



City of Colorado Springs

City Hall
107 N. Nevada Avenue
Colorado Springs, CO
80903

Meeting Minutes City Council

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Tuesday, July 2, 2024

3:30 PM

Council Chambers

Special City Council Meeting

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1. Call to Order and Roll Call

President Helms called the meeting to order at 3:30 PM.

- Present:** 8 - Councilmember Yolanda Avila, President Pro Tem Lynette Crow-Iverson, Councilmember Dave Donelson, President Randy Helms, Councilmember Nancy Henjum, Councilmember David Leinweber, Councilmember Brian Risley, and Councilmember Michelle Talarico
- Excused:** 1 - Councilmember Mike O'Malley

2. New Business

- 2.A.** [24-372](#) A Resolution Issuing a Censure to Councilmember David Donelson for Breach of Decorum

Presenter:

Randy Helms, Council President and Councilmember District 2

Attachments: [Censure Resolution 7.2.2024](#)
[Signed Resolution No. 60-24.pdf](#)

President Helms announced the order of the proceeding and read the Resolution issuing a censure to Councilmember Donelson for breach of decorum for disorderly conduct, including the violation of the Rules and Procedures, and disobeying the lawful directions of the Council President to cease his conduct in violation of the Rules and Procedures. He stated there will also be a ratification of Councilmember liaisons/membership to City Council appointed Boards, Commissions and Committees and Councilmember membership on Boards, Commissions, and Committees.

Motion by Councilmember Donelson to allow citizens to comment for one minute

each for a maximum of one hour. The motion failed for lack of a second.

President Helms, Councilmember Risley, Councilmember Henjum, President Pro Tem Crow-Iverson, Councilmember Talarico, and Councilmember Leinweber read statements in support of the censure of Councilmember Donelson and his removal as a Councilmember liaison/membership to City Council appointed Boards, Commissions and Committees. Please see attached statements.

Councilmember Donelson read a statement in opposition of the proposed censure and his removal as a Councilmember liaison/membership to City Council appointed Boards, Commissions and Committees. Please see attached statement.

President Helms asked City Council to show grace and vote "No" to the censure and removal of Councilmember Donelson from Councilmember liaison/membership to City Council appointed Boards, Commissions and Committees because he would like to bring City Council back together and show the City a united Council without division and requested Councilmember Donelson to acknowledge the effect of his words which left a negative impact on fellow Councilmembers.

Councilmember Donelson stated he understands his words had a big impact and he simply requested that three Councilmembers recuse themselves from a hearing as he has himself in the past and it is not a statement that he is accusing anyone of anything, it is simply a statement that to the citizens, that there may be an appearance of no impartiality on the vote.

President Helms stated Councilmember Donelson's comments did leave a sense of demeaning to fellow Councilmembers and he is asking that in the future, Council work together on issues without calling fellow Councilmembers out.

Councilmember Donelson stated he is happy to work with his fellow Councilmember regarding Campaign Finance reform and guidelines for recusal.

Councilmember Leinweber stated Councilmember Donelson stated he did not impugn any Councilmember, yet he identified him by name twice in public. He stated he campaigned hard to achieve the goals he wanted to achieve in the City and then took an oath to work as a team to work for the benefit of the City. Councilmember Leinweber stated Councilmember Donelson has not retracted the use of his power and words to make a big impact.

President Helms requested City Council take a risk and trust him as

Council President and vote no on these items.

Councilmember Risley asked Councilmember Donelson if he would apologize today to the body of City Council and to the people of Colorado Springs, and our community at large for your comments and actions last week. Councilmember Donelson stated this a special session called to censure him and remove him from Committees and Boards, this is not a setting that invites open and friendly discussion. He stated he made his statement and will not add to it in this setting, but he is happy to sit down with any other Councilmember in a cordial setting to have discussion about anything. He stated that he has already spoken with many of the Councilmembers after the day this meeting was called, but he will not be in this setting.

President Helms stated that if Councilmember Donelson would state that he did not imply the accusations against the other Councilmembers, he is hoping his fellow Councilmembers will take that as a high road so they can move forward together. Councilmember Donelson stated if he wanted to accuse or impugn someone's integrity he would have done it, he denied that twice because he had not intended it that way, and his point was that it could create an appearance of a conflict of interest which is why he asked for their normal process of disclosing ex parte communications, recusal, etc. He stated it was simply a request for recusal, Councilmembers could have said that they can remain fair and impartial, he did not raise his voice or use profanity, it is part of their normal hearing process, and it is not wrong to do it as long as it is done politely and respectfully and that is how he attempted to do it.

