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Donald Lawrence appointed to Chiefland City Commission



In this picture, Dr. Keith Richeson is seen on the left, Robert L. Williams is in the middle and Icer Roberts, R.N., is seen on the left. Bryan Hassell, project and finance coordinator for the city, is sitting behind Williams. Donald Lawrence was the only person considered for the post who was absent from the regular Chiefland City Commission meeting on Monday night (Oct. 10).

Story and Photos By Jeff M. Hardison © Oct. 11, 2016 @ 12:37 p.m.

CHIEFLAND -- After going through one round of making motions that died for lack of a second or that ended in a 2-2 stalemate, the four Chiefland City Commission members voted Monday night (Oct. 10) to appoint Donald Lawrence to the Group 2 position on the Commission.



(from left) Chiefland Wastewater Supervisor Randy Wilkerson, Police Chief Robert Douglas and Fire Chief James Harris enjoy the City Commission meeting. Wilkerson said the city loaned Flagler County two generators to help that area recover from the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew. He said the remnants of one community he saw looked like it was a very nice place to live before the hurricane hit. Everyone on the City Commission was happy that Chiefland was able to help another community.

In a Sept. 26 letter asking to be considered for the vacant City Commission seat that came to be as a result of the death of Teal Pomeroy, Lawrence said he is Vietnam veteran who has lived in Chiefland for more than 23 years.

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He retired from teaching in Levy County, where he taught and coached for more than 18 years in Chiefland.

The other candidates were Dr. Keith Richeson, a chiropractor; Robert L. Williams, a retired federal housing authority worker and a business owner; Bobby Dees; and Icer L. Roberts, R.N., a native of Chiefland who has served on the Planning Board and Code Committees.



Chiefland City Commissioner Teresa Barron.

City Commissioner Teresa Barron opened the motions when she moved to appoint Lawrence. No one seconded her first attempt and it died for lack of a second.

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Chiefland City Commissioner Rollin Hudson

City Commissioner Rollin Hudson moved to appoint Dees, which Barron seconded. That ended with a 2-2 tie as Mayor Betty Walker and Vice Mayor Chris Jones voted "No."

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Vice Mayor Chris Jones, seen here during a moment in the meeting when something funny was said.

Hudson then moved to appoint Dr. Richeson. Jones seconded the motion, which met with a 2-2 tie when Walker and Barron voted "No."

Jones moved to appoint Williams. There was no second and that motion died.

Barron moved to appoint Icer. There was no second and that motion died.

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Mayor Betty Walker

Then Barron again moved to appoint Lawrence. This time, Hudson seconded the motion. Jones voted in favor of that motion and Walker voted "No."

Levy County Judge J.T. "Tim" Browning is scheduled to administer the oath of office to Lawrence at the Oct. 24 City Commission meeting.

Lawrence will fill the vacant seat until the 2017 regular Chiefland City Commission election. Whoever wins the 2017 regular Chiefland City Commission election for Group 2 will serve for the remainder of the term of the seat in 2018.

During the discussion before the motions and stalemates, all of the candidates were noted as being good choices for the open seat.