

HardisonInk.com

**Williston installs new city councilwoman;
*Purchase of \$400,000 fire truck considered***



Marguerite Robinson prepares to accept her responsibilities to the people of Williston, of Florida, and of the United States of America, as a member of the Williston City Council.



Marguerite Robinson takes the oath of office to accept her duties as a member of the Williston City Council as her husband Jerry Robinson (center) watches and -- Levy County Judge J.T. 'Tim' Browning administers the oath on Tuesday night (Aug. 22).

~

HardisonInk.com

Story and Photos

By Jeff M. Hardison © Aug. 24, 2017 at 10:47 a.m.

WILLISTON -- Levy County Judge J.T. "Tim" Browning administered the oath of office Tuesday night (Aug. 22) to Williston City Councilwoman Marguerite Robinson.

Robinson was accompanied by her husband former City Councilman Jerry Robinson.



(from left) Jerry Robinson, Williston City Councilwoman Marguerite Robinson and Levy County Judge Tim Browning pause for a photo opportunity after she took the oath of office on Tuesday night.

HardisonInk.com

IN OTHER ACTION

While there was little action, per se, City Council President Charles Goodman, City Council Vice President Nancy Winger and City Councilman Elihu Ross provided their opinions about guidelines for City Manager Scott Lippmann and City Clerk Fran Taylor.



City Manager Scott Lippmann



City Clerk Fran Taylor

Williston City Councilman Kori Lamb was absent from the regular meeting.

The City Council did approve a Veterans Day Parade to be on Nov. 11 starting at 11 a.m.

Williston Mayor R. Gerald Hethcoat reminded City Council President Goodman that this will result in Williston Police Officers being paid 250 percent their regular pay, due to them working on a holiday (which is also a Saturday).

President Goodman led the City Council in its choice, however, to recognize Veterans Day to be on Nov. 11.

Although Veterans Day is not Memorial Day, there was some discussion about an event for a veterans memorial being unveiled that day as well.

Veterans Day is an official United States public holiday, observed annually on Nov. 11.

The day is to honor persons who served in the United States Armed Forces. It coincides with other holidays, including Armistice Day and Remembrance Day, celebrated in other countries that mark the anniversary of the end of World War I.

Major hostilities of World War I were formally ended at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918, when the Armistice with Germany went into effect. The United States previously observed Armistice Day. The United States holiday was

HardisonInk.com

renamed Veterans Day in 1954.

Veterans Day is not to be confused with Memorial Day, a public holiday in May.

Veterans Day celebrates the service of all U.S. military veterans, while Memorial Day honors those who died while in military service.

While the holiday is commonly printed as Veteran's Day or Veterans' Day in calendars and advertisements (spellings that are grammatically acceptable), the United States Department of Veterans Affairs website states that the attributive (no apostrophe) rather than the possessive case is the official spelling "because it is not a day that 'belongs' to veterans, it is a day for honoring all veterans."



Mayor R. Gerald Hethcoat (left) and City Council President Charles Goodman prepare before the meeting.



(from left) City Council Vice President Nancy Wininger, City Councilman Elihu Ross and City Manager Scott Lippmann listen to City Council President Charles Goodman explain why he holds a certain opinion.

HardisonInk.com



City Councilwoman Marguerite Robinson looks in the area of Mayor R. Gerald Hethcoat (center) and City Council President Charles Goodman during her first meeting on the City Council. The empty seat to her right in the photo is where City Councilman Kori Lamb sits when he is present for meetings.

NEW FIRE TRUCK

Mayor Hethcoat brought to the attention of City Council that the Williston Fire Rescue Department needs to replace a fire engine it lost due to a person crashing into it.

WFR Lt. Jimmy Willis Jr. told the City Council that Chief Lamar Stegall had found appropriate replacement fire trucks for \$405,000 in Bradenton or Fort Myers; for \$408,000 in Ocala and another one elsewhere for \$412,000.

Chief Stegall sees Ocala as the best place to buy the truck, Lt. Willis said.

President Goodman said he would like the mayor and fire chief to return with a method to purchase the trucks, and then present that to the City Council.

Lt. Willis mentioned there is a USDA Rural Development loan-grant procedure that has begun.

He also mentioned that if the truck was ordered today, it would take nine months to a year before it can be built and delivered.

Goodman said he understands the need for a truck. He wants a proposal for the City Council to consider, however, he said, because he cannot see the City Council working as a group to come up with a solution to this issue.

With no concrete proposal, the City Council cannot give an answer of “Yes” or “No” to a loan, or a grant-loan, or floating a municipal bond or anything else.

The fire department lieutenant said the Levy County Department of Public Safety and Bronson Fire Rescue are assisting WFR in its time of need, to help the city’s property owners to not see a dramatic increase in property insurance for fire protection, due to the city’s being without enough equipment to keep it at the current rate.