



**Village of El Portal
Special Council Meeting
Date 2/23/21
Meeting Start: 6:40 PM
Meeting End: 7:02 PM
Meeting Length: 00:22:23**

Mayor Nickerson: Special Council Meeting for Tuesday, February 23, 2021, is called to order at 6:40 PM. Madam Clerk, we are going to first have the solemn meditation and pledge of allegiance and then we'll do the roll call.

All: I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Mayor Nickerson: Thank you very much. Madam Clerk, may I please have a roll call?

Village Clerk Jacobi: Roll call. Mayor Nickerson?

Mayor Nickerson: Here.

Village Clerk Jacobi: Vice Mayor Urbom?

Vice Mayor Urbom: Present.

Village Clerk Jacobi: Councilperson Pirela?

Councilperson Pirela: Here.

Village Clerk Jacobi: For the record, also Yenise Jacobi, village clerk, Interim Village Attorney Joseph Geller, and Village Manager Christia Alou, Chief Magnusson.

Mayor Nickerson: Thank you very much. I appreciate that Madam Clerk. May please have approval of the agenda.

Vice Mayor Urbom: I will make a motion to approve the agenda.

Mayor Nickerson: Motion made by Vice Mayor Urbom. Can I please have a second?

Councilperson Pirela: I'll second.

Mayor Nickerson: Seconded by Councilperson Pirela. All in favor say aye.

All: Aye.

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Mayor Nickerson: All opposed say nay. Hearing. Now we're moving to good and welfare. This is the time right here where if you have anything you want to say about the agenda item that's here today which is just a resolution, this is your time to come and say it. We will have another good and welfare at the very end if you want to come up and talk about anything at all. The first good and welfare we're going to talk about, and you can come up and talk about anything that's on the agenda itself. Anybody for good and welfare, you have three minutes to speak. Seeing none, moving right along.

We're going to move down to the resolution, Before we read the resolution, let me just say this, congratulations to the two-coming in. [chuckles] I just wanted to just say if you guys know this on TV, good to see you guys out there in the community. Vice Mayor Urbom and I were sitting down here. It might look weird to you guys, but the reason why we're doing this is because we decided to be as welcoming as possible and as inclusive as possible. We didn't want the new members to have to sit down here. It is nice in that dais, but we did want to say welcome and this is a welcoming gesture. We gave up our seats in the dais and moved down here so you guys can be up on the dais.

We're really happy and we appreciate you guys being here. We're honored to serve along with you guys. All right, you guys. Moving to the resolution. Resolution F1, a resolution of the Village Council of El Portal, Florida concerning the Village special election of February 16th, 2021 declaring qualified candidates elected to office accepting and adopting the results for the offices of councilperson seat two and seat three as certified by Miami-Dade County Canvassing Board and providing for incorporation of recitals and providing for an effective date.

You guys, this resolution simply has the community the Village of El Portal accept the results of the election and welcome our two new council members aboard. Is there any discussion on the resolution? Any questions or comments on the resolution? Seeing none. Do I have a motion to approve the resolution?

Vice Mayor Urbom: I will make the motion to approve the resolution.

Mayor Nickerson: The resolution for candidates elected to office, do I have a second?

Councilperson Pirela: I'll second.

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Mayor Nickerson: Thank you very much. Seconded by Councilperson Pirela, moved by Vice Mayor Urbom. Usually, we have a number next to the resolution that's why I was about to say the number, but we're doing things where we wait until we see if the resolution passes then we'll add the number later. We have a movement on the resolution, we have a second. Madam Clerk, may I please have a roll call?

Village Clerk Jacobi: Roll call. Councilperson Pirela?

Councilperson Pirela: Yes.

Village Clerk Jacobi: Vice Mayor Urbom?

Vice Mayor Urbom: Yes.

Village Clerk Jacobi: Mayor Nickerson?

Mayor Nickerson: Yes.

Village Clerk Jacobi: Motion passes three to nine.

Mayor Nickerson: It is official. Congratulations.

