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## **Jerry Robinson to be next mayor of Williston; Three to take oath of office on April 10**

**By Jeff M. Hardison © Jan. 20, 2018 at 10:27 a.m.**

**WILLISTON** -- With Williston Mayor R. Gerald Hethcoat choosing against seeking reelection and with no other candidate qualifying for the 2018 Williston General Election for the office, Jerry Robinson is destined to be the next mayor of Williston, according to information from Williston City Clerk Fran Taylor that she sent at noon on Friday (Jan. 19).

Mayor Hethcoat is well known throughout the area and state. During a meet and greet program last Saturday evening (Jan. 13) at First United Methodist Church of Williston, when Florida Cancer Affiliates was announced as participating at Regional General of Williston, Mayor Hethcoat mentioned that he will enjoy being in the seat for audience members rather than behind the dais as the mayor.

Incoming Mayor Robinson was at that get-together on Jan. 13, as were City Councilwoman Marguerite Robinson, his wife, and City Council Vice President Nancy Wininger and her husband Larry Wininger.

While City Clerk Taylor's information about who won the mayoral seat is the pinnacle of news from Friday afternoon in that eastern metropolitan area of Levy County, there were other winners by default as well.

City Clerk Taylor serves as the city supervisor of elections.

She announced that the qualifying period for the 2018 General Election has ended and the other individuals who also filed as unopposed candidates are deemed "elected" as a result of uncontested races.

The other winners are Charles Goodman (Group D) and Nancy Wininger (Group E).

The current meeting scheduled for those three candidates taking the oath of office is April 10, per the City Charter.

Speaking of the mayor and the Williston City Charter, a previous action at a Williston City Council meeting where there were only four City Council members present and there was a tie vote, showed some people including City Attorney Frederick L. Koberlein Jr. as believing and acting upon a thought that the mayor could cast a deciding vote in a tie like that.

Incoming Mayor Robinson during the event at First UMC said it is his belief that the charter does not allow the mayor to cast a tie-breaking vote. The mayor does have certain powers, according to the charter, but Robinson said that is not one of them.

In that tie-breaking vote, Mayor Hethcoat's decision is irrelevant, because in a tie-vote where the action would lead to anything new -- such as a resolution to purchase an emergency electric generator for a sewage lift station -- if there is a tie, then the motion dies (which is equal to the "No" vote that was recorded on that matter at that time on that night).

Furthermore, given the City Council later decided to hold a special or "emergency" meeting to vote on that resolution and a related resolution, the other two issues upon which they voted were soon resolved at that meeting on Friday (Jan. 12).

Nevertheless, the Williston City Council might want to seek clarification of whether the mayor actually may cast a deciding vote in a 2-2 City Council tie when the City Council next meets at the meeting scheduled for 7 p.m. on Jan. 23.