Councilmember Avila asked Councilmember Donelson if he will still request that the Councilmembers recuse themselves from the hearing on July 9, 2024. Councilmember Donelson stated he has already requested that they recuse themselves, those Councilmembers are fine if they are able to be fair and impartial.

Councilmember Avila asked Councilmember Donelson if he recused himself from Wilson Tank hearing because he was the chair of Colorado Springs Utilities and because it was located in his district. Councilmember Donelson stated he recused himself because he had conversations with Leanne Wolfe, the owner of the Flying W Ranch, and he said that he thought the homes to the right of the water tank were even more out of place and he felt it would appear that he had already made up his mind and not be impartial.

Councilmember Leinweber stated when he took the oath of office, he chose to represent the City and he should not be questioned about his

motives. He said his name was brought up twice by Councilmember Donelson which was a direct confrontation on the dais in a public fashion without any warning.

Motion by Councilmember Leinweber, seconded by Councilmember Risley, that the Resolution issuing a censure for breach of decorum be adopted. The motion passed by a vote of 6-2-1-0

Aye: 6 - Avila, Crow-Iverson, Henjum, Leinweber, Risley, and Talarico

No: 2 - Donelson, and Helms

Excused: 1 - O'Malley

- 2.B.** [24-373](#) Ratification of Councilmember Liaisons to City Council Appointed Boards, Commissions and Committees and Councilmember Membership on Boards, Commissions, and Committees

Presenter:

Randy Helms, Council President and Councilmember District 2

Attachments: [Summary of Boards, Commissions, and Committees Councilmember Assignments - July 2, 2024](#)

President Helms stated he knows the reason for the removal of Councilmember Donelson from Boards, Commissions, and Committees is because Councilmembers are concerned with him taking this issue forward to the Boards, Commissions, and Committees and requested that Council take the high road and vote no on this item.

Councilmember Donelson stated he finds it ironic that the Councilmembers who will be voting to remove him from Boards, Commissions, and Committees already know what positions they will be filling if he is removed so it appears to be a conflict of interest and does not appear to be impartial. President Helms stated it is his responsibility as Council President to make recommendations to the full Council for those positions prior to this meeting.

Ben Bolinger, Assistant City Attorney, City Attorney's Office stated this is an administrative action and is Council's complete discretion who they assigned to which Board or Committee, there is not a hearing, it is not a quasi-judicial action, it is administrative.

Councilmember Donelson stated the El Paso County Board of County Commissioners assigns Councilmembers to the El Paso County Board of Health and he does not resign from that position. President Helms stated

the administrative list includes the nomination of Councilmember Leinweber to that Board, but the El Paso County Commissioners would have to make the appointment.

Councilmember Leinweber clarified that he did not ask to be nominated to the El Paso County Board of Health, President Helms assigned him to this Board.

Motion by Councilmember Leinweber, seconded by Councilmember Henjum, to ratify the proposed list of Councilmember Liaisons to City Council Appointed Boards, Commissions and Committees and Councilmember Membership on Boards, Commissions, and Committees. The motion passed on a vote of 6-2-1-0

Aye: 6 - Avila, Crow-Iverson, Henjum, Leinweber, Risley, and Talarico

No: 2 - Donelson, and Helms

Excused: 1 - O'Malley

- 2.C.** [24-374](#) Appointments to Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments Board of Directors and Pikes Peak Rural Transportation Authority Board of Directors

Presenter:

Randy Helms, Council President and Councilmember District 2

Attachments: [Appointments to PPACG and PPRTA](#)

Please see comments in Agenda item 2.B.

Motion by Councilmember Leinweber, seconded by Councilmember Talarico, that the appointments to Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments Board of Directors and Pikes Peak Rural Transportation Authority Board of Directors be approved. The motion passed on a vote of 6-2-1-0

Aye: 6 - Avila, Crow-Iverson, Henjum, Leinweber, Risley, and Talarico

No: 2 - Donelson, and Helms

Excused: 1 - O'Malley

3. Adjourn

President Helms stated going forward, he wants this to end here, he does not want this to carry over into next week or thereafter and Council can address the issues which have come out of this without calling out fellow Councilmembers.

There being no further business to come before City Council, President Helms adjourned the meeting at 5:13 PM.

Sarah B. Johnson, City Clerk