

RESOLUTION 2021-21

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF TARPON SPRINGS, FLORIDA, APPOINTING COMMISSIONER _____ AS VICE-MAYOR OF THE CITY OF TARPON SPRINGS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE HEREOF.

WHEREAS, Section 10 of the City Charter requires the Board of Commissioners to designate, by resolution, one of its members as Vice-Mayor, and

WHEREAS, Section 2-102 of the Code of Ordinances states that each year at the first meeting of April of the Board of Commissioners, the Board of Commissioners, by resolution, shall appoint the Vice-Mayor.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF TARPON SPRINGS, FLORIDA, THAT:

SECTION 1. Commissioner _____ is hereby designated as Vice-Mayor of the City of Tarpon Springs, and shall be entitled to all the rights and privileges thereunto appertaining, commencing on the first meeting of the Board of Commissioners to be held April 13, 2021, to serve as such until an appointment of a successor Vice-Mayor.

SECTION 2. That this Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

MEMORANDUM

Date: April 13, 2021

From: Commissioner Costa Vatikiotis

To: Mayor and Board of Commissioners

Subj: Commissioner Vatikiotis's Nomination for Vice-Mayor

I intend to enter my name in nomination for the Vice Mayor position. I am doing so because I am available, and I believe I can admirably represent the City of Tarpon Springs and properly conduct its meetings in Mayor Alahouzos's absence.

I have attended all the major events, whether they were City or privately sponsored, since becoming a Commissioner. Mayor Alahouzos can attest to my presence at all these events. The St. Petersburg College dedication of its partnership with the university in Kalymnos, Christmas tree lightings, boat parade, Sister Cities Program Annual Meeting, Chamber of Commerce events, Tarpon Springs Merchants Association annual meeting, major restaurant ribbon cuttings, Greek Independence Day celebration, Special High School Graduation commemorative parade examples, employee promotion and retirement ceremonies, and the Shepherd Center gazebo relocation event sponsored by our Police Departments are examples. In addition, I solely represented the City at the last Epiphany Celebration when no other City officials were available.

Even when Mayor Alahouzos is in attendance, I enjoy participating in these events and plan to continue doing so, regardless of whether I am selected as Vice Mayor. It is better for our City residents to hear "We have with us today Mayor Alahouzos and the Vice Mayor, Commissioner "so and so" instead of simply Commissioner "so and so," or only the Mayor by himself.

It is also important to know that I have a good command of the Greek language as it is beneficial at Greek Community sponsored events

Regarding conducting public meetings in the Mayor Alahouzos's absence, I have an excellent knowledge of Robert Rules of Order and our published rules of procedure.

Lastly, regardless of our policy differences, I always show solidarity as being "One City" whenever I have attended any event.

Thank you for your consideration of selecting me as Vice Mayor.

Respectfully,

Costa Vatikiotis.

From: Costa Vatikiotis

Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2021 11:02 AM

To: Mark LeCouris <mlecouris@ctsfl.us>

Cc: Irene Jacobs <ijacobs@ctsfl.us>; Thomas Trask <tom@cityattorneys.legal>

Subject: FW: Vice Mayor Appointment

Please schedule an agenda item for the April 13th Commission meeting for appointing a new Vice Mayor. Please see the emails below. Evidently, the Commission approves the selection but, in my opinion, it would be up to the Mayor to concur with any request made by a Commissioner. Obviously, I am asking on my behalf. Commissioners Karr and Tarapani have each had one year. I would like the same consideration. However, I fully recognize any change is up to the Mayor and the Commission.

Thank you.

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: Thomas Trask <tom@cityattorneys.legal>

Date: 2/9/21 10:41 AM (GMT-05:00)

To: Costa Vatikiotis <cvatikiotis@ctsfl.us>

Cc: Irene Jacobs <ijacobs@ctsfl.us>

Subject: RE: Vice Mayor Appointment

Costa,

It is my opinion that the BOC, pursuant to section 2-102, may appoint a Vice-Mayor in April of “each year”. It may be considered a violation of the Sunshine Law to send a memo to the Mayor asking for the appointment. It would be best that you address the issue at a BOC meeting in order to avoid the perception of a violation. Tom

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From: Costa Vatikiotis <cvatikiotis@ctsfl.us>
Sent: Tuesday, February 9, 2021 10:27 AM
To: Thomas Trask <tom@cityattorneys.legal>
Cc: Irene Jacobs <ijacobs@ctsfl.us>
Subject: FW: Vice Mayor Appointment

Please see the emails below. Does the Mayor/Commission have the ability to choose a new Vice Mayor in March, or do the current rules stifle the feasibility of my request if I choose to proceed?

Thank you.

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: Irene Jacobs <ijacobs@ctsfl.us>

Date: 2/9/21 10:10 AM (GMT-05:00)

To: Costa Vatikiotis <cvatikiotis@ctsfl.us>

Subject: RE: Vice Mayor Appointment

Dear Costa:

(See code section below) I would highly suggest getting with the Attorney on this issue. This is a section that I will be bringing up for changes when we discuss rules because it states *at the first meeting of the incoming Board in April of each year*; however, every third year there is no incoming Board. So, one could serve one year, and another could serve two years when there is not an election that year. It would be up to the Board when we look at this section, but I definitely think we should look at changing this or adding more clarity.

§ 2-102. - APPOINTMENT OF MAYOR PRO TEMPORE; PRESIDING MEMBER IN CASE OF ABSENCES.

At the first meeting of the incoming Board of Commissioners in April of each year, the City Commission, by resolution, shall appoint a Mayor Pro Tempore. If both the Mayor and Mayor Pro Tempore are both absent for any meeting, the most senior member of the City Commission shall preside at such meeting.

('80 Code, § 2-102) (Res. 84-33, passed 5-1-84; Am. Res. 87-03, passed 1-7-87)

Thank You,

Irene

From: Costa Vatikiotis <cvatikiotis@ctsfl.us>
Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2021 8:50 AM
To: Irene Jacobs <ijacobs@ctsfl.us>
Subject: Vice Mayor Appointment

Irene, is there any rule concerning the term of the Vice Mayor appointment? March is the one year anniversary for Commissioner Karr and Commissioner Tarapani had it previously for one year.

I am considering asking Mayor Alahouzos to designate me the Vice Mayor during his last year in office, but I don't know what the procedure is for doing so. I was considering making my request by memorandum and copying the entire Commission. The Mayor can respond publicly if he chooses to. If you believe this approach violates the Sunshine Law, I'll follow up with Tom Trask to determine another way.

Commissioner Karr seemed to surprise the Mayor with his request last March and I don't want to do that.

Thank you.

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone