

## Progress unveiled at Williston City Council meeting



**Williston Mayor Jerry Robinson administers the oath of office to Williston Police Department Reserve Police Officer Terry Bovaird.**

### Story and Photos

**By Jeff M. Hardison © April 18, 2019 at 11:39 a.m.**

**WILLISTON** – A reserve officer took the oath of office, the mayor proclaimed recognition for volunteer firefighters and the city manager updated the audience about a potential retail development reportedly planned for the City of Williston Tuesday night (April 16).



**Pam Bovaird places the badge on her husband Terry Bovaird.**

There were very few people in the audience that night. City Councilman Justin Head was absent, reflecting a 20 percent reduction from the five voting members who potentially could have been present that night.

Nevertheless, the evening meeting was very positive.

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The event included a starting point for future meetings to begin one hour earlier on those evenings when those regular City Council meetings are held twice monthly.

Williston Police Department Reserve Police Officer Terry Bovaird was administered the oath of office by Williston Mayor Jerry Robinson.

WPD Reserve Police Officer Bovaird retired from the Marion County Sheriff's Office after 32 years of service. When he retired in 2016, he was the MCSO chief of staff.

During a ceremony Monday night, his wife Pam Bovaird held the bible upon which he placed his left hand while raising his right hand to take the oath of office. Pam Bovaird retired from the Marion County Sheriff's Office after 20 years of service as an administrative assistant.

Williston Police Chief Dennis Strow, speaking with *HardisonInk.com* after the ceremony, said that reserve officers with the WPD are fully-certified, sworn law enforcement officers who help the city whenever there is a need for more police officers during events such as parades, festivals, or at other times.

Chief Strow said the only difference between a reserve officer and any other WPD officer is that the reserve officer is volunteering his or her time.

While reserve officers receive no salary, they are tasked with every responsibility as any other officer and they have the exact same authority as any law enforcement officer in the city, the chief said. Chief Strow said he enlists young reserve officers who are getting a start in the profession and more experienced officers who are willing to give of their time to help the community.

While the WPD enjoyed this public ceremony, another first responder service was recognized by Mayor Robinson as well that night.



**Seen here with the proclamation providing for a week of recognition for the volunteers of the Williston Fire Rescue Department are (from left) WFR Capt. Kenneth Maddox, Fire Chief Lamar Stegall, Mayor Jerry Robinson and Capt. Jimmy Willis Jr.**

Joining Mayor Robinson at the front of the room for recognition of the Williston (Volunteer) Fire Rescue Department (WFR), were Fire Chief Lamar Stegall, WFR Capt. Kenneth Maddox, and Capt. Jimmy Willis Jr.

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Robinson issued a mayoral proclamation in recognition of April 29 through May 4 as Volunteer Firefighter Week in Williston.

In the proclamation, the mayor noted that throughout American history this country has been distinguished by the ready willingness of neighbors to help each other.

The proclamation notes the importance of volunteer service. The proclamation intimates that the members of the WRF continue this honorable and worthy professional tradition of volunteer service to the residents and visitors of the city Williston and its surrounding area.

Volunteer firefighters give countless hours in training as well as in active service to remain bets prepared when they are called for help.

They perform their voluntary service often at great personal risk and with often significant sacrifice from their family lives, as they protect life and property from destructive forces.

Mayor Robinson expressed his opinion that the WFR is the best volunteer fire department in all of Florida. The proclamation notes that these men and women respond to approximately 1,700 calls for service in a typical year.

Near the conclusion of the proclamation, the mayor stated “... these trained and organized volunteers, our neighbors, are a valuable resource and asset for our community. It is fitting and proper that a grateful City should recognize the vital contributions of the volunteer men and women who serve in the Williston Volunteer Fire Department.”

His proclamation is in conjunction with May 4 – when it is Nation Volunteer Firefighters Day.

During **the week** he proclaimed for the WFR, Mayor Robinson calls upon all of the residents of the City of Williston to honor the Williston volunteer firefighters by expressing appreciation for the dedication and exemplary services provided by the outstanding volunteer firefighters of Williston.

## Williston City Manager Scott Lippmann

Williston City  
Manager Scott  
Lippmann provided  
insight about  
development of  
property that used to  
be Williston High  
School.

To see a story  
about the sale of the high school, click [HERE](#).

“Probably, nothing meaningful is going to happen there for about six months,” Lippmann said.

There will be no noticeable changes to how the campus looks now, the city manager told the City Council.

City Manager Lippmann let the City Council know there has been no name mentioned of any “anchor” company that is definitely going to build on the property that may be a retail-oriented structure yet.

**Also, during this meeting,** Mayor Robinson asked the four present City Council members



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– President Nancy Winger, Vice President Marguerite Robinson, and city councilmen Charles Goodman and Elihu Ross -- if they had any objection to starting regular meetings an hour earlier – at 6 p.m. instead of the established starting time of 7 p.m.



**Williston City Council President Nancy Winger leads the City Council.**



**Williston City Council Vice President Marguerite Robinson**

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**Williston City Councilmen Charles Goodman**



**Williston City Councilmen Elihu Ross  
(not pictured) Williston City Councilmen Justin Head**

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**Williston Mayor Jerry Robinson**



**Williston Mayor Emeritus R. Gerald Hethcoat watches the April 16 meeting from a reserved seat in the audience.**

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**Williston City Attorney Frederick L. Koberlein Jr.**



**Clerk Frances Taylor**

**Williston City**

**All four of the City Council members present that night indicated that they don't mind starting the meeting at 6 p.m. rather than 7 p.m.**

**This matter is scheduled to be placed on the agenda for discussion and possible action at the next regular City Council meeting, which is scheduled to be May 7 starting at 7 p.m.**

**Meetings are held in the City Council meeting room of Williston City Hall, 50 N.W. Main St. (State Road 121).**