

Bonnet Shores Fire District

Bonnet Shores Fire District Council Special Meeting
Thursday, January 23, 2025
7:00 am

Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

Chair Carol O'Donnell called the meeting to order at 7:00 am. In attendance were council members John Chereskin, Steve Danuszar, Jane Duran, Faith LaSalle and Leslie McKnight. Also in attendance was Treasurer Laurie McCarthy. Council member Anthony Girardi was absent.

Appointment of a plaintiff representative to the Reconstituted Charter Committee

C. O'Donnell explained that the council did not need to appoint a council member as Clerk Pro Tem to take meeting minutes as the Clerk Matthew Mannix was in attendance.

J. Duran explained that the Charter Committee is seeking a representative from the group of plaintiffs in the 2020 lawsuit against the Fire District. She explained that the council appointed Robert Patterson to the Charter Committee at its January 2025 monthly meeting, but that Mr. Patterson since indicated that he does not want the position. Previously, Mr. Patterson had resigned from the first charter commission and then later had expressed interest in serving on the new Charter Committee.

F. LaSalle stated that all committees are created by the council and the consent judgment from the 2020 lawsuit included a provision stating that the council shall create a charter commission.

S. Danuszar stated that the Charter Committee may not need a plaintiff representative.

J. Chereskin questioned whether the Charter Committee is valid without a plaintiff representative.

J. Duran indicated that the purpose of today's special council meeting was to determine whether the council would reach out to the group of plaintiffs to see if any of them were interested in serving on the Charter Committee. She noted that the council had already reached out to the plaintiffs in December 2024 and that only Mary Patterson responded that she was interested, but then reneged.

L. McKnight indicated that the plaintiffs were placing obstacles in the way of getting the Charter Committee assembled.

C. O'Donnell **moved**, seconded by L. McKnight, to attempt to appoint a plaintiff's representative again. The council members determined that the communication to the group of

plaintiffs would be by (1) email, (2) regular mail and (3) certified mail with a deadline to respond by January 28, 2025. The motion was **approved**, 6-0.

Adjournment

J. Duran **moved**, seconded by C. O'Donnell, to adjourn the meeting. The motion was **approved**, 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 7:25 am.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/Matthew M. Mannix
Bonnet Shores Fire District Clerk

Ratified on February 19, 2025