

**Millersville Board of Commissioners
Minutes of Special Meeting**

**Monday, August 7, 2023
Immediately following a 5:00 P.M. Work Session
at Millersville City Hall**

The Millersville Board of Commissioners held a special meeting at City Hall on Monday, August 7, 2023 immediately after their 5:00 P.M. Work Session with the following board members present: Tommy Long, Mayor; Milton Dorris, Vice Mayor; Commissioners: David Gregory and Cristina Templet. Also present: Scott Avery, City Manager; Holly Murphy, City Recorder/Finance Director; and Jack Freedle, City Attorney.

1. Call to Order.

Mayor Long called the meeting to order at 5:35 P.M.

2. Vote on candidates for open commission seat.

Mayor Long called for votes on each of the candidates in alphabetical order as follows:

a. Deborah Chadwich (Vote 1 yea - 3 nay, with Vice Mayor Dorris and Commissioners Gregory and Templet voting no.)

b. Dustin Darnall (Vote 2 yea – 2 nay, with Mayor Long and Vice Mayor Dorris voting no).

c. Tim Lassiter (Vote 2 yea – 2 nay, with Mayor Long and Vice Mayor Dorris voting no).

d. Larry Petty (Vote 2 yea – 2 nay, with Mayor Long and Vice Mayor Dorris voting no).

e. Jesse Powell (Vote 1 yea – 3 nay, with Mayor Long and Commissioners Gregory and Templet voting no).

Since none of the five candidates got the majority vote, no one was selected to fill the open commission seat.

3. If nobody is approved then consideration of **Resolution 23-R-17**, a resolution to call a special election for the open commission seat.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Dorris and seconded by Commissioner Gregory but the motion failed by 2-2 vote, with Mayor Long and Vice Mayor Dorris voting no.

During discussion Commissioner Templet said she's surprised there weren't more votes for Tim Lassiter as he had more experience out of this group of candidates and probably more than any of the current commissioners. She also said she's really surprised that they're not going to save taxpayers money and asking them to pay \$80,000 for a special election.

Vice Mayor Dorris replied that there wouldn't be a special election until the 90 days are up.

Mayor Long said he has people he hasn't been able to reach and thinks they need to open it up again for candidates.

Mr. Avery advised the Mayor and Commission that if they're not passing this resolution or appointing one of the five that applied then he needs direction. This is totally their decision but he can't just go ask for more candidates. They have to come to an agreement on this and vote.

Mayor Long inquired about how it was done this time. Mr. Avery briefly explained the process, which Mayor Long requested they do again.

Mayor Long called for a motion which was made by Vice Mayor Dorris to start the process over again and seconded by Mayor Long but the motion failed by a 2-2 vote, with Commissioners Gregory and Templet voting no.

Mr. Avery advised that the 90-day deadline is September 28th. They all agreed to special a meeting after the September 5th work session to meet with more candidates and then vote on the candidates at the September 19th Regular Meeting.

Commissioner Gregory requested to hear from the City Attorney. Mr. Freedle restated the deadlines for a special election as he referred to TCA Code 6-20-110(b), which was amended this year and went into effect April 17, 2023. He said whatever they do, they need to do post-haste because time is running out.

Mayor Long said he really don't want to have a special election and cost the city that much money.

Commissioner Gregory said they had five good candidates here that they didn't agree on so if they can't agree on this five and you bring another five or ten, he doesn't think they'll agree on them either. He said they could've agreed on at least one.

Mayor Long called for a vote on the motion to get some more candidates but the motion failed by a 2-2 vote, with Commissioners Gregory and Templet voting no.

Mr. Avery stated if they don't start conducting the business of the city and doing it as a team, we're not going to move the city forward. If they need to go out and get more candidates to apply then let's do that. The same five people can apply again, there's nothing stopping them from that. Mr. Avery advised that the state legislature changed the charter this year to allow them to do a special election early if they felt they weren't going to reach a consensus, so they can do the special election early. The resolution didn't pass so under Roberts Rules of Order, the two no votes are the only ones who can bring this resolution back up if their minds are changed; otherwise, they wait until September 29th and the City Recorder calls for a special election as the law states. Mr. Avery said they have to start working together and move forward. They cannot continue to do things without working together for the benefit of the community. The Commission brought him here to fix things and change things and move things forward so they have to figure this out. Do they want to go another round with a motion to give him direction or if they think they're deadlocked, walk away and come back another night; they can't keep kicking this down the road.

Commissioner Gregory said he will change his vote to yes.

Vice Mayor Dorris made a motion to start the process back over again, seconded by Commissioner Gregory. (Vote 4 yea 0 nay.) Motion carried.

Mr. Avery will get the notice posted tomorrow and the deadline will be August 29th, they'll have the presentations on September 5th and vote on the candidates on September 19th.

4. Adjournment.

Commissioner Gregory made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Vice Mayor Dorris. (Vote 4 yea – 0 nay.) Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 5:55 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,



Holly L. Murphy,
City Recorder/Finance Director

