the roads of Holly Ridge. Ms. Hall said the same thing about our park. We have done so much work and research on what was going to be done in the park. Ms. Hall said the third thing is the whole idea of the development and to help citizens understand development is not such a bad thing.

Ms. Hall said we do not have a whole lot of square footage. Ms. Hall said she is quick to respond to a citizen when they say, why are they doing that?

Mr. Zabicki said he looks at conflict resolution is he will state his opinion and when the decision is made, we move on to something else. Mr. Zabicki does not hold any grudges. Mr. Zabicki said as we begin to grow, we have about four developments on Highway 17,

Summerhouse, and Morris Landing. Mr. Zabicki said what we need to do is get away from the at large councilmembers and proceed to wards or precincts so the people that live in what used to be Holly Ridge can have representation. Mr. Zabicki said no one from Stump Sound has any say unless we win a seat. We need to have people assigned to that ward and then have a councilmember for that ward.

Mayor Wenzel read a question for all the candidates from Mayor Pro-Tem Patti. The question is what you have done in the last six months to support the Town of Holly Ridge.

Ken Bradshaw said everything he possible can. Mr. Bradshaw said he is at every event and has volunteered with the Bee Festival, supported the Police Department at coffee with a cop and again, Mr. Bradshaw rarely misses a Town Council meeting.

Pam Hall said as far as being involved she attends whatever she can if she knows about it. Ms. Hall said she contacted the Parks and Recreation Director, Audrey Madia about a series of four programs to help people understand their insurance and Medicare. Ms. Hall said her Medicare prices are going out of the roof and Ms. Hall thought this might be affecting other people as well, so Ms. Madia held a series of four programs at the Town Hall.

Mr. Zabicki said walks the Town and he runs through his neighborhood and people come up to him and ask him questions. Mr. Zabicki ran for mayor three years ago and people are still asking questions about certain things. Mr. Zabicki said people will come up to him and say things like we can't afford to buy the house that we bought four years ago. Mr. Zabicki said this is because of what the market bears.

Mr. Zabicki said someone came up to him and used the term workforce housing. Where Mr. Zabicki grew up in Pennsylvania, when he thinks workforce housing that is where Phoenix Steele buys a bunch of houses, and they lend it to their works. It is going to be something that the houses will cost them comparable to what they are getting paid.

Councilman Misciagno said we have done a lot when it comes to the Master Park Plan. We have just put out land use, increasing ceiling heights. We have an EMT truck sitting over there trying to get staffed. Councilman Misciagno said with the increase in cost like everyone keeps mentioning, we did not raise taxes this year, but it is inevitable we are going to have to increase taxes.

Councilman Misciagno asked each candidate what is their position in handling the Master Park Plan, EMT, high buildings?

Ken Bradshaw said his position is that as he was standing in front of J& J Snack Food watching it burn, Mr. Bradshaw said we need to get on the ball with this fire problem. It is a mess, and it needs to be straightened out. Mr. Bradshaw said having someone die on Chief Longo's floor because someone thought there was an ambulance at the Fire Department that could transport that person to the hospital is just not right.

Mr. Bradshaw said he knows the Town gives the Fire Department maybe not as much as the Police Department and that also needs to be straightened out. Mr. Bradshaw said we do not need to spend more tax dollars on the roads, they will be done. Mr. Bradshaw said he thinks tax money needs to be spent on infrastructure.

Pam Hall said taxes are important to every single person in town whether they rent or own or visit. What we do with those taxes affects everyone here. If you must have a tax increase because your overall budget can't sustain what the overall needs for the next year are. We should be looking at the overall budget. Ms. Hall said Town Hall staff are careful about looking for other ways to spend the money and other ways to obtain money. When your overall budget does not meet the Town's needs, it must go up.

Walter Zabicki said taxes are inevitable. One thing we need to look at as we grow are the new apartments on Highway 17, which are about 150 units. Mr. Zabicki said we are going to need a lot more services. The question is, will the property taxes of those properties? Will they cover the salaries of more police and fire personnel they we need? Mr. Zabicki said he will not say no to taxes. If we need things and we have a budget and we can't find anywhere to cut it, then yes.

Councilman Misciagno said we recently approved a height in the Holly Ridge city limits, and one of the concerns is Holly Ridge is going to turn into a tourist destination town. Councilman Misciagno asked each candidate their opinion on this matter.

Ken Bradshaw said he sees jobs. Mr. Bradshaw said he would like to have a hotel in town. Mr. Bradshaw said Sneads Ferry has a four-story hotel so he believes we should be able to do the same thing. Mr. Bradshaw said we do have limited property here. Mr. Bradshaw said it would bring jobs to the area as well as people and other businesses. Mr. Bradshaw said he sees this as a positive thing.