[applause]

Mayor Nickerson: At this particular time, we are going to move to G, which is acknowledgment of visitors and/or special presentations. The first one, congratulations, will be Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward Lightfoot-Ward. No longer elect. Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward Lightfoot-Ward, please come to the podium. You can say whatever you want to say and then we'll have you take your seat on the dais. Congratulations, Councilperson.

Village Clerk Jacobi: [inaudible 00:04:55].

Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward: Since the greeting has already been given, I do have a few remarks I'd like to make. My daughter was coming there. She thought we started promptly at 7:00. It says push, I pushed it. Of course, he's a gentleman. Can you hear me now? Testing one, two, three. I got to get up on it. I have only a few remarks to make. It's a historic event that I am here that most of the village knows. I couldn't get it out of my head. Bear with me,

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my memory isn't what it used to be. I'm going to read what I had to write, Joe. Starting again. This is my inaugural.

As I reflect on the promise I made when leaving public office as this village's mayor that I would return to office in this village only if asked to do so. I'm both humbled and delighted to stand here today. Therefore, in having been bombarded by village residents, it is to their credit that I return to this village's dais after 1 score in 5 or 25 years and this with the good fortune of being unopposed along with Councilwoman Martin. Congratulations. Welcome aboard, Councilwoman Martin. To those who have asked of my anticipations and/or expectations at this time, as a member of El Portal's Village Council, you can imagine they think I can turn the world but there are five of us. I can't turn the world.

Know that I remain a growing person who understands the need to read, invite feedback, and ask questions. That is who I am. Also, and as one at peace with myself, I embrace contentment and simplicity wherein I live, breathe, and have opportunity. That opportunity presents itself at this time in this-- Is it a millennium that we're still working with? Yes. Therefore, and to this end-- That young lady just walked in is my daughter, Rochelle Lightfoot. Mine is to facilitate relationships, to remain forward-thinking, and to work in unity with the mayor and my fellow council members to assure the very best that can be brought to El Portal.

Why? Because I understand the requirement to lure and not embellish ourselves given God's sovereignty and the need to keep a subjective view of who we, the village council, are and why we are here. As I told many when I was speaking, mayor, we're not here to tell the village what to do. We're here to govern what's done in the village. We take a back seat to your needs not what we want. We're here to represent and work toward the betterment and sustainability of this village for generations to come. That is our prime purpose. As a member starting again, I hope to do that.

I hope that we look at things from a parliamentarian perspective. I hope to see, Joe as you always expressed, our professionalism and not how much we can speak, but get the business of the city done. I'm here to help the manager understand that we appreciate her and whoever sits in that seat because some of you are here that knew when we didn't have a village manager. It was on my reign that we brought the village manager to professionally manage the city. Thank you one and all. This village, sorry, we're not a city. We're a tiny little village, a very beautiful village and people can't believe still that we exist, but we do. T

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his is my 29th year here, mayor, and it's still a very pretty village. Thank you one and all for asking me to return in service to this beautiful village, a place where we call home and in which we the village council continues to advocate and welcome a generous augment of viable small businesses. We do want our children, our teenagers to get involved at this time so that they can take over when we're not here. Thank you all very much.

[applause]

Village Clerk Jacobi: Dr. Ward, please raise your right hand. I Dr. Anna Lightfoot-Ward.

Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward: I Dr. Anna Lightfoot-Ward.

Village Clerk Jacobi: A citizen of the state of Florida.

Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward: A citizen of the state of Florida.

Village Clerk Jacobi: And of the United States of America.

Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward: And of the United States of America.

Village Clerk Jacobi: Do hereby solemnly swear.

Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward: Do hereby solemnly swear.

Village Clerk Jacobi: Or affirm.

Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward: Or affirm.

Village Clerk Jacobi: That I will support.

Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward: That I will support.

Village Clerk Jacobi: Protect.

Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward: Protect.

Village Clerk Jacobi: And defend.

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Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward: And defend.

Village Clerk Jacobi: The constitution of the United States of America.

Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward: The constitution of the United States of America.

Village Clerk Jacobi: And of the state of Florida.

Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward: And of the state of Florida.

Village Clerk Jacobi: And that I will.

Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward: And that I will.

Village Clerk Jacobi: In all respects.

Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward: In all respects.

Village Clerk Jacobi: Observe the provisions.

Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward: Observe the provisions.

Village Clerk Jacobi: Of the charter.

Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward: Of the charter.

Village Clerk Jacobi: And the ordinance.

Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward: And the ordinance.

Village Clerk Jacobi: Of the village of El Portal.

Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward: Of the village of El Portal.

Village Clerk Jacobi: And I will faithfully.

Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward: And I will faithfully.

Village Clerk Jacobi: Discharge the duties.

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Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward: Discharge the duties.

Village Clerk Jacobi: Of councilperson.

Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward: Of councilperson.

Village Clerk Jacobi: On which I am about to enter.

Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward: On which I am about to enter.

Village Clerk Jacobi: Congratulations. Welcome.

Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward: So, help me God. Thank you.

[applause]

Village Clerk Jacobi: Congratulations. Welcome. [chuckles] Mayor Nickerson will now present you with one of the pins.

Mayor Nickerson: Yes. [laughs] We say we know it's COVID, but we love each other so much we've got to get a quick hug in. [laughs]

Village Clerk Jacobi: Ms. Martin, please. Do you want to say a few words before?

Councilperson Martin Martin: Sure.

Village Clerk Jacobi: Okay.

Mayor Nickerson: You guys will have time for pictures.

Councilperson Martin: Councilwoman Lightfoot-Ward did an amazing job summing up exactly why we're here and just how much you have to have a heart of a public servant to do what we do so thank you. It's an honor to serve amongst all of you. I will keep my remarks super brief. I think the most appropriate thing for me to say right now is thank you to my neighbors for entrusting me to represent you in this way. To those of you that I've met and supported my candidacy, continue to hold me accountable, continue to share your thoughts with me, and let me know the ways in which you want to see our community move forward.

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To those of you that I have not met, please reach out to me. I want to hear your concerns. I want to make sure that I am accessible to you. That is why I'm here. There is no issue too trivial or too small, the lovely people here are going to put up my contact information on the village website, probably in the coming days. Please, I urge you to use that. Also, on that website, you'll see my bio. In my bio, it'll say that I am a practicing attorney, or I'm barred to practice law in the State of Florida. In addition to that, I was a public administrator with the third-largest city in Miami-Dade County. Above all of that, I am [unintelligible 00:13:55] wife and Minkah and Trey's mom.

I thank them so, so much for supporting me in serving in this way. I know we have a lot of parents that are probably watching this or in our city and in our audience. You know what a precarious balance that is to manage raising someone and pursuing your passion. The fact that I have a partner that is supportive is truly something that I want to thank him for. In addition to that, I also would like us to send prayers his way because he will be trying to put two babies down to sleep by himself tonight [laughs] so prayers are necessary. Just thank you so much for allowing me to serve in this way. Let's get to work, El Portal. I am ready.

[applause]

Village Clerk Jacobi: Please raise your right hand. I, Darian Martin.

Councilperson Martin: I, Darian Martin.

Village Clerk Jacobi: A citizen of the state of Florida.

Councilperson Martin: A citizen of the state of Florida.

Village Clerk Jacobi: And of the United States of America.

Councilperson Martin: And of the United States of America.

Village Clerk Jacobi: Do hereby solemnly swear.

Councilperson Martin: Do hereby solemnly swear.

Village Clerk Jacobi: Or affirm.

Councilperson Martin: Or affirm.

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Village Clerk Jacobi: That I will support.

Councilperson Martin: That I will support.

Village Clerk Jacobi: Protect.

Councilperson Martin: Protect.

Village Clerk Jacobi: And defend the constitution.

Councilperson Martin: And defend the constitution.

Village Clerk Jacobi: Of the United States of America.

Councilperson Martin: Of the United States of America.

Village Clerk Jacobi: And of the state of Florida.

Councilperson Martin: And of the state of Florida.

Village Clerk Jacobi: And that I will.

