

M E M O R A N D U M

To: Town Commission
From: Tom Harmer, Town Manager
Report date: April 9, 2021
Meeting date: April 19, 2021
Subject: Appointment to Fill Vacancy for the Town Commission District 5 Seat

Recommended Action

Appoint individual to fill vacancy for the Town Commission District 5 Seat until the next General Election in March 2022.

Background

Due to the resignation of Commissioner Edward Zunz on March 17, 2021, effective March 22, 2021, a vacancy exists on the Town Commission for the District 5 seat. A copy of the resignation notice is attached for the record.

The Town Charter, Article II, Section 8(a), Vacancies, provides for the method to fill a vacancy, as follows: Vacancies in the town commission shall be filled by the town commission, with any person so appointed to be a qualified elector from the district of the vacated commissioner, to serve until the next general municipal election. At the next general municipal election, the vacancy shall be filled by election; the person elected in such election to serve the remaining unexpired term of the town commissioner whose vacant office is being filled. If a vacancy is not filled by the town commission within thirty (30) days after the vacancy occurs, a special election shall be held, as authorized by the Supervisor of Elections, after such a vacancy occurs; and the person so elected shall serve the remaining unexpired term.

Following Commission direction at the March 22, 2021, Statutory Meeting, an advertisement was prepared and forwarded to the Longboat Key News and Longboat Key Observer, as well as posted on the Town's website advising the public of the vacancy.

The Town Clerk's office has received three letters of interest (attached) from Mr. Christopher Carman, Mr. Gene Jaleski, and Ms. Maureen Merrigan.

The Commission can make nominations and vote to fill the seat at the April 19, 2021, Special Meeting or, if an appointment is not made, schedule a Special Election as provided for in the Town Charter. However, if scheduling a Special Election, the Supervisor of Elections offices have indicated it would be scheduled on November 2, 2021.

To proceed with the appointment at the April 19, 2021, Special Meeting, the Mayor will open the floor for nominations. Each Commissioner is eligible to make a nomination but is not obligated to do so. Only those individuals nominated will be considered during the voting process.

Pursuant to Resolution 04-17, a minimum of four votes is required for an applicant to be selected for the District 5 seat. A roll call of Commissioners will be taken until one

applicant receives four votes and is appointed. The roll call will proceed in the order of the nominations.

Upon appointment of an individual, the Clerk is prepared to swear in the new Commissioner and they will then be able to participate in the Regular Workshop scheduled for 1:00 p.m.

Please contact me if you have any questions on the process or Charter requirements.

Staff Recommendation

Appoint individual to fill vacancy for the Town Commission District 5 Seat until the next General Election in March 2022.

Attachments

- A. Resignation Letter from Commissioner Ed Zunz (available in the Town Clerk's office)
- B. Candidate Applications (available in the Town Clerk's office)

End of Agenda Item