



**MEETING MINUTES  
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CITY COMMISSION  
CITY OF KISSIMMEE  
CITY HALL, COMMISSION CHAMBERS  
101 CHURCH STREET, KISSIMMEE, FLORIDA 34741-5054  
THURSDAY, AUGUST 8, 2024 AT 5:30 PM**

**1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

**Members Present:** Mayor Olga Gonzalez, Angela Eady, Carlos Alvarez, III, Janette Martinez

**Staff Present:** City Manager Mike Steigerwald, City Attorney Olga Sanchez de Fuentes, Deputy City Manager Desiree Matthews, Assistant City Manager Austin Blake, Deputy City Clerk Tameara Crespo

**Members Absent:** Commissioner Olga Castano

Mayor Gonzalez called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

**2. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

City Manager Steigerwald announced that at the request of Commissioner Martinez and approval by three (3) commissioners, a special meeting has been called under Section 2-51 of the City Code. He turned the remainder of the discussion over to Commissioner Martinez.

Commissioner Martinez confirmed requesting the special meeting due to continued complaints surrounding the civic center and early voting. To mitigate the complaints, she hopes to resolve any issues and have the commission come to an agreement on whether changes need to be made to the city's current policy. The commissioners engaged in discussion about possible changes to the sign policy at the civic center during elections. Signage cannot be regulated as it violates freedom of speech. The commission brainstormed potential resolutions including removing signs all together.

Mayor Gonzalez opened the floor for anyone who wished to speak on the item. The following individuals spoke:

- Jeremy Fetzer, 3532 Bay Court, Saint Cloud, FL (Osceola Action Committee)
- John Arguello, 1728 Boat Launch Road, Kissimmee, FL (Osceola School Board)
- Sandra Cruz, 2035 Balboa Way, Kissimmee, FL
- John Cortez, 216 Old Mill Circle, Kissimmee, FL (Current Candidate)
- Angel Roman, (address unknown)
- Mr. Alberto, 2636 Old Dixie Highway, Kissimmee, FL
- Ms. Fetzer, 3532 Bay Court, Saint Cloud, FL
- Jackie Espinosa, 2800 Swoop Circle, Kissimmee, FL (Current Candidate)
- Lisandra Roman, 711 S. Emory Ave, Kissimmee, FL (Current Candidate)
- John Ramirez, 1811 Blissful Drive, Kissimmee, FL
- Olga Carino, 307 E. Monument Ave, Kissimmee, FL (Current Candidate)
- Jose Barretto, 307 E. Monument Ave, Kissimmee, FL

Each speaker provided their remarks and recent experiences at the Civic Center during the early voting period, which began on August 5, 2024. Specific issues were discussed and addressed regarding overflow of signage, lack of available space for campaign teams to set up, violations of the current policies and ordinances by candidates, usage of tents and RVs,

illegal signage, violation of the Supervisor of Elections protocols (150 foot boundary), city resources being expended such as law enforcement and code enforcement personnel, potential penalties for violators, social media content and slandering, and the animosity and tension growing between candidate campaigns.

Mr. Fetzer, Mrs. Fetzer, and Ms. Cruz communicated their experiences witnessing threatening behaviors and policy violations from the Carino campaign. Commissioner Martinez and Mr. Fetzer debated her participation and presence at the Civic Center to support the candidate of her choice, and the issues that have risen between the campaign teams and code enforcement.

Mrs. Carino, Mr. Barretto, and Mr. Cruz asserted that they are continuously provoked by Mr. Fetzer and the Osceola Action Committee and want the behavior to cease and assert they have ran a clean campaign and were unaware of certain rules. Mr. Fetzer requested they comply with the policies and laws like all candidates running must do.

Current candidates John Cortez, Jackie Espinosa and Lisandra Roman all spoke on their opinions of what's taking place at the Civic Center and provided insight to the Commissioners on the challenges they are facing with this years election.

Commissioner Eady questioned the City Manager if each candidate was given the sign policy prior to early voting. City Manager Steigerwald confirmed that all candidates were emailed the documents prior to qualifying, were given a copy by the Supervisor of Elections and also given another copy by the City Clerk during qualifying week.

City Manager Steigerwald reviewed the signage size limits and mobile signage rules; explaining that it was City Code, not policy. He further reviewed the code enforcement process such as reasonable time must be given to allow for the correction of a violation. All candidates that were issued warnings have since corrected the violation(s).

Development Services Director Craig Holland stated that tents are not in the current policy because they are already included in the City Code. He reviewed those requirements in detail as well as the boundaries in which signage and tents can be placed. Commissioner Alvarez sought clarification regarding the 150 foot zone rule; it was confirmed that rule is imposed by the Supervisor of Elections Office, and must be adhered to, including by law enforcement. There were claims of signs being placed near the Civic Center doors inside the 150 foot boundary and Director Holland will have staff look into it. They reviewed fining individuals for violating policy and how City code enforcement processes differs from County's.

Mayor Gonzalez stated that she does not want to see any candidates rights to signage be taken away but respect for each others campaign is a must. She authorized Mr. Fetzer and Ms. Carino to approach the podium and make their final comments. She closed the discussion for any future comments on the matter.

Commission consensus is that all candidates respect each other and agree to move forward amicably; acknowledging the current policies and laws in place surrounding the Civic Center and election sign placement.

### **3. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Mayor Gonzalez adjourned the meeting at 6:50 PM.

8/8/2024



*Olga Gonzalez*

**MAYOR-COMMISSIONER**

ATTEST:

*Linda S. Hansell*

**CITY CLERK**