Councilperson Martin: And that I will.

Village Clerk Jacobi: In all respects.

Councilperson Martin: In all respects.

Village Clerk Jacobi: Observe the provisions of the charter.

Councilperson Martin: Observe the provisions of the charter.

Village Clerk Jacobi: And the ordinances.

Councilperson Martin: And the ordinances.

Village Clerk Jacobi: Of the village of El Portal.

Councilperson Martin: Of the village of El Portal.

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Village Clerk Jacobi: And will faithfully discharge.

Councilperson Martin: And will faithfully discharge.

Village Clerk Jacobi: The duties of councilperson.

Councilperson Martin: The duties of councilperson.

Village Clerk Jacobi: On which I am about to enter.

Councilperson Martin: On which I am about to enter.

Village Clerk Jacobi: Congratulations. Welcome.

Councilperson Martin: Thank you so much.

[applause]

Village Clerk Jacobi: The mayor will now give you a pin.

Mayor Nickerson: [inaudible 00:15:48] All right, you guys. Before we go any further, I know that we have a special guest in the house tonight. Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward, would you like to introduce this guest?

Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward: I would like to introduce him.

Mayor Nickerson: All right.

Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward: Before I do that, those of you that know, you know that Dwight's in the audience. Everybody knows Dwight, right? That's my husband. I don't share his last name, but that's Dwight Garmon. That's my husband. He's a renaissance man. I have my sister Stephanie Daring, she lives in Miami Shores, and my daughter just happens to live in the city too in the village of El Portal. Rochelle Lightfoot, are you ready? I'm trying to. Joe, you remember Rochelle. Mr. Geller has been a part of this family for a long time.

Rochelle Lightfoot: [chuckles] I know I was supposed to sing the National Anthem and that's why I'm here to sing the National Anthem for all of you all so I'm sorry that I was not in time for it. Give me two minutes.

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[music]

Oh, say can you see by the dawn's early light
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming?
Whose broad stripes and bright stars through the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watched were so gallantly streaming?
And the rocket's red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there.
Oh, say does that star-spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?
The brave.

[applause]

Mayor Nickerson: The microphone works.

[laughter]

Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward: As a military veteran, I'm always touched by that song. Those of you that don't know, when we salute, we salute the flag. Without the uniform, we do that. This is exactly what you do. I stand at attention. That has always been touching me because when you hear the words, you understand this is the land of the free, the home of the brave. I thank you all for supporting all of our military veterans.

[applause]

Mayor Nickerson: Thank you very much Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward, we appreciate that. Okay, you guys, if there's nothing else, we are going to get ready to close this meeting out, then we'll take pictures before the next meeting starts. Moving right along, the next item is good and welfare. Does anybody have anything that they want to come up and talk about?

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It could be anything at all, it doesn't have to be listed to anything on just the agenda but anything at all. If you want to come and talk about anything at all, this is your chance. Just say your name and address, you have three minutes to do so.

Vice Mayor Urbon: I have just one comment if I can. I don't play music, but I have had a chance to watch a lot of soundboards from behind the soundboard at concerts and things. The human voice registers higher than any of the instruments on the soundboard. I just find the human voice to be one of the most powerful things that we know of and that felt amazing. I feel like that really helped clear this room to where we have a friction-free path ahead of us to get some things done. That just felt amazing, that's all I want to say.

Mayor Nickerson: Absolutely, Vice Mayor, I appreciate that. Anybody else before we move on? Everybody else we good? All right, you guys, do I have a motion to adjourn?

Councilperson Martin: Motion to adjourn the special meeting.

Mayor Nickerson: Motion to adjourn the special meeting. Do I have a second?

Vice Mayor: I will second the motion.

Mayor Nickerson: Councilperson Pirela moved it and seconded by Vice Mayor Urbon. All in favor say aye.

All: Aye.

Mayor Nickerson: All opposed say nay. This special council meeting, guys, is adjourned at 7:02 PM. Thank you very much. Let's get some pictures with you guys.

[applause]

[00:22:23] [END OF AUDIO]

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