Pam Hall said she has never thought about the impact of a hotel. Ms. Hall said if she was on the Town Council and working on that project, she would ask does anybody knew if we turned anyone away with so little land mass here? What kind of hotels can go that large and fit in what space and come to Holly Ridge. Ms. Hall said as far as a tourist town, we are close. Ms. Hall said we have a lot of rentals in our area. Ms. Hall said she does not know if the 70 heights will draw a hotel in.

Walter Zabicki said he agrees with Ms. Hall, we are basically a resort town. We are five miles from the ocean. Before Mr. Zabicki moved here, he looked up information about Holly Ridge and it said it was a place where people could put summer homes. Mr. Zabicki said you can still go to the Onslow County beaches and not have to pay anything. Mr. Zabicki said he is all for hotels in our area.

Councilman Hines's first question is what do you think makes you qualified for this position?

Ken Bradshaw said he has the time, and he has been to almost every single meeting in the last five years. Mr. Bradshaw said he has a deep desire to see things fall into place. Mr. Bradshaw said he is at the point in his life where it is time to start giving back to the community. Mr. Bradshaw said again, he has no agenda except to make Holly Ridge a better place to live, work and play.

Pam Hall said as a manager in industry and owning her own business, you learn to think on your feet, and it is an important skill to acquire. Ms. Hall said she can see the trees through the forest and remove the emotions of the situation and see the situation for what it is. Ms. Hall said she has had people tell her she is a voice of reason and Ms. Hall thinks she can bring that as well.

Ms. Hall said she does get emotionally involved internally but not to the point that she can't think. Ms. Hall said she thinks the qualifications are being able to see the trees.

Walter Zabicki said in his time he has managed hundreds of people in three countries and two continents. Mr. Zabicki ran an education campus, did all the facilities maintenance and the logistics. Mr. Zabicki has provided maintenance and logistics for two to three thousand marines at a time in the private sector. Mr. Zabicki has worked in factories, gas stations, peddle papers, cut lawns, and worked social work with the Catholic social work. Mr. Zabicki spent five and a half years with FED-EX freight. Mr. Zabicki also worked for two and half years with Waste Management picking up trash and recycling.

Councilman Hines said there has been infrastructure talked about several times. Councilman Hines asked what each of you view as the sources as far as infrastructure we are supposed to provide.

Ken Bradshaw said he thinks when you call an ambulance, you should expect someone to show up.

Councilman Hines asked what infrastructure do you feel the Town needs to be involved in and what infrastructure are we involved in?

Mr. Bradshaw said he thinks we need shelters. With our population growth, we are a little shy about where we are going to put people if they can't evacuate during a hurricane. Mr. Bradshaw said his top priority is to get the ambulance manned as well as a ladder truck for the fire department.

Pam Hall said sitting on the Town Council, the position of infrastructure is the Town Council must be ready to see the growth while keeping the Town running such as the ordinance, Police Department, and Fire Department. The Town Council is responsible for continuing to grow the infrastructure. Ms. Hall said we need to put in place things that we think are going to come and continue to work on what we have.

Ms. Hall said the Town Hall is infrastructure, planning department, ordinances, the roads and the parks are also infrastructure. Ms. Hall said as far as a Town is concerned, we must continue to grow because people need things, and we need to be able to provide them. Ms. Hall said maybe we need to go on the route for the Fire Department. Ms. Hall said she also had a lady pass away in her car in front of the fire department three years ago. Ms. Hall said we waited about ten minutes for the ambulance to arrive. Ms. Hall said we just must balance it. Ms. Hall said if we are losing people in our community then this item needs to be high on the totem pole.

Councilman Hines said he thinks there is a misunderstanding of what the Town Council controls and does not have control of.

Walter Zabicki said water and sewer and our trash and recycling is handled by a private company. Mr. Zabicki said he is concerned if we had a bad emergency here. Mr. Zabicki said shelters come out of the county and he does not think shelters are the Town's responsibility. Mr. Zabicki said we may need to go to the county regarding our ambulance situation. The county needs to send resources our way.

Councilman Hines asked how would each one of the candidates encourage more businesses in Town?

Ken Bradshaw said with some of the plans that the Parks and Recreation has planned will increase the business growth in Town. Mr. Bradshaw said he thinks a hotel would bring more businesses into town. Mr. Bradshaw said sidewalks would also increase business.

Pam Hall said she was talking about mental models, and this is something she came up with a long time ago. Ms. Hall said she does not think it is an individual person on the Town Council. It is your duty to spend time soliciting companies to come to Holly Ridge. You must get out of the way when they get here. Make sure the ordinances are in place to help someone, not hinder them from coming. Stay involved with our Town Manger because she is our conduit to companies that are saying we want to come to Holly Ridge, what can you do for us.

