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Unrecognized councilman causes shortened meeting



By Jeff M. Hardison © Nov. 24, 2020 at 7:10 p.m.

BRONSON – Maybe he is a member of the Bronson Town Council. Maybe he is no longer a member of the Bronson Town Council.

Within seven minutes from the start of the Town Council meeting Berlon Weeks on Monday night (Nov. 23) went to the podium as soon as Mayor Beatrice Roberts started the topic of replacing Weeks on the Council.

Weeks opened his statements by saying he has repeatedly told the Town Council that he has not resigned from the Bronson Town Council. He recited that even before the meeting after he had said he was planning on submitting a written resignation, he had contacted Mayor Roberts to say he changed his mind and would not be giving that written resignation.



Click on the still shot left to see the [VIDEO](#) of the meeting, from the point where Berlon Weeks first addressed the Town Council to the point where the vote to pay the bills was completed, and Mayor Beatrice Roberts adjourned the meeting. Seen here (from left) are

Berlon Weeks, Jason Hunt, Beatrice Roberts and Aaron Edmondson. Town Councilman Robert Partin was absent due to illness.

Photo and video clip from video provided by Town of Bronson.

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“I am an elected official, elected by the people of the Town of Bronson,” Weeks said, “not appointed by City Council members, because you’re elected just like me. I probably got more votes, but who knows?”

Weeks said the voters elected him to sit in the seat at the dais as the Bronson Town Council member for Seat 5.

Weeks then said he will be sitting in that seat for the remainder of the meeting.

Mayor Roberts said “No you won’t.”

Weeks said he would, and that someone would have to remove him, as he walked to the seat and sat down.

Mayor Roberts asked Town Attorney Stephen Warm, who was attending via Zoom, if she could call law enforcement to remove Weeks.

Attorney Warm advised the mayor to not sacrifice any interested parties’ interests in completing business that was needed to be done that night. He let the mayor know that Weeks does not have the power to cause her to stop the meeting.

Weeks would have no vote, Warm said, but perhaps the mayor could let him sit at the dais. She said that is not an option she will allow.

Attorney Warm said that it is “just plain wrong” to allow a person to bully his or her way into something, when the governing body has ruled on a matter. In this instance, the Town Council previously voted to accept Weeks’ verbal resignation – despite him repeatedly wanting to not make that statement binding, and by him noting that he never brought in the letter of resignation to which he had alluded when he verbally resigned from Town Council.

The one action the Town Council completed Monday night was after a motion by Vice Mayor Jason Hunt, seconded by Town Councilman Aaron Edmondson and receiving a 3-0 vote with the mayor agreeing. That motion was to all Bronson Fire Chief Dennis Russell to seek bids on an exhaust system for the future fire station.

Weeks did not voice a vote on the motion to allow a bid to be sought or on the final motion to pay the bills. The meeting ended.

The next meeting of the Bronson Town Council is set for Dec. 7 starting at 7 p.m. in the Dogan Cobb Municipal Building, 660 E. Hathaway Ave. (U.S. Alt. 27).

In a telephone interview Tuesday afternoon, Weeks said only Gov. Rob DeSantis by executive order, or the voters of Bronson by a recall election, can remove him from office before his term ends.

Weeks said he prefers to not have to sue the Town of Bronson, his hometown, however his attorney W. Blake Fugate is going forward with that action.

“I’m doing what I think is the right thing to do,” Weeks said.