



MINUTES
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 23, 2006 AT 6:30 P.M.
CITY HALL, 116 FIRST STREET
NEPTUNE BEACH, FLORIDA

Pursuant to proper notice a Special Meeting of the City Council of the City of Neptune Beach was held January 23, 2006 at 6:30 p.m., in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 116 First Street, Neptune Beach, Florida.

Attendance

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mayor Richard A. Brown
Vice Mayor Pruette
Councilor Eric Pardee
Councilor John Weldon
City Manager James Jarboe
City Clerk Lisa Volpe, CMC

STAFF:

Director of Finance Steve Ramsey
Administrative Assistant to the City Manager Terry Klein
Director of Public Safety David Sembach
Director of Public Services Leon Smith
Deputy City Clerk Karla Strait, CMC

Order Call

Mayor Brown called the special meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and announced the purpose of the meeting was to select one of the eleven candidates to fill the vacant council seat. Mayor Brown asked City Clerk Volpe to call the roll to ensure each candidate was present.

Candidates

CANDIDATES:

Sybil Ansbacher
Connie Green Austin
Thomas Byerly
Nicole Hahl
Teresa Hunnewell-McCaulie
Richard Keene
Fred Lee
James Lee
David Smith
Kara Tucker

ABSENT:

John Jolly (out of the country)

Appointment
Councilor Seat 4

APPOINTMENT TO FILL VACACY OF COUNCIL SEAT NUMBER TWO – CHARTER PROVISION SECTION 2.06: City Clerk Lisa Volpe explained each of the eleven candidates, with the exception of Mr. John Jolly, who was out of the country, would be allowed a three minute introduction. The candidates would draw numbers one through ten to determine the order of introductions. Once the introductions were completed, the Council would rate the candidates on a scale of one to five. She would tally the score; announce the winner and the winner would be sworn into office.

City Manager Jarboe stated under the terms of Section 2.02, Election and Terms, of the Charter of the City of Neptune Beach, council members could only serve a total of eight consecutive years. Therefore, the person selected would serve the remaining ten months of the current term, until the 2006 election. The candidate would be able to run for election in 2006 to serve a full four term. However, if the candidate decided to run for reelection in 2010 they would not be able to serve the entire four year term and could only serve three years and two months for a total of eight years.

Each Councilor personally thanked the candidates for applying for the position.

THE CANDIDATE INTRODUCTIONS BEGAN IN THE FOLLOWING ORDER:

Thomas Byerly, 527 South Street, stated he moved to Neptune Beach in 1956 as a child with his parents. After he moved away, he would return periodically for a three or four week visit. He returned permanently in 2000 after retiring from the United Nations. He felt his affiliation with the community and awareness of changes in the community made him a good choice.

Richard Keene, 733 Bay Street, Member of the Code Enforcement Board, stated his primary concern was to preserve the Interlocal agreements with the City of Jacksonville. He was also concerned with the following: solving the issue of the Kings Road Bridge, realignment of the intersection at Florida Boulevard and Third Street, control of expenses for outside consultants, budget control, adoption of a commercial blight ordinance, preservation of public beach accesses, development of a fee based parking garage in the commercial area, and traffic calming.

Sybil Ansbacher, 2008 Strand Street, Chairperson for the Board of Appeals, stated she had lived in Neptune Beach since 1978 and was active in the community during most of that period. She was employed part time as a counselor at the Beaches Resource Center. She was previously employed as the Director of the Beaches Truancy Center. She was appointed to serve on the Board of Appeals by the Council in February of 2002 and elected Chairperson of that Board in June of 2002. Her experience on the Board has taught her the diversity in the community. She has no special interests except for the City as a whole. Her past performance should be an indication of her willingness and ability. She is available to give the time necessary to do the job. She is dependable, a team player, a good listener, and a good consensus builder. She felt the challenge is to maintain the quality of the community. She has enjoyed the opportunity to serve the community and would like to continue to do so as member of the City Council.