Ms. Hall said when someone asks where she lives, she tells them how wonderful and safe Holly Ridge is and she encourages people to come.

Walter Zabicki said with the population we have; he thinks we are doing good. We do not have any supermarkets, but we are only three miles away from some. There are four restaurants within the city limits. Mr. Zabicki said we have what we need right now but a dry cleaner would be nice. The closest one is in Sneads Ferry.

Mr. Bradshaw said more festivals and concerts would also attract more people as well as movies in the park for families.

Councilman Hines said our Fire Department is volunteers, the Town donates money and has no control over it. How would you deal with this recent issue as far as what to do next as far as providing services.

Ken Bradshaw said he does not understand where he came from, they were all volunteer fire departments, and he believes the money came from the taxpayers. Mr. Bradshaw said a sub-station may be what is needed but we need to get our main station manned first. This is something that is very important and it needs to be worked out.

Pam Hall said she is not a firefighter, and she is not familiar with ambulances, but Ms. Hall said she would not go in there to try and figure out what they are not doing right. Continue to keep the relationship with what you got, and there must be an open communication with what is going on there. Ms. Hall said as the Town Council, maybe you should be receiving more information from Fire Chief Longo and his staff about the whole building.

Ms. Hall said the second thing is don't abandon the project to someday go to a town owned Fire Department and EMS because it is a way to make jobs. It is a way to bring more people to the community. It is always not going to turn out perfect. Ms. Hall said as a Town Council, that should be on the radar for the future.

Ms. Hall said the current staff has done a super job over the years and they have incorporated this growth. Ms. Hall said she does not know how Fire Chief Longo has kept up. Ms. Hall said Fire Chief Longo has always kept the town with a home feeling. He always opened the Fire Department to allow for small events.

Walter Zabicki said where we are now is a good fit. We must look down the road, what is going to be the point when we must increase the Fire Department and then make our own. It is a lot of money to have your own Fire Department. Mr. Zabicki said North Topsail and Surf City have their own Fire Department, so maybe we should talk to them to find out how they are doing it. Mr. Zabicki said Onslow County has all volunteer Fire Departments except for Jacksonville. Mr. Zabicki said he thinks Jacksonville is a paid Fire Department.

Councilman Parnian asked each of the candidates how much time do you think it takes to be a Council member?

Ken Bradshaw said he is president of his HOA, and that job is twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. Mr. Bradshaw said he thinks being a Town Councilmen would also be twenty-four hours, seven days a week. Mr. Bradshaw said when he started his campaign over a year ago, he remembers speaking with Manager Reynolds and I asked her if I needed to shave and get a haircut to run for Town Council. Ms. Reynolds said no.

Mr. Bradshaw said he would imagine it is a full day's work. Mr. Bradshaw said this is not a part-time job.

Pam Hall said when the Holly Plaza situation slowed down and the election was over, Ms. Hall said she had forty hours of free time. Ms. Hall said the Town Council was spending about forty hours a month on that issue alone. Ms. Hall said it depends on what is going on and how much time you put into other committees.

Ms. Hall said she attended one monthly meeting with the some of the Surf City and Topsail and North Topsail personnel and that was a couple hours a month. Ms. Hall was also on the JUMPO committee and that took several hours of time as well.

Walter Zabicki said if elected to the Town Council, his priorities will change. Mr. Zabicki said his schedule would change and be rearranged to be at any Town Council meeting regardless of the time of the meeting. Mr. Zabicki said when you are an elected official, you work for the public. Mr. Zabicki said while he is walking around town and someone stops him to ask questions, he is ready for that.

Councilman Misciagno said several people have brought up Holly Plaza. Councilman Misciagno asked each candidate if you envision something for the future, what do you see for Holly Plaza.

Ken Bradshaw said he agrees with the municipal park. All the town offices go into that area. Mr. Bradshaw said if things keep going the way they are we are going to have a lot more people to take care of.

Pam Hall said she does not know where the Town is financially with Holly Plaza, but it is a prime piece of property, but it would cost a lot to level it. Ms. Hall said selling it to someone, who would level it and do something fantastic there would be a great plan. Ms. Hall said if the Town could find a grant to level it, it would be a fine piece of property for Holly Ridge to do something with.

Ms. Hall said we have a park, and we need to finish and build that park. That is a piece that is close to the Town Hall and the Police Department. It is centrally located and there are a lot of options. It must do 100% with what it is going to cost, what we can afford and who is going to benefit and who is going to benefit with the money.

Walter Zabicki said one thing he does not want it to turn into is more government buildings. Mr. Zabicki said if you look around the country, we build more and more government buildings and then we turn them over to some commercial stuff.

