



Islamorada, Village of Islands

SPECIAL CALL VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING

Council Vacancy & Interim Manager

January 30, 2025 - 5:30 PM
Founders Park Community Center
87000 Overseas Highway
Islamorada, FL 33036

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Mayor Sharon Mahoney called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor Sharon Mahoney, Vice Mayor Don Horton, Council Member Steve Friedman, Council Member Deb Gillis,

ABSENT:

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Frank Derfler led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. AGENDA: Requests for Deletion / Emergency Additions

There were no emergency additions or deletions to the agenda.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

This is general public comment. It provides an opportunity for the public to speak about matters that are pertinent to the Village but not scheduled elsewhere on the agenda. The mayor opens public comment on agenda items throughout the meeting.)

Mayor Sharon Mahoney opened public comment.

Speakers included:

Van Cadenhead

Joe Wischmeier

Steve Friedman

Barry Wray

There being no one else wishing to speak, Mayor Mahoney closed public comment.

V. APPOINTMENT TO FILL COUNCIL SEAT VACANCY

A. Motion to Appoint New Councilmember to Replace Vacancy Created by Resignation of Former Councilmember Pinder

Interim Village Attorney John Quick introduced the proposed process to appoint a replacement to Seat 1.

It was noted that Ms. Scuderi had rescinded her application prior to the meeting.

Proposed Process:

- Each candidate will have three (3) minutes to express their interest and/or qualifications for appointment. Candidates will speak in alphabetical order.
- Councilmembers will ask any follow up questions (if necessary).
- Council will hear public comment
- Councilmembers will vote for up to three candidates by marking an "X" on the appointment sheet.
- Staff will tally the "X's" and provide the top three candidates for appointment.
- Councilmembers will discuss, deliberate and vote for one of the top three.
- When a majority vote is obtained, the appointment for Seat 1 will conclude.
- The winning candidate must receive three votes

The candidates spoke in alphabetical order and shared their qualifications.

Tom Raffanello (moved to first speaker at his request)

Van Cadenhead

Greg Dully

David Epstein

Beth Kaminstein

Anna Richards

Larry Zettwoch

Mayor Sharon Mahoney opened public comment.

Speakers included:

Joan Scholz

Jamie Engel

Joe Wischmeier

Barry Wray

There being no one else wishing to speak, Mayor Mahoney closed public comment.

Council thanked everyone who applied to serve.

The top three results from the first round of voting were:

Greg Dully

Tom Raffanello

Anna Richards

The top two results from the second round of voting were:

Greg Dully

Anna Richards

The results from the third, fourth, and fifth rounds of voting were tied with Greg Dully and Anna Richards each receiving two votes.

Mayor Sharon Mahoney called a recess at 6:43 p.m. and called the meeting back to order at 6:49 p.m.

Mayor Sharon Mahoney invited the two finalists back up to speak for another two minutes:

Greg Dully
Anna Richards

Mayor Sharon Mahoney opened public comment again for two minutes per speaker.

Speakers included:

Ken Phillipson
Van Cadenhead
Jamie Engel
Eric Gephart
Kim Parmelee
Joe Wischmeier
Matt Turk
Jason Richards

Mayor Sharon Mahoney closed public comment again.

Mayor Sharon Mahoney called a recess at 7:27 p.m. and called the meeting back to order at 7:39 p.m.

Interim Village Attorney John Quick noted that in the Charter, in section 8, subcategory 6 allowed for determination by lot in case of a tied vote after an election.

ACTION: Motion to Approve to Appoint Greg Dully to the vacancy in Seat 1 item V.A. by Steve Friedman second by Deb Gillis;
Motion Failed with a 2:2 vote
AYES: Steve Friedman, Deb Gillis
NAYS: Sharon Mahoney, Don Horton
ABSTAIN: None

ACTION: Motion to Toss a coin to determine the winner item V.A. by Sharon Mahoney, second by Don Horton;
Motion Failed with a 2:2 vote
AYES: Sharon Mahoney, Don Horton
NAYS: Steve Friedman, Deb Gillis
ABSTAIN: None

ACTION: Motion to Toss a coin to determine the winner item V.A. by Sharon Mahoney, second by Don Horton;
Motion Failed with a 2:2 vote