Connie Green Austin, 1509 Strand Street, Member of the Code Enforcement Board, stated she was a lifelong resident of North Florida and deeply appreciated the neighborhood. She has been a member of the Code Enforcement Board for the past two years. She felt the biggest challenge of the council was to maintain the quality of life with the changing environment. She felt property rights should be protected while insuring the community would not be harmfully impacted. Some of her concerns were drainage, Town Center parking and Penman Road. Her most critical concern is the preservation of community character and the development of a tax base in the commercial area. She also felt code enforcement and rules must be reasonable and enforceable. If she were chosen she would respectfully listen to all input, do her homework and remain trustworthy.

Kara Tucker, 1650 Leeward Landing, Alternate Member of the Planning & Development Review Board and Member of the Ish Brant Beautification Committee, stated she was proud to say she has lived in Neptune Beach her entire life and attended the local schools. She was familiar with the different neighborhoods and has watched the city grow and prosper. While serving on the IBBC she was instrumental in Neptune Beach becoming a

Tree City. She has learned from her position on the PDRB how to listen to both sides of an issue and the importance of being fair when making decisions. She was appointed by Mayor Payton as a member of the Mayor's Disability Council. She was familiar with ADA Regulations, Roberts Rules of Order, and the Florida Sunshine Law. With her interaction skills she felt she had the ability to handle difficult problems and assist with conflict resolutions. Her love for the city and the people in it would guide her while making important decisions. She has no preconceived opinions and is very open minded. If selected she would strive to maintain the community spirit and the small town atmosphere.

Nicole Habl, 119 Margaret Street, stated she has lived in Neptune Beach for three years. She moved here from New York City after the September 11th tragedy. She received her J.D. at Brooklyn Law School and was currently a member of New York, New Jersey, Florida, and Georgia Bar. With her experience as a prosecutor she felt her greatest attribute was the ability to listen to others and remedy problems.

Davis Smith, 1053 Kings Road, stated he has lived in Duval County for ten years, most of which in Neptune Beach. He felt his experience as a high school Spanish teacher and activist would be an asset to the council. He works with the Concerned Tax Payers of Duval County, a lobbying group to the Jacksonville City Council. His priority as a councilor would be to find ways to get in touch with residents so that he could represent them better. He was available to attend meetings and would do his best to serve the city.

Fred Lee, 1501 Big Tree Road, Chairperson of the Planning & Development Review Board, stated he has been involved in the community for five years. He is a straight forward person who takes a common sense approach. He has lived in the Jacksonville area his entire life and has children currently attending local schools. He has a strong record of serving with leadership, integrity and commitment. He works as a team member. When there is a disagreement he will agree to disagree and move forward. He has shown commitment being involved at the city level. He has a good understanding of the Code of Ordinances and is knowledgeable about current issues. He has no agenda except for the betterment of the community.

Thereasa Hunnewell-McCaulie 1219 Trailwood Drive, stated she was seeking a seat with the City Council because she felt she could assist the Council in making Neptune Beach the best place to live. She has vast wealth of personal and professional experience that would benefit the Council and the citizens of Neptune Beach. She has been a mother, a student, a prosecuting attorney and is currently a practitioner with her own business. Throughout her career she has learned to treat people fairly and honestly. She knows how to interpret the law and how to apply it. She looked forward to having a more direct effect in the community by working on the City Council.

James Lee, 246 Myra Street, stated Neptune Beach had changed since he grew up here. He felt the citizens should control future changes based on their wants and needs. He would make recommendations for changes in the Code. He would like to see more sidewalks, tree planting, jogging trails and bike paths.

That concluded the introductions and each Council member rated the candidates.

Recess

Mayor Brown called for a recess at 7:15 p.m. while City Clerk Lisa Volpe tallied up the points. The meeting reconvened at 7:30 p.m.

City Clerk Lisa Volpe announced the winner was Fred E. Lee, Jr. with a total score of 20 at which time Mr. Lee formally resigned at Chairman of the Planning & Development Review Board and accepted the appointment.

City Clerk Lisa Volpe administered the Oath of Office to Fred Lee, whereupon he would respectfully assume the duties of his appointed office effective January 24, 2006.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Richard Brown, Mayor

ATTEST:

Lisa Volpe, CMC, City Clerk

Approved: _____