Mr. Zabicki said Burton Park was supposed to be for industry and now all that is there is government buildings and a school and that is fine, but we talk about growing the Town and getting industry here. Mr. Zabicki said let the private sector come in and make money for the Town.

Mayor Wenzel said we have come to the portion where we have our vote and just a reminder this is to fill Carolyn Stanley's seat. Mayor Wenzel said whoever is appointed to the board will serve one year and three months until the November election of 2025. That seat will then be up for reelection.

Mr. Zabicki asked if it would be better not to have the candidates in the room while the Town Council is casting their votes. Mayor Wenzel said it is an open meeting and it is up to the candidates if they would like to be in the room or not.

Mayor Wenzel called for a recess at 5:40 p.m.

Mayor Wenzel called the meeting back to order at 5:50 p.m.

Mayor Wenzel said we will proceed to step three of our protocol which Town Council votes for one person via written ballot. Councilmen shall sign their name as this is open to the public record and it will be recorded in the minutes. If no candidate receives a majority and votes one, all candidates who did not receive a vote are eliminated. Those receiving a vote will be announced as they are eligible candidates for vote number two.

Mayor Wenzel said at this time Councilmen will write down on the written ballot and sign their name. Deputy Clerk, Tracy Martin will collect the ballots.

Manager Reynolds said we have two votes for Mr. Walter Zabicki and one vote for Ms. Pam Hall.

Mayor Wenzel said at the next meeting we will swear Mr. Zabicki in at the next scheduled meeting. It is the second Tuesday of every month.

Mayor Wenzel said four and a half years ago when he was appointed to the Town Council as Mayor, a lot of things are really moving in the right direction. The Industrial Park was just getting started. It was exciting to speak to the code projects, like Atlantic Seafood was looking for a place. Onslow Bay was also in the process.

Mayor Wenzel said he has always told everyone that he just wanted to come on board. The ball was rolling. Mayor Wenzel said he wanted to kick the ball further down the court and then get out of the way before the ball rolls over the top of him. Mayor Wenzel said through much thought and council with Mayor's wife, Mayor Wenzel has decided that the position for Town Mayor is more than what Mayor Wenzel can do at this time, related to work. There are more and more meetings happening that the mayor needs to be at. Mayor Wenzel said a lot of these meetings are in Jacksonville, specifically for the Onslow County five-year vision. Mayor Wenzel said the Onslow EMS, the Jacksonville Onslow Economic Development vision and countless meetings during the workday make it difficult for Mayor Wenzel to balance his work, as the Town has grown.

Mayor Wenzel feels it is in the best interest of the Town, because his seat will be up in one year and three months. Mayor Wenzel said he is not the type of person that wants to do halfway or either job. Mayor Wenzel said therefore, he will be resigning at the conclusion of this meeting. The mayor position will be open.

Mayor Wenzel said the Town Council will appoint whoever will be the mayor next and they will need to have a lot of time available. Much more than it was four and a half years ago. Mayor Wenzel said this is a surprise to the Town Council and the only person in this room that knows is Manager Reynolds and Mayor Wenzel conferred with her and she agreed that we are in such a great position right now and if Mayor Wenzel did not think he could devote the proper time to represent Holly Ridge, then that would be a wise decision.

Mayor Wenzel said we have a great team, great Town Manager, good attorney and a great Police Chief. Mayor Wenzel said we are moving in the right direction and Mayor Wenzel is not going to half ass it to be honest with you. Mayor Wenzel said this was his decision and it was not a quick decision. Mayor Wenzel said considering it was a surprise to everyone, someone like Councilman Parnian would be excellent at the mayor position in relation to having the time.

Mayor Wenzel said this is a complete surprise to Councilman Parnian and Mayor Wenzel is not necessarily endorsing Councilman Parnian, but a person like Councilman Parnian who has the availability, and the passion would be great for a position like this.

Mayor Wenzel said effective as of the close of this meeting, he will resign. Mr. Barton asked Mayor Wenzel is going to still be on the Town Council. Mayor Wenzel said he will not be on the board, but possibly could help with projects. Mayor Wenzel said he will continue to be involved; he just does not have the time for this position. Mayor Wenzel said he hopes the Town sees that he is looking out for the best interests of the Town.

Tony Rydzynski said he is not clapping because this is good news, he is clapping because we appreciate the work Mayor Wenzel has done.

Mr. Zabicki said Mayor Wenzel has already told us the Mayor Pro-Tem will be out for six to eight weeks, you are done, who is going to be the mayor. Mayor Wenzel said the Town Council can appoint someone at any time to be acting mayor and the Town Council will handle that.

Adjournment

A motion was made by *Councilman Parnian and* seconded by *Councilman Misciagno* to adjourn at 5:55 p.m. *All Agreed.*

Attest:

Jeff Wenzel, Mayor

Tracy Martin, Deputy Clerk

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