

MINUTES

KEY COLONY BEACH CITY COMMISSION

Special Meeting

Thursday, April 28, 2022 – 9:30 a.m.

City Hall Auditorium & Virtually via Zoom Conferencing

1. Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, Prayer, Roll Call: *The Special Commission Meeting of the City of Key Colony Beach was called to order by Mayor Trefry at 9:30 a.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, Prayer, and Roll Call.*

Present: *Mayor Trefry, Vice Mayor Harding, Commissioner Sutton, Commissioner DeNeale. **Also Present:** City Administrator Dave Turner, City Clerk Silvia Gransee, City Attorney Dirk Smits, Public Works Department Head Mike Guarino, Building Official Gerard Roussin, Police Chief Kris DiGiovanni, Code Enforcement Officer Stacy Stahl, and Fire Chief John Johnson.*

Public: 19 Marble Hall

Under recommendation of City Council, Mayor Trefry turned the meeting over to City Attorney Dirk Smits for the remainder of the Special Meeting.

2. Correspondence received by the City Clerk: *City Clerk Silvia Gransee read the correspondence received by her office. City Clerk Gransee reported on having received three considerations for appointment for the vacant Commission seat as well as one nomination. City Clerk Gransee reported that the applications received were from Mrs. Beth Ramsay-Vickrey, Mr. Freddie Foster, and Mr. Thomas Carden, and the nomination from Jane Byland for Toni Appell. City Clerk Silvia Gransee continued by reading the correspondences received in support of Mrs. Beth Ramsay-Vickrey and Freddie Foster.*

(Please contact the cityclerk@keycolonybeach.net for a copy of the records).

City Attorney Dirk Smits stated for the record that all correspondences received were provided to the Commission and included in today's record.

3. Candidate Introductions & Statements: *City Clerk Silvia Gransee introduced the candidates to the Commission in alphabetically order.*

City Clerk Gransee called for Mr. Thomas Carden for a chance to speak before the Commission. Mr. Carden was not physically present in Marble Hall, nor available via Zoom Conferencing.

City Clerk Gransee called for the next candidate to address the Commission.

Mr. Freddie Foster introduced himself to the Mayor, Commissioners, and audience. Mr. Freddie Foster stated that he has been married for 45 years with two children, 8 grandchildren, and 1 greatgrandchild. Mr. Foster continued by saying that he lives at 170 11th Street where he purchased a house in 2011. Mr. Foster reported that he lived in Miami for 25 years and that himself and his wife were looking for a place to retire, and that Key Colony Beach was the second place they stopped. Mr. Freddie Foster continued by saying that they looked at many different areas in the Keys and what drove himself and his wife to Key Colony was the community. Mr. Foster further said that the atmosphere of people walking, riding their bicycles, smiling, is a mayberry type of atmosphere, and felt this would be the right place for them to be. Mr. Foster stated that the first house they looked at in Key Colony was the one they ended up buying. Mr. Foster further stated that the like the safety, seeing people leaving their bicycles out, garage doors open, and they feel very safe in their city. Mr. Foster stated that his wife, children, and grandchildren, feel safe in this city with a wonderful police department. Mr. Foster continued saying that he takes his grandchildren to the parks, which now will be upgraded, and it is just a nice place to walk around, and which is not available in other places. Mr. Foster further stated that he recommends Key Colony Beach to anybody that is looking for a mayberry type of place to live at. Mr. Foster stated that his family intends to stay here as their primary home. Mr. Foster reported that his background started in 1978 on nuclear submarines and he went to the commercial nuclear facilities after. Mr. Foster stated that he lived up and down the coast, learned a lot, and had a lot of good mentors growing up in the nuclear industries.

City Clerk Gransee informed Mr. Foster that his five minutes of speaking time to the Commission had concluded. City Attorney Dirk Smits explained to the Commission that they have the choice to give the candidate extra time if the follow-up candidate receives the same benefits. Commissioner Sutton asked Mr. Freddie Foster if could finish his address with an extra minutes of time which Mr. Foster confirmed. The Commission agreed upon the extra time.

Mr. Freddie Foster continued talking about his background including being a Consultant's Manager, Facilities Manager, Emergency Operations Preparedness Center Manager, as well as a Technical Support Manager. Freddie Foster continued by stating that as a project manager he was responsible for multi-million-dollar contracts with extensive backgrounds. Mr. Foster reported on his education on going to school for engineering but had to stop school to take care of his father. In closing Mr. Foster said that he has a 4-year degree as a Bachelor of Science. The Commission thanked Mr. Foster for his address.

City Clerk Gransee asked Mrs. Beth Ramsay-Vickrey to address the Commission.

