



City of Portola  
Minutes  
Special Meeting  
August 21, 2024 06:00 PM  
35 Third Ave, Portola, CA 96122  
<https://www.cityofportola.com/>

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Mayor Pat Morton.

Mayor Pat Morton reads a statement, for the record, regarding members of the public disrupting Council meetings. Guidelines are outlined, and the public is informed that they may be removed from the meeting.

**A. Roll Call**

Present: Mayor Pat Morton, Mayor Pro-Tem Jim Murphy, Councilmember Bill Powers, Councilmember Leah Turner, Councilmember Mikki Brown

Staff Present: Steve Gross, City Attorney; Susan Scarlett, Interim City Manager/Finance Officer

**B. Pledge of Allegiance**

Led by Mayor Pat Morton

**2. Public Comments**

Steve Gross, City Attorney clarifies time limit for public comment. The current ordinance allows for 5 minutes, not 3 minutes as stated on the agenda.

Various members of the public are present and address the Council. Public members include Lindsey Shaw, Ashlee Sims, and Deborah Bress.

Councilmember Leah Turner read a prepared statement addressing the public and fellow Councilmembers. Ms. Turner publicly thanks Susan Scarlett for stepping up and taking on the roll of Interim City Manager, in addition to her roll as Finance Officer. Councilmember Turner compliments Ms. Scarlett, and addresses numerous projects she has accomplished, and/or currently working on, since taking the position. Councilmembers concur with Ms. Turner, and publicly thank Susan Scarlett for taking on the position of Interim City Manager. Councilmember Turner requested the letter be attached to the minutes.

**3. Appointment of Persons Nominated for City Offices**

This matter is before the Council to consider appointing the only persons nominated for the City

offices of County Council Member, City Clerk and City Treasurer in lieu of holding an election. The persons so nominated are:

**Pat Morton - City Council Member At-Large**

**Jim Murphy - City Council Member At-Large**

**Mikki Brown - City Council Member At-Large**

**City Clerk - Linda Cooley**

**City Treasurer - Linda Cooley**

All positions are for a four-year term.

Steve Gross, City Attorney gives an overview of the matter before the Council.

Councilmember Jim Murphy clarifies that there is no conflict of interest when voting on appointment of himself or other councilmembers.

Mayor Pat Morton takes comments from the public.

Lindsey Shaw comments regarding early closure of the nomination period, and refers to Government Code §37100.

Ashlee Sims comments regarding closure of the nomination filing period, and further requests that the City of Portola open the filing period for an additional six days.

Deborah Bress comments regarding early closure of the nomination filing period. During the public comment, Deborah Bress is warned about her continued disruption of the meeting and is warned that she may be removed from the meeting.

The public comment period is closed and the item is before the Council for decision.

Steve Gross, City Attorney responds to comments made by public members. Mr. Gross confirms that Linda Cooley did file nomination papers for the position of City Clerk and City Treasurer.

Following brief discussion by the Council, action is taken, followed by a roll call vote.

Councilmember Bill Powers motioned to approve. A second was made by Councilmember Leah Turner.

The roll call vote:

Aye **Mayor Pat Morton** Aye **Mayor Pro-Tem Jim Murphy** Aye **Councilmember Bill Powers** Aye **Councilmember Leah Turner** Aye **Councilmember Mikki Brown**

#### **4. Adjournment**

Mayor Pat Morton adjourned the meeting at 6:47 p.m., to meet again in a regular meeting on August 28, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.