

CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE

Special City Commission Meeting  
June 10, 2002

The City Commission met in a formal session Monday, June 10, 2002, at 8:00 a.m. in the City Commission meeting room at City Hall. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Mark Alexander, and the following were present:

**1. Roll Call:**

Mark Alexander, Mayor/City Commissioner  
Raymond Connor, City Commissioner  
Susan Burk, City Commissioner  
William Lennon, City Commissioner

William Harriss, City Manager  
James P. Wilson, City Attorney  
Martha V. (Nell) Porter, City Clerk  
Timothy A. Burchfield, Director, General Services  
Paul Williamson, Director, Public Affairs  
Karen Rogers, Recording Secretary

Also Present:

Peter Quinta, St. Augustine Record

**2. Consideration of an appointment to the City Commission to fill the seat three vacancy.**

Mr. Harriss apologized for the staff, as one of the applications for the Commission appointment had been omitted from the agenda for the June 4<sup>th</sup> special meeting. He stated that the City did not go through that particular process often, although that was not an excuse for the omission. He explained that according to the Charter the City was required to fill an open position through the City Commissioners within 10-days. He continued that on the eleventh day the position became a gubernatorial appointment, therefore the Commission had to fill the position that day or forfeit authority to the Governor. He added that although an 8:00 a.m. meeting was unusual for the Commission it was the only possible time that the Commission could get together

to address the situation. He stated that the Commission had to rethink the applications, and he deferred to the City Attorney to address the legalities of a re-nomination.

Mayor Alexander questioned whether the Commissioners had any doubt regarding their vote for Mr. Green.

Commissioner Burk replied that the Commissioners needed to discuss the situation.

Mr. Harriss suggested that they reopen the issue and start at ground zero.

Commissioner Burk agreed that was what they should do.

Mr. Wilson clarified that Mr. Green had not been sworn in, therefore the Commissioners could motion to withdraw the nomination, second the

motion and vote, and the entire matter would be open for consideration.

### **MOTION**

**Commissioner Burk moved to withdraw the nomination for Henry Green. The motion was SECONDED by Commissioner Connor and approved by UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.**

Commissioner Burk admitted that the situation was difficult. She said the Commission had discussed and appeared to agree that the position should not be a campaign platform for the next election. She said they had all eventually voted for Henry Green; however, Henry Green had admitted to the St. Augustine Record that he would possibly run for the Commission, which rendered her unable to support a nomination for him. She stated that she was inclined to nominate Mr. Jones.

Commissioner Lennon indicated that he had not changed his mind about Mr. Green; moreover, Mr. Green had not indicated to him that he was interested in running for Commissioner.

Commissioner Burk noted that Mr. Green had mentioned the possibility to the reporter for the Record.

Commissioner Lennon restated that he had served on the Commission with Mr. Green and considered him to be ultimately qualified to fill the position for the next six months especially considering the scheduled issues, therefore he nominated Henry Green.

Commissioner Burk agreed with the Commissioner's logic; however, she said it had been sometime since Mr. Green had served on the Commission. She

noted that Mr. Jones was highly educated with an abundance of experience in various areas, therefore she believed that he could handle the position. She pointed out that Mr. Jones did not have a political platform, he had strong ties with the community, and he could provide much needed representation for the area.

Commissioner Connor stated that he had nominated Mr. Green at the previous meeting; however, whether a candidate was planning to use the position as a campaign platform should not have a bearing on the Commissioner's decision. He agreed that Mr. Jones' application and resume were impressive; however, he felt that Mr. Green's qualifications were superior under the circumstances. He thanked all the applicants for their willingness to serve.

Commissioner Lennon thanked Mr. Jones for submitting his application and stated that he hoped Mr. Jones understood that the omission of his application was unintentional.

It was the consensus of the Commission to extend their apologies to Mr. Jones.

Mayor Alexander stated that the additional application had no effect regarding his vote for Mr. Green. He noted that Mr. Lennon had motioned, and he requested a second.

Mr. Wilson reminded the Mayor that in the current situation a second was not necessary.

Commissioner Lennon nominated Henry Green.

**VOTE ON MOTION**

**AYES: Lennon, Connor, Alexander**

**NAYES: Burk**

**MOTION CARRIED 3/1**

Ms. Porter extended her apologies to the Commissioners for the oversight and accompanying inconvenience.

**3. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:13 a.m. <sup>1</sup>

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MAYOR

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CITY CLERK

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<sup>1</sup> Transcribed by Karen Rogers, Recording Secretary