

**MAYOR AND COMMISSIONERS MEETING  
CITY OF REHOBOTH BEACH**

**June 10, 2013**

The Special Meeting of the Mayor and Commissioners of the City of Rehoboth Beach, was called to order at 9:04 a.m. by Mayor Samuel R. Cooper on Monday, June 10, 2013 in the Commissioners Room in City Hall, 229 Rehoboth Avenue, Rehoboth Beach, DE.

City Solicitor Glenn Mandalas gave the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

Present:     Commissioner   Patrick Gossett  
              Commissioner   Bill Sargent  
              Commissioner   Pat Coluzzi  
              Mayor            Samuel R. Cooper  
              Commissioner   Stan Mills  
              Commissioner   Lorraine Zellers

Absent:     Commissioner   Mark Hunker

Also in attendance was:     City Solicitor Glenn Mandalas  
                                  City Manager Gregory Ferrese

The purpose of this Special Meeting was to:

- A. Consider adoption of resolution submitting a candidate to the Governor for consideration of an appointment as Alderman of the City for a two-year term and setting compensation and any other terms of this position.

Mayor Cooper noted that Ms. Judy Catterton, Assistant Alderman, resigned effective June 1, 2013. A Charter change has been submitted to the State legislature stating that the City will forward a name to the Governor for his consideration of appointment and thereafter will be forwarded to the Senate for confirmation. The City has solicited candidates for the Alderman position with a two-year term. Of the 23 applicants who applied was Ms. Renee Bennett, Alderman Court Clerk. Mayor Cooper brought her name forth this morning through the resolution to be submitted to the Governor as the City Alderman. He thought that Ms. Bennett is highly qualified and has served under two Aldermen. The Charter change says that the Commissioners will forward the name to the Governor.

Commissioner Patrick Gossett said that the previous Alderman had served a portion of time, 15 hours per week. This opportunity will allow the court to be open 35-40 hours per week, Monday through Friday, with the potential of Saturday hours. These would be scheduled appointments. This is an opportunity to promote within.

Commissioner Stan Mills said that the Mayor conducted the interviews and consulted with Commissioner Gossett as Chair of Personnel Committee. He thought the letter from Ms. Judy Catterton should be addressed at some point in the future. The new proposed Charter change states that the Alderman has to live within Sussex County. The Charter change will occur first and then the candidate will be confirmed. The Alderman's position absorbs the employee's clerk position.

City Solicitor Mandalas said that the Alderman will assume the administrative tasks associated with the court so there will not be a clerk position any longer in the court. As soon as the Senate confirmation takes place on June 24, 2013, Ms. Bennett will be sworn in and can sit the next day as Alderman.

Commissioner Lorraine Zellers said that Ms. Bennett is a qualified applicant. Ms. Catterton's letter gave her pause. She is in favor of promoting from within.

Commissioner Bill Sargent said that the prime qualification is that somebody has a sense of what is just and how the laws are applied fairly to people. He had no reason to believe that Ms. Bennett would not do a superb job. Commissioner Pat Coluzzi agreed.

Commissioner Coluzzi made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Sargent, to adopt the resolution submitting the name of Renee Bennett to the Governor for his consideration of the appointment as Alderman of

the City for a two-year term.

Mayor Cooper's offer for compensation to Ms. Bennett was \$21.00 per hour.

(Gossett – aye, Sargent – aye, Coluzzi – aye, Cooper – aye, Mills – aye, Zellers – aye.) Motion carried unanimously.

- B. Consider adoption of a resolution recognizing the Rehoboth Art League for its seventy-five years of service to the community.

Mayor Cooper had been approached by the Art League and asked to prepare a proclamation. The draft proclamation was forwarded to the Commissioners for their review. Mayor Cooper read the proclamation.

Commissioner Sargent made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Coluzzi to adopt the proclamation as read.

Commissioner Mills was comfortable with the proclamation and that it does not convey that the Commissioners are taking sides one way or another with the controversy between Rehoboth Art League vs. Henlopen Acres.

Mr. Walter Brittingham, 123 Henlopen Avenue, said that it is a precarious time to bring up the proclamation, so it is not used back against them in a court of public opinion that the City is endorsing it.

Mayor Cooper disagreed. The City should not shy away from recognizing the work of an organization such as the Art League, no matter what their condition.

Commissioner Gossett said that over 75 years, the Art League has been a great contributing factor to the community. This is recognition of that 75 years of service.

Motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business, Mayor Cooper adjourned the meeting at 9:17 a.m.

**Respectfully submitted,**

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**(Patricia Coluzzi, Secretary)**