Mrs. Beth Ramsay-Vickrey addressed the Commission requesting consideration for the vacant Commission seat. Mrs. Ramsay-Vickrey stated that in a time where woman represent 50 percent of the population but certainly not 50 percent of the government, she comes in front of the Commission not as a woman but as a qualified woman with over 16 years' experience with local governmental involvement and experience. Mrs. Beth Ramsay-Vickrey continued by saying that she is both a citizen advocate, and a past City and County Commissioner who has hands-on experience with legislation and creating policies. Mrs. Ramsay-Vickrey further stated that she believes with her practical experience and vast working relationships throughout the county she will be an asset to the City of Key Colony Beach. Mrs. Ramsay-Vickrey continued by saying to the Commission that she is a full-time resident of Key Colony Beach and is registered to vote. Mrs. Ramsay-Vickrey stated that she grew up and went to school in the Keys. Mrs. Beth Ramsay-Vickrey continued by saying that her family moved to the Keys in the 70's, and that her family has been overall 50 years in the Keys. Mrs. Ramsay-Vickrey explained that she did not live the entire time in the Keys since she married her husband, a Navy pilot, right out of Highschool. Mrs. Ramsay-Vickrey further stated that they were missing home and moved back to the Keys in 2006 and has been a full-time year around resident for the past 16 plus years. Mrs. Ramsay-Vickrey stated that she has extensive business experience and that upon her husbands discharge from the Navy herself and her husband partnered for more than 15 years leasing and selling real estate in California. Mrs. Ramsay-Vickrey stated that upon retiring herself and her husband moved back to the Keys in 2006. Mrs. Beth Ramsay-Vickrey continued by saying that due to the recent passing of her husband she moved from the Lower Keys to Key Colony Beach to be close to her family in Marathon. Mrs. Ramsay-Vickrey informed that in the last 16 plus years in Monroe County she has been both active in government and local community. Mrs. Ramsay-Vickrey explained she was the founder and served three terms as Board Member on the No Name Key Property Association, as well as serving six years on the Energy Advisory Board, and four years as the Monroe County District 2 Planning Commissioner representing and serving the residents of the Lower Keys through Marathon. Mrs. Ramsay-Vickrey continued by saying that as District Planning Commissioner it was her responsibility to review proposed amendments to comprehensive plans, land development code, and map amendments, and provide recommendations to the DOCC. Mrs. Ramsay-Vickrey further stated that other responsibilities included the review, and either the approval or disapproval of applications for development agreements, major condition use permits, and variance applications. Mrs. Ramsay-Vickrey reported that in her position as a seated County Planning Commissioner she successfully handled large and complex issues such as updating the entire county's land development plan and the land development agreement for the 208-unit workforce housing project on Big Coppitt Key. Mrs. Beth Ramsay-Vickrey continued by saying that as a private citizen she worked closely with governmental entities throughout the County on various projects. Mrs. Ramsay-Vickrey stated that she worked successfully with Keys Energy and the County on the extension of new electrical service to No Name Key, and that she participated in both design and engineering meetings with both the County and the Aqueduct Authority regarding the extension of the central wastewater system. Mrs. Ramsay-Vickrey further stated that she successfully participated in the extension of the regional Cudjoe Wastewater System throughout the entirety of the Lower Keys. Mrs. Ramsay-Vickrey continued by saying that she handled some very touchy and hard subjects working with Monroe County governmental entities, but instead of creating enemies has made friends and successfully worked to solutions.

Mrs. Ramsay-Vickrey continued by saying that as part of the County Planning Commission she actively participated in the updating of the County's current comprehensive plan, attending more than 30 meetings both public and private, which most of her suggestions having been incorporated. Mrs. Beth Ramsay-Vickrey stated that her community involvement and her passion with more than 25 years of animal welfare and rescue, as the past legislative liaison for the American Kennel Club, and more than 10 years of volunteering at the local Florida Keys SPCA in Marathon. Mrs. Beth Ramsay-Vickrey further stated that she is currently serving on the County Library Advisory Board and is a member in good standing with the Middle Keys GOP. Mrs. Ramsay-Vickrey stated that she believes that good representation requires involvement, and as such has worked successfully on six local political campaigns, as well as having been the campaign manager to two successful candidates including the County Commissioner. Mrs. Beth Ramsay-Vickrey stated that she understands that Key Colony Beach is an incorporated governmental body and that actions taken by the County and the City of Marathon have a direct impact on the City of Key Colony Beach and its residents. Mrs. Ramsay-Vickrey continued saying that from tourism to traffic congestion and emergency operations, so many decisions made by Marathon and the County impact Key Colony Beach. Mrs. Ramsay-Vickrey explained that she reads the agendas as well as the backup materials, and researches the issue of concern throughout the county, and has done so for more than 16 years. Mrs. Ramsay-Vickrey further stated that her relevant qualifications for this seat include business, community, and governmental experience, and with more than 16 years actively engaged with Monroe County Government politics and policies. Mrs. Ramsay-Vickrey further said that she feels with her many years of hands-on experience at the governmental county legislation and setting policies, in conjunction with her vast working relationships throughout the county are assets in strengthening intergovernmental communications, corporation, and reach, and makes her uniquely qualified for the seat of Commissioner for the City of Key Colony Beach. Mrs. Beth Ramsay-Vickrey closed by saying that she hopes the Commission feels the same and thanked them for their time.

