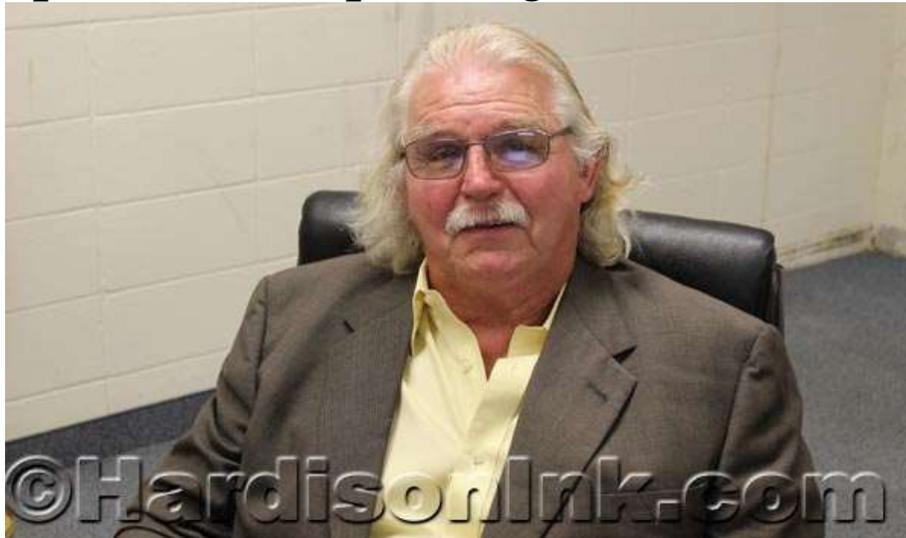


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Williston welcomes annexed property owner; *Apartment complex may be on the horizon*



Williston City Councilman Charles Goodman is seen on Tuesday night (July 10) with his hair a bit longer than some weeks ago. The city councilman said his daughter had cancer and he told her that he would grow it to donate to Locks of Love. Locks of Love is a public non-profit organization that provides hairpieces to financially disadvantaged children under age 21 suffering from long-term medical hair loss from any diagnosis. Goodman said he needs to grow it at least 12 inches long before he can donate it.

Story and Photos

By Jeff M. Hardison © July 11, 2018 at 5:08 p.m.

WILLISTON – Tuesday night (July 10) was a banner night for progress announced at the Williston City Council meeting.

Williston City Clerk Fran Taylor mans her post at the temporary City Council chambers in the abandoned Williston High School's Multipurpose



Room. Years ago, she practiced music as a member of the WHS Marching Band in this room. The lit display clock next to her shows three-minutes plus have elapsed since a person started

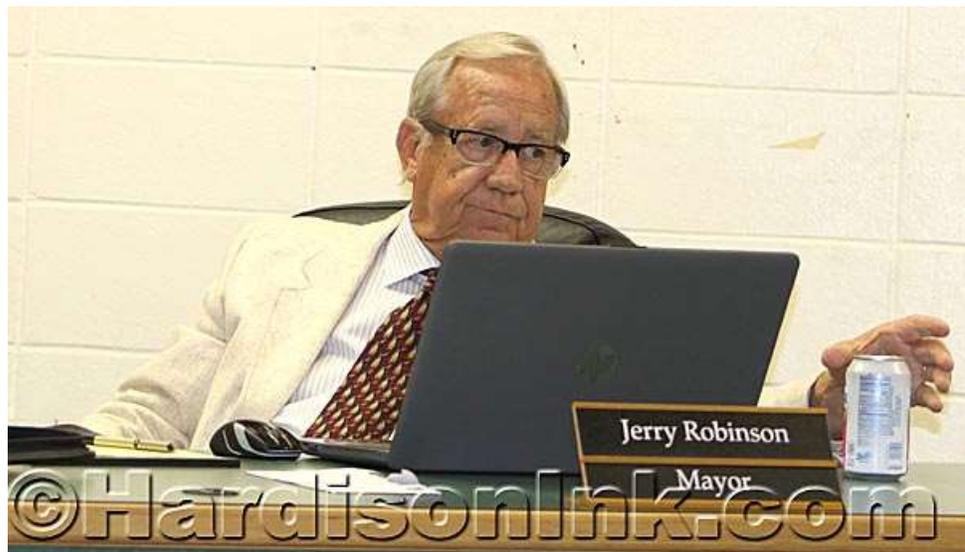
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speaking at the podium. City Council President Nancy Winger said if people want to comment about anything to the City Council in regard to things not on the agenda, then they may do so for five minutes. If it is a matter that will take longer, the person should have it put on the agenda. With this lighted clock display, the speaker can see how long he or she has spoken.



City Councilman Justin Head looks at a business card given to him by Drollene Brown of the Citizens for an Engaged Electorate and the American Association for Retired Persons Williston Chapter 912. Brown and others have planned a forum for candidates to be conducted in the new Williston Middle High School Cafetorium on July 28. For more information about that, please see the Community Page.