AYES: Sharon Mahoney, Don Horton
NAYS: Steve Friedman, Deb Gillis
ABSTAIN: None

ACTION: Motion to Approve to Appoint Greg Dully to the vacancy in Seat 1
item V.A. by Steve Friedman second by Deb Gillis;
Motion Failed with a 2:2 vote
AYES: Steve Friedman, Deb Gillis
NAYS: Sharon Mahoney, Don Horton
ABSTAIN: None

ACTION: Motion to Draw lots to determine the winner item V.A. by Sharon
Mahoney second by Don Horton;
Motion Failed with a 2:2 vote
AYES: Sharon Mahoney, Don Horton
NAYS: Steve Friedman, Deb Gillis
ABSTAIN: None

After being unable to break the deadlock, the Council concurred to move forward with the rest of the agenda and return to this item afterward.

VI. MAYOR / COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS

Vice Mayor Don Horton asked for Council to consider convening a Charter Review Committee. His main concerns were election reform, but noted that our community is changing, and it was prudent to review whether parts of the Charter may no longer be relevant.

Council Member Steve Freidman announced his recent attendance at the Florida League of Cities Elected Officials Institute and asked Acting Village Manager Sheila Denoncourt to provide a list of potential impacts with the impending freeze on federal funding.

A. Interim Village Manager Discussion

HR Director Jamie Terry reported that the Council directed staff to speak to members on the Florida League of Cities Managers-in-transition list. Alan Cohen has provided his resume for the Council's consideration.

Ms. Terry noted that while an RFP had been issued for an executive search firm, applications for a Village Manager had been received in-house as well. Staff recommended that Acting Village Manager Sheila Denoncourt continue to serve in the role until a permanent village manager was hired.

Mr. Cohen expressed interest in serving on an interim basis, and as he had school-age children in Broward, he was not looking to relocate his family. He did note that he would need accommodation in the area during his service to the Village.

Mayor Sharon Mahoney opened public comment.

Speakers included:
Joe Wischmeier
Van Cadenhead
Barry Wray

There being no one else wishing to speak, Mayor Mahoney closed public comment.

Council expressed interest in alleviating Ms. Denoncourt of the added responsibilities and directed staff to negotiate a contract with Mr. Cohen for consideration on the February 11 agenda.

VII. VILLAGE ATTORNEY / VILLAGE MANAGER COMMUNICATIONS

VIII. MOTIONS

The discussion resumed concerning Council Member Pinder's replacement on the Council.

Mayor Sharon Mahoney recessed the meeting at 8:46 p.m. and reconvened at 9:03 p.m.

ACTION: Motion to Approve appointing Greg Dully item VIII. by Steve Friedman second by Deb Gillis;
Motion Failed with a 2:2 vote
AYES: Steve Friedman, Deb Gillis
NAYS: Sharon Mahoney, Don Horton
ABSTAIN: None

ACTION: Motion to Approve appointing Greg Dully item VIII. by Steve Friedman second by Deb Gillis;
Motion Failed with a 2:2 vote
AYES: Steve Friedman, Deb Gillis
NAYS: Sharon Mahoney, Don Horton
ABSTAIN: None

ACTION: Motion to Approve appointing Anna Richards item VIII. by Don Horton, second by Sharon Mahoney;
Motion Failed with a 2:2 vote
AYES: Sharon Mahoney, Don Horton
NAYS: Steve Friedman, Deb Gillis
ABSTAIN: None

After further discussion, the Council decided it was at an impasse and that it would be best to continue the appointment to the March 18 Regular Village Council Meeting.

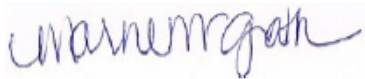
Interim Village Attorney John Quick noted that while the Charter required Council

Member Pinder's replacement be appointed within thirty days there appeared no way to break the impasse. Mr. Quick noted that any legal action taken due to not complying with the 30-day requirement could only compel the Council to make a decision, not award any monetary damages to any party.

ACTION: Motion to Continue the appointment of a Council Member to the
March 18 Regular Village Council Meeting
item VIII. by Sharon Mahoney, second by Don Horton;
Motion Passed with a 3:1 vote
AYES: Sharon Mahoney, Don Horton, Steve Friedman
NAYS: Deb Gillis
ABSTAIN: None

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Vice Mayor Don Horton moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:06 p.m.



Marne McGrath
Village Clerk