

City of Lafayette
City Council Special Meeting
Meeting Minutes
November 12, 2001
7:00 PM

- 1. CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by Acting Mayor Neil Meads at 7:00 p.m.
- 2. FLAG SALUTE:** Acting Mayor Neil Meads led the flag salute.
- 3. ROLL CALL:** Phil Lieberman, City Administrator, called the roll.
Present: Bob Cullen, Gary Filpi, and Acting Mayor Neil Meads.
Absent: *(three vacancies)*
City Staff Present: Phil Lieberman-City Administrator, Trena Cranfill- Assistant to the City Administrator, and Paul Elsner- City Attorney.
Others Present: Laura Laird, Jackie Carpenter, Kenny Schweiger, Richard Jewell, Ron Harris, Terry Yarbrough, Valerie Katzler, Gina Regalado, Mike Lewis, and approximately 2 others.
- 4. DECLARATION OF AN EMERGENCY TO HOLD EMERGENCY ELECTION (Res. 01-31):**

Paul Elsner said that Resolution 01-31 has been presented to Council in order to adopt the findings that were established at Saturday's public hearing that support the calling of an emergency election, in order to fill Council vacancies. Staff has chosen February 26, 2002 as the election date in order to allow enough time for candidates to file their paperwork and also meet all of the notice requirements. The charter states that candidate petitions cannot be received earlier than 90 days and not later than 70 days before the election. Council needs to decide tonight if they are satisfied with the dates that have been set out and how many positions will be up for the election. Bob Cullen asked if this is going to be an official election, why does everyone have to be elected again in November? Paul Elsner said that the City Charter states that electors will be elected at every general election. Also, the Council will be put on rotating 4 year terms. Right now, all positions expire at the same time and so, at the general election, 3 positions will be 2 year terms and 3 positions will be 4 year terms to get back to the rotating 4 year terms. The emergency election is for the interim period of time until the City can participate in the general election. Paul Elsner said that his interpretation is that there couldn't have been an election last November because there were still people serving on the Council and there was no extraordinary hardship to the community at that time.

Laura Laird, 820 Jackson Court, said that the 2-year terms are only for the purpose of re-establishing the staggered terms.

Paul Elsner said that it is not appropriate to have all seats expire at the same time.

Jackie Carpenter, 818 9th Court, said that the 1984 charter had a way to deal with the terms expiring at the same time. The 3 candidates who receive the highest number of votes had 4 year terms and the next 3 highest had 2 year terms.

Neil Meads said that he would like to decide tonight on the date of the election and the number of seats that are up for the election. Neil Meads and Bob Cullen said that their seats will be up for election. Gary Filpi said that when he attended the town hall meeting on Saturday, some citizens expressed the importance of continuity on the Council, and so he has decided that he would like to not put up his position up for election until November 2002. Paul Elsner said that this is a Council decision, not an individual decision. Each of the findings should be read out loud and commented on to be sure the findings are accurate. Trena Cranfill read each of the findings.

Jackie Carpenter, 818 9th Court- said that she attended the meeting on Saturday and after being recalled herself, she would hate to see anyone else (Gary Filpi for not putting his seat up for election) recalled for the same reasons as herself. Jackie Carpenter said that Gary Filpi has only been to about 3 meetings and he does not represent continuity.

Gina Regalado, 551 Washington- said that Gary Filpi best represents her and what she stands for and she applauds him for trying to provide continuity.

Valerie Katzler, 581 Washington- said that she has been to about 3 meetings and Gary Filpi is here now and that is what counts. He should be given a chance.

Paul Elsner asked if findings #1-6 are evidence of Saturday's Public Hearing and the Council agreed unanimously that it was. Acting Mayor Neil Meads said that the reasons for this election go way beyond the 6 findings listed in this resolution. He said that he hopes that the citizens will be appeased by this effort. The feedback that he has been getting is that citizen's want this election.

Mike Lewis, 580 Jackson St., said that he has lived in Lafayette for 12 1/2 years, and he hasn't had a voice because he worked for the City. He has never been able to express his opinion, and the City Council hasn't listened to the people. The Council needs to involve the community. One of the biggest things that the people want is to have the choice to vote.

The Council agreed that 5 Council positions and the position of Mayor will be up for election in February 2002. Gary Filpi's position will not be up for the February 2002 election. Monday, December 10, at 5 p.m. will be the deadline to receive candidate petitions. Paul Elsner reviewed the changes that will be made to the existing resolution (insertion of 5 Council positions in all approp. blanks). December 14, 2001 will be deadline to submit the list of candidates to Charles Stern, and February 26, 2002 will be the election date. Trena Cranfill will notify the candidates once Charles Stern's office has verified the signatures.

Bob Cullen made a motion to adopt Resolution 01-31, as amended. Gary Filpi seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

5. ADJOURN:

Gary Filpi made a motion to adjourn. Bob Cullen seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Minutes approved on this 11th day of December, 2001.

APPROVED:

ATTESTED:

Acting Mayor Neil Meads

Phil Lieberman, City Administrator