4. Citizen Comments: *City Attorney Dirk Smits stated that at this point public comment could be made and each speaker has three minutes to speak. City Clerk Silvia Gransee asked the audience if anyone would like to speak on behalf of either candidate.*

Mike O'Donnell, 112 W. Ocean Drive, stated that he came to the meeting to ask the Commission to consider Freddie Foster for the open Commission seat. Mr. O'Donnell stated that he has known Mr. Freddie Foster for years, worked on a lot of projects together, and that Freddie Foster is nothing but positive, detail oriented, and knows how to get work done with people. Mr. O'Donnell further stated that his family was the first owner of a house on 7th Street and knows what this community grew up too. Mr. O'Donnell continued by saying that Freddie Foster understands the community and believes that Freddie Foster would do a great job with his local and technical abilities and his attention for detail. In closing, Mr. O'Donnell thanked the Commission for their time.

City Clerk Gransee asked if there were any other citizen comments either in person or via Zoom which were not.

5. Call for Nominations: *City Attorney Dirk Smits stated that at this time the Commission can ask either candidate questions.*

Mayor Trefry asked Mr. Freddie Foster if there would be any issues with time commitments, with Freddie Foster replied to no and that he lives in Key Colony Beach full time. There were not further questions for Mr. Freddie Foster from the Commission.

The Commission had no questions for Mrs. Beth Ramsay-Vickrey.

City Attorney Dirk Smits asked for call for nominations followed by a motion to close the nominations.

Vice-Mayor Tom Harding nominated Freddie Foster. Commissioner Ron Sutton nominated Beth Ramsay-Vickrey.

City Attorney Smits asked if there is a Motion to close the nomination.

MOTION: Motion made by Mayor Trefry, seconded by Commissioner Sutton, to close the nominations.
ON THE MOTION: No opposing vote. City Attorney Smits officially closed the nomination.

6. Vote by Commissioners: City Attorney Dirk Smits stated that the Commission could now have a debate among themselves or proceed to vote if no debate necessary. Commissioner DeNeale thanked both candidates for applying for the open Commission seat, wished both candidates good luck and said that he had great conversations with both. Commissioner Sutton agreed with Commissioner DeNeale and stated that he spoke with both and thanked both candidates for stepping forward. Mayor Trefry stated that this will be a difficult decision since the Commission has two very highly qualified candidates in front of them. Vice-Mayor Tom Harding stated that he echoes the same and that he appreciates the candidates input as well as public's input, and that they have two very qualified candidates which makes it a tough choice.

City Attorney Dirk Smits called for a vote. Mayor Trefry asked if it will be with a show of hands which City Attorney Smits stated is up to the Commission.

City Clerk Gransee asked the Commission by a show of hands for a vote for Freddie Foster. Vice-Mayor Tom Harding and Commissioner John DeNeale raised their hands.

City Clerk Gransee asked the Commission by a show of hands for a vote for Beth Ramsay-Vickrey. Mayor Trefry and Commissioner Sutton raised their hands.

City Attorney Dirk Smits asked if any of the Commissioners would like to have further comment. Commissioner John DeNeale asked City Attorney Smits if the Commission could have another vote which City Attorney Smits supported.

City Clerk Silvia Gransee asked by a show of hands for a vote for Freddie Foster. Vice-Mayor Tom Harding raised his hand.

City Clerk Gransee asked by a show of hands for a vote for Beth Ramsay-Vickrey. Mayor Trefry, Commissioner Sutton, and Commissioner DeNeale raised their hands. City Clerk Gransee congratulated Mrs. Ramsay-Vickrey.

7. Swearing in Ceremony: City Clerk Silvia Gransee administered the Oath of Office to the newly appointed Commissioner Beth Ramsay-Vickrey

8. Election of Secretary/Treasurer: City Attorney Dirk Smits stated that since the retired Commissioner was also the Secretary-Treasurer of the City of Key Colony Beach a new Secretary-Treasurer has to be elected. City Attorney Smits called upon nominations.

Commissioner Ron Sutton nominated Commissioner John DeNeale. Mayor Trefry nominated Commissioner John DeNeale also. City Attorney Smits asked if there were any further nominations which were not, and City Attorney Smits closed the nominations.

City Attorney Dirk Smits asked if there were any objections against Commissioner DeNeale serving as Secretary-Treasurer which were not.

9. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Silvia Gransee
City Clerk

ADOPTED: May 12, 2022
Silvia Gransee
City Clerk