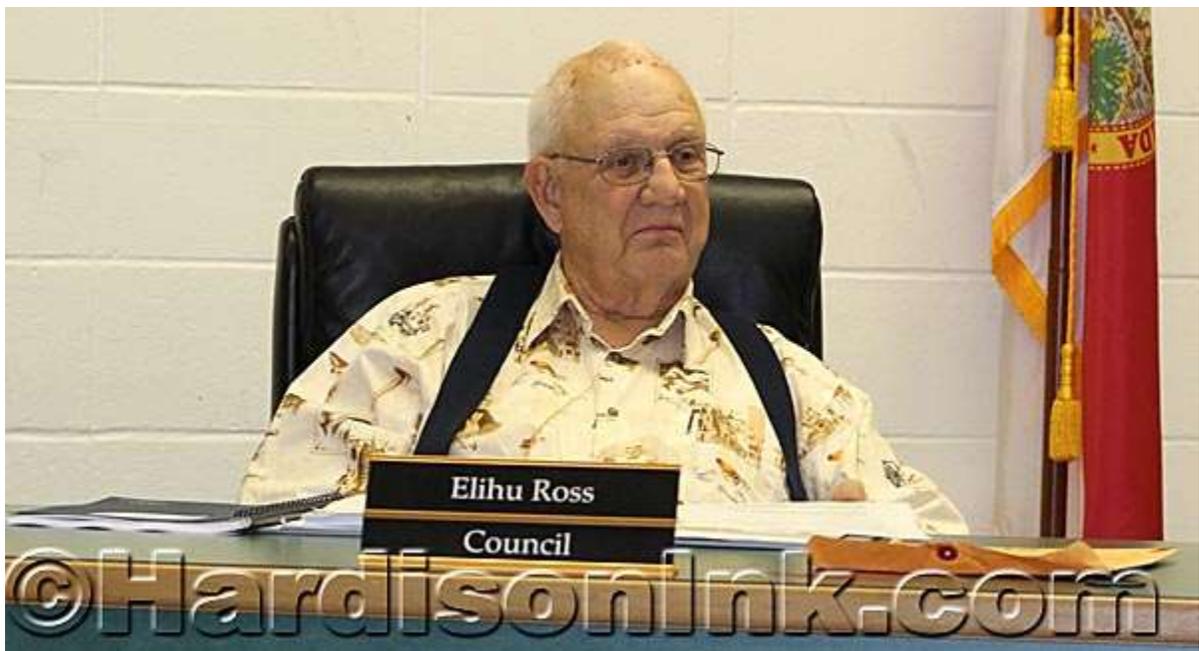
Williston Mayor Jerry Robinson reaches for a soft drink can at the City Council meeting on Tuesday night.



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City Council President Nancy Winger welcomes everyone to the meeting.



Williston City Councilman Elihu Ross listens during the meeting. Ross is also a volunteer with the Levy County Sheriff's Office Citizens On Patrol organization.

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Williston City Manager Scott Lippmann looks at his computer screen during the City Council meeting. The city manager and other staff have adapted to the temporary City Hall while the new one is being built.



Williston City Attorney Frederick L. Koberlein Jr. looks at his computer screen during the City Council meeting. This attorney is known for his quick wit and solid legal advice.

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Williston City Council Vice President Marguerite Robinson thinks about some of the matters brought before the municipality's leaders.



Dr. Kenneth A Schwiebert is a highly rated general dentist in Williston. Here, though, he is speaking at the leader of the Williston Community Redevelopment Agency. Dr. Schwiebert shared his opinion with the City Council that some of the work on the recently dedicated memorial to veterans left something to be desired, in regard to the level or professional workmanship. The five elected leaders concur with the volunteer and the city is moving forward with taking care of business to let the contractor understand about the odds of seeing payment until the customers are satisfied.

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Drollene Brown of the Citizens for an Engaged Electorate and the American Association for Retired Persons Williston Chapter 912 tells the City Council about a forum for candidates to be conducted in the new Williston Middle High on July 28.

From start to finish that night the city's leaders progressed through the agenda.

Among the many bits of positive news from the night, was the opening comment from City Manager Scott Lippmann that the construction team for the new Williston City Hall have told him with a relatively high degree of certainty at this point that the structure will be ready for occupancy and ready to serve the people at the end of September.

While Dr. Kenneth A. Schwiebert, the leader of the Williston Community Redevelopment Agency, shared with the City Council members that there are some flaws with workmanship on the recently dedicated memorial to veterans, he intends to continue his effort to help the builders understand about their need to correct the monument's defects as much as is reasonably possible.

There was some commentary about the company appearing to show a certain level of disrespect and unprofessionalism in regard to its failure to respond more quickly and completely to the city's complaints.

On another matter, the city leaders moved unanimously forward in the process required to send an application for a \$700,000 Community Development Block Grant to refurbish the wastewater treatment plant. A public hearing is scheduled in relation to that, and the hearing will be at the July 24 regular City Council meeting.

Among the many other matters showing the city is continuing to grow and improve, Mark Schwebel was approved for his voluntary annexation of five acres of property from the unincorporated part of Levy County into the city limits.

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Schwebel's property is near to Williston Elementary School and is adjacent to the current city limits.

If all goes as he currently plans, he will build a 60-unit apartment complex. These units will be one-, two- and three-bedrooms in size. They will be for regular working people who do not need government subsidy for housing.

The apartments will range in size from 600 to 900 square-feet.

City Councilman Charles Goodman said he is happy to welcome the new member into Williston city limits.

Schwebel already has built homes in Williston.

He said he loves the city of Williston. Seeing a need for people to rent normal apartments, he is going to build them.

City Manager Scott Lippmann and City Planner Josie Lodder helped him understand the process to build this apartment complex, Schwebel said. By being within the city limits, he added, it will be easier for him to accomplish this goal.

City Councilman Charles Goodman wanted to be certain that Schwebel understood connecting with city utilities such as water and sewer service is his responsibility as the developer. He replied that he understands this, and that he does not see a lot of distance between the closest connections to make this work.

On a motion by City Council Vice President Marguerite Robinson, seconded by Councilman Goodman, the City Council approved the voluntary annexation by a 5-0 vote.