

# HardisonInk.com

## **Mayor accepts resignation; Councilman chooses to stay**

**By Jeff M. Hardison © Sept. 18, 2020 at 4:10 p.m.**

**BRONSON** – At the same time when the Levy County Board of County Commissioners were meeting, and the Williston City Council was meeting (and the council president said he would not be president anymore while Jerry Robinson was mayor), and the Town of Cross City was concluding its municipal elections (which resulted in two runoff elections), the Town Council of Bronson met on Tuesday evening (Sept. 15).

There was a budget workshop, which is always exciting. There also was an Emergency Town Council Meeting called to determine a method for finding a new town clerk.

Unfortunately, the normally functional video camera that records such meetings appears to have broken, according to outgoing Acting Town Clerk Melisa Thompson Cook. There is audio available, but it cannot be downloaded to a disk or flash drive. It can be listened to at Town Hall.

Hence, the previously planned proper method to cover the meeting fell away for one journalist who did not brave the confines of the very small meeting room at the Dogan Cobb Municipal Building. Due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, and the appearance of new cases in the Tri-County Area of Levy, Dixie and Gilchrist counties, one senior publisher is limiting probable exposure points as much as possible.

Nevertheless, public records and telephonic interviews revealed enough to share with the world the turmoil in the tumultuous Town of Bronson.

Town Councilman Berlon Weeks, who is inclined to show his emotion and who loves Bronson, became so frustrated that he told the other four Council members – Mayor Beatrice Roberts, Vice Mayor Jason Hunt, and councilmen Aaron Edmondson and Robert Partin that he would deliver the next day his letter of resignation to Town Hall – the big house on the hill behind the fire station.

Between his making that statement and the next morning, Weeks gathered his thoughts and decided against resigning.

Mayor Roberts, though, asked Town Attorney Steven Warm to draft a letter to let Weeks know Weeks' resignation was accepted.

Warm wrote the following letter dated Sept. 16:

Dear Berlon:

The Mayor has directed me specifically to advise you that your unconditional resignation tendered verbally at the Special Meeting of September 15, 2020 is accepted and that your seat on the Bronson Town Council is as a consequence and as of this day deemed to be vacant; and all authority heretofore vested in you as a member of Town Council is terminated, cancelled and withdrawn effective immediately.

Respectfully,

Steven Warm, Esquire

In a telephone conversation on Friday morning (Sept. 18), Weeks said he did not intend to deliver the letter of resignation on Sept. 16 even though the night before he was so bothered that he said he would do that.

Following is the email that Weeks sent as a reply to Town Attorney Warm, Mayor Roberts and the town clerk on Sept. 16, at 1:25 p.m.

# HardisonInk.com

~

Mr. Warm,

I don't believe the Mayor has the right to declare a verbal declaration which was " I will turn in my resignation." That implies that if I choose to document my resignation on paper and give it to the Town Council that I have resigned. This is another poor attempt to remove a political rival by the Mayor. I have not resigned nor do I accept the Mayor's declaration of my intent when she doesn't know my intent.

Best wishes,

Councilman

Berlon Weeks

Seat 5

~

Meanwhile, the Town Council is accepting applications from people who want to be hired as the Town Clerk, according to what Vice Mayor Hunt said. Bronson wants to hire a new clerk as soon as possible, Vice Mayor Hunt said.