

**FORT MYERS BEACH
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
DECEMBER 29, 2000
SPECIAL MEETING
NationsBank, Council Chambers
2523 Estero Boulevard
FORT MYERS BEACH, FLORIDA**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of December 29, 2000, was opened by Mayor Daniel Hughes at 3:15 p.m.

Council members present at the meeting: Terry Cain, Daniel Hughes, Ray Murphy and Garr Reynolds.

Members absent from meeting: None.

Town Staff present: Town Manager Marsha Segal-George, Deputy Town Manager John Gucciardo, Attorney Richard Roosa.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All assembled recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. FILLING THE VACANCY ON THE TOWN COUNCIL PURSUANT TO SECTION 4.08 OF THE CHARTER

Mayor Hughes read a statement he had prepared apologizing for calling the special meeting and expressing his appreciation for the attendance of the council members and staff on such short notice. He advised that the sole purpose of this meeting was to hopefully fill the vacancy of the Town Council and that no other action may be taken.

Mayor Hughes referred to phone calls he had received from Bill Van Duzer and Howard Rynearson. Mr. Rynearson advised him that several rumors floating about were unfounded and indicated that he believed the Town had done well in the five years since incorporation with Marsha Segal-George as manager. He also stated that he would not support the calling of a referendum to eliminate the existing term limits in our charter and stated he was in favor of such limits.

The matter of filling the vacancy has occupied many hours of time at our last three council meetings and has become counter-productive, Mayor Hughes said, and he has concluded that it's time to move on to positive endeavors and is therefore willing to give Howard the third vote he needs to become a council member under the charter. This decision was made entirely on his own and there were no meetings or discussions with other council members or the Town staff.

It is his belief that this deadlock has created divisiveness in the Town and the longer it continues, the more acrimony and ill will develops hindering achievement of our common goals and objectives.

Councilman Reynolds said he was embarrassed for Howard that somebody would have to go to him and ask him about rumors. He hadn't heard one of those rumors and was a little angry about such rumors circulating.

MOTION: Made by Ray Murphy and seconded by Garr Reynolds to have Howard Rynearson fill the vacancy on the Town Council.

Discussion:

Councilwoman Cain said she was a little upset about the timing of this meeting and that she hoped everyone was prepared for the repercussions we're going to receive from the community that's on vacation.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

A. JOE CROKER

B. HAROLD DOUGLAS

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine Calhoun
Transcribing Secretary