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City councilman resigns



City Councilwoman Marguerite Robinson (left) and City Councilman Kori Lamb occupy their seats for the last regular City Council meeting to be held in the current Williston City Hall. And for Lamb, this is his last time with City Council unless he moves back into the city and runs again,

and is elected again, in the future.

Story and Photos

By Jeff M. Hardison © Jan. 26, 2018 11:17 a.m.

WILLISTON -- The people of Williston have seen a number of City Council members leave those ranks over the past decade.



Mayor R. Gerald Hethcoat (left) and City Council President Charles Goodman occupy their seats on Tuesday night (Jan. 23) for the last regular City Council meeting ever to be held in the current Williston City Hall. A new structure is destined to be built at the site.

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(from left) City Council Vice President Nancy Winger, City Councilman Elihu Ross, City Manager Scott Lippmann and City Attorney Frederick L. Koberlein Jr. occupy their seats on Tuesday night (Jan. 23) for the last regular City Council meeting ever to be held in the current Williston City Hall.

Whether it is from accepting a job to serve as another city's attorney during a time when those Williston City Council meetings occur; or whether it is being elected as a member of the Levy County Board of County Commissioners; or, as has been the case a few times, the City Council member moves, there are things that cause those municipal leaders to depart from that particular set of ranks of leadership.

Williston City Councilman Kori Lamb resigned effective immediately as he sat at the Tuesday night (Jan. 23) meeting. His letter was tendered to City Clerk Fran Taylor at the meeting.

Hence, it was just on the revised agenda that a special election should be considered by the City Council.

Councilman Lamb had been talking about placing his house on the market. City Council President Charles Goodman joked that he had spoken with Lamb's neighbors and urged them not to mow their lawns to help discourage potential buyers from closing on that property.

Despite the hopes and wishes of some number of people, however, Lamb has resigned.

He is relocating outside the city limits as of Feb. 5. Therefore, he becomes ineligible to hold a seat at that time.

Given direction by City Council, City Clerk Taylor as the supervisor of elections for municipal elections is working to hold a special election to fill his vacancy within 60 days of his resignation date.

As one of his last acts in City Council, Lamb said he believes the city should consider the School Board's offer to sell the city the now-abandoned campus of Williston Middle School in the unincorporated part of Levy County east of the city limits.

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Council President Goodman said he is not even going to talk about that offer until he has a chance to walk through the property and assess it from that perspective. Possible issues from asbestos insulation and lead pipes for plumbing were mentioned.

Other factors deterring the purchase include financing; cost of maintenance and the actual return on investment, as well as the risks and rewards from such a property-purchasing venture by the city government.

Lamb expressed his opinion that he would like Williston to do as the City of Alachua and have a parks and recreation department, and an employee to run that department, rather than relying only on volunteers with the Williston Youth Athletic Association to provide for recreational activities for young people.

Lamb said he thinks the city government does not do enough currently for its young or for its elderly residents and visitors in regard to recreation.