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**HIGH SPRINGS  
SPECIAL CITY COMMISSION MEETING  
JANUARY 4<sup>TH</sup>, 2024  
CITY HALL**

**CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Mayor Weitz called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**ROLL CALL CITY COMMISSION:**

Mayor Katherine Weitz – Present  
Vice Mayor Tristan Grunder – Present  
Commissioner Andrew Miller- Present  
Commissioner Byran Williams – Present

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Ashley Stathatos, City Manager  
Angela Stone, City Clerk  
Danielle Adams, City Attorney  
Jami Echeverri, Asst. City Clerk  
Kevin Mangan, PIO  
Antoine Sheppard, Chief of Police  
Kristyn Adkins, Planning Technician  
Thomas Henry, Public Works Director  
Allan Alligood, Building Official

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Invocation by Jacob Newton

Pledge of Allegiance

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Commissioner Williams approved the agenda as presented  
Vice Mayor Grunder seconded.  
Motion carried 4-0

**BUSINESS ITEM:**

**DISCUSS CONSIDER AND ACT ON THE PROCESS MOVING FORWARD WITH THE  
CURRENT VACANT COMMISSION SEAT.**

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Mayor Weitz gave an explanation of the agenda item and the need for the special meeting due to the resignation of Commissioner Tapanes who cited form 6 requirements as the reason. She asked Clerk Stone regarding the process moving forward for a special election. Clerk Stone stated she had been in contact with Supervisor of Election Kim Barton

Commissioner Miller advised he would like to see the seat remain vacant. Vice Mayor Grunder expressed concerns about split/tie votes if the seat is vacant. Commissioner Williams agreed. He would be open to people submitting their names if interested.

He is concerned that allowing someone to fill the vacant seat would permit an unfair leg up in the upcoming election if they were to run.

**Mayor Weitz is concerned about the cost of an unbudgeted election on the City's finances. Clerk Stone also reminded the Commission about the cost of hiring poll workers, and equipment rental for two precincts.**

Ms. Linda Jones – expressed agreement with Commissioner Miller and would like the seat to remain vacant.

Janet Evans – asked if there was any information regarding Commissioner Tapanes returning. She is also concerned that an interim commissioner would not have the time necessary to really offer valuable input.

Kathy Griner – curious how no one knew prior to now. She also spoke to an official who advised there would not be a change.

Clerk Stone advised that the information was posted on the City's website in June of 2023.

David Gardner – also agrees the seat should remain empty until elected.

Julie Tapia-Ruano – as a former election worker, she is concerned about changing the precinct and confusing citizens. Is it possible to utilize the two months empty commission seat's salary to offset the unexpected cost of the election.

Sandy Gardner – is wondering why nothing was said sooner and would like to see counseling for the candidates who pick up a packet. She is also in favor of the seat remaining empty.

Mr. Brad Riddle – also would like the seat to remain empty.

Christie Swilley – frustrated with the comments in the audience, as well as the confusion on the purpose of form 6. She believes this is a way to reveal unethical behavior within elected government.

Sue Weller – whoever is running for that seat would need time to prepare and campaign.

Evonne Andrews – could we partner with the Presidential Preferential Primary already scheduled for March 19<sup>th</sup>.

Clerk Stone advised this has already been requested and the Supervisor of Election stated that would not be possible.

Commissioner Williams motioned to leave the commission seat vacant until the special election.

Commissioner Miller seconded.

Motion carried 5-0

**MOTION TO ADJOURN.**

**Commissioner Williams motioned to adjourn.**

**Mayor Weitz adjourned the meeting at 7:30pm.**