

**ORGANIZATIONAL MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2015 – 10:00 A.M.
CITY HALL, COUNCIL CHAMBERS, VERO BEACH, FLORIDA**

Canvassing Board: City Manager, James O'Connor; City Attorney, Wayne Coment and City Clerk, Tammy Vock **Also Present:** Deputy City Clerk, Sherri Philo

1. Call to Order of Canvassing Board – City Attorney

Mr. Wayne Coment, City Attorney, called today's meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

A) Roll Call – Deputy City Clerk

Ms. Sherri Philo, Deputy City Clerk, performed the roll call.

B) Pledge of Allegiance – City Clerk

Mrs. Tammy Vock, City Clerk, led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

2. Certification of Election Results

A) Presentation of Election Results – City Clerk

The City Clerk reported that she received the Certified Election results and the election process went very smoothly this year.

B) Reading of Certification Resolution – City Manager

The City Manager read the Resolution certifying the results of the Election in its entirety (please see attached).

C) Motion to Adopt Resolution Certifying Election Results

Mr. James O'Connor, City Manager, made a motion to adopt the Resolution certifying the Election results. Mrs. Vock seconded the motion.

Mr. Coment open and closed public comment with no one wishing to be heard.

The motion passed 3-0 with Mr. O'Connor voting yes, Mrs. Vock yes, and Mr. Coment yes.

3. Oath of Office of New Councilmembers

A) Administration of Oath of Office – City Clerk

The City Clerk administered the Oath of Office en masse to Mr. Richard Winger and Mr. Harry Howle.

B) Adjournment of Canvassing Board

The Canvassing Board meeting adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

C) Council Takes Seats at Dais

The City Councilmembers took their seats at the dais.

4. Election of Mayor

A) Call for Nominations for Mayor – City Attorney

Mr. Coment called for nominations for Mayor.

Mr. Winger nominated Mr. Jay Kramer for Mayor.

Mrs. Turner nominated Mr. Randy Old for Mayor.

There were no other nominations.

Mr. Old declined the nomination for Mayor. He felt that the office of serving as Mayor should be held by a Councilmember who has been in office longer than he has served. He said that he would be glad to serve as Mayor in the future, but at this time he would decline.

Mr. Coment opened and closed public comment with no one wishing to be heard.

B) Motion for Election of one of the Nominees as Mayor

With no other nominations, Mr. Jay Kramer was unanimously appointed Mayor of the City of Vero Beach.

C) Mayor Assumes Control of Meeting

The Mayor assumed control of the meeting.

5. Election of Vice-Mayor

A) Call for Nomination for Vice Mayor – Mayor

Mayor Kramer nominated Mr. Randy Old for Vice Mayor of the City of Vero Beach.

There were no other nominations.

Mayor Kramer opened and closed public comment with no one wishing to be heard.

B) Motion for Election of One of the Nominees as Vice-Mayor

With no other nominations, Mr. Randy Old was unanimously appointed Vice Mayor of the City of Vero Beach.

6. Seating Assignment & Appointments to Commission and Boards

The seating assignments for the City Council will be from left to right, Mr. Howle, Mrs. Turner, Mr. Winger, Mayor Kramer, and Vice Mayor Old.

7. Public Comment

Mr. Charlie Wilson said every time they elect a new Council there is a new chance for a new future. He said there has been a lot of discussion regarding the low voter turnout for this Election. The analysis of this Election is what do they expect when time after time voters go to the polls and are either ignored or deceived. He said there are four (4) reasons why they have a low voter turnout. One is because the voters have been deceived by political leaders for several years. The second is that the truth hurts. He said that he didn't know when telling the truth became something bad and deceiving the public became something good. He said when they send information to the voters that is absolutely true they can't deny that it is negative if it is true. That is the reason they are held accountable as Elected Officials, which is another

reason why people haven't voted. He explained it is because politicians and political leaders have not been held accountable. The third reason is because of the unnecessary and strong control they have by special interest groups in Vero Beach. He said there is one particular special interest group that has over 2,000 members and often provides the tipping point for both money and votes. The fourth reason is misinformation of the press. He said people have to seek alternative means of being educated on the issues, which is what is called advocacy journalism. He said advocacy journalism is short for propaganda and is done by bloggers who have no responsibility for the truth, no accountability, no sworn duty to accuracy, and are funded heavily by the same special interest group. He said another problem is that the City of Vero Beach has a rigged election process. He said there are two (2) parts of the rigged election process with the first being multiple voting. He said being able to vote for multiple candidates makes voting a team sport where they have a group of people running against another group of people and as a result the most qualified might not be elected. He asked Council to consider changing the Ordinance of how to vote where the voters can vote once and vote for the most qualified person. Currently, the voters can vote for up to three (3) candidates and 90% of the voters only vote for two of the three candidates. The other problem is that the City has an Ordinance that allows them to circumvent the resign to run law. The reason Vero Beach voters do not receive a lot of information is because candidates running for City Council do not have to qualify until September. The City set their qualifying day two weeks after the primary, which allows someone on the City Council to run for the County Commission without the threat of losing their seat. He explained that they could lose their race for a County Commission seat and come back and take their seat on the City Council. He said the reason Vero Beach voters have given up on Vero Beach is because Vero Beach has given up on the voters.

8. Sunshine Law Briefing – City Attorney

Mr. Coment gave a Sunshine Law presentation via video from the November 8, 2013 City Council Organizational meeting (on file in the City Clerk's office).

At this time, the seating arrangement was changed with Mr. Howle seated to the far right, Mr. Winger, Mrs. Turner, Mayor Kramer and Mr. Old.

9. Adjournment

Mayor Kramer made a motion to adjourn today's meeting at 10:30 a.m. Mr. Old seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

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