

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
July 15, 2015; 5:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

A special meeting of the Council of the City of North Platte, Nebraska was convened in open and public session at 211 West 3rd Street in the City Hall Council Chambers. Present were Nisley, Baker, Petersen, Pedersen, Lee, Carman, Steinbeck, Campbell. Mayor Dwight Livingston presided and City Clerk Angela Gilbert recorded the proceedings.

Mayor Livingston stated that a current copy of the Open Meetings Act of Nebraska is posted on the wall at the back of the Council Chambers.

Notice of the meeting was given in advance thereof by posting in three public places in the City as follows: North Platte Public Library, Lincoln County Courthouse, City Hall Office, the designated method for giving notice (certificate of posting), being attached to these minutes. Proceedings hereafter shown were taken while the meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

ITEM #2
REMOVE DENISE
MIZELLE FROM NP
HOUSING AGENCY
BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS

City Attorney Doug Stack told the Council this was an appeal hearing on the removal of Denise Mizelle from the North Platte Housing Agency Board of Commissioners.

City Attorney Stack entered six documents into the record. Exhibit #A1, a copy of the Special City Council Agenda for July 15, 2015; Exhibit #A2, the Staff Summary Report for the July 15, 2015 Special City Council Meeting; Exhibit #A3, a letter from North Platte Housing Authority Attorney Timothy Brouillette to Mayor Dwight Livingston regarding Denise Mizelle; Exhibit #A4, Notice of Removal from Mayor Dwight Livingston to Denise Mizelle; Exhibit #A5, a written appeal from Denise Mizelle to Mayor Dwight Livingston and Exhibit #A6, a letter from City Attorney Doug Stack to Denise Mizelle notifying her of the appeal hearing scheduled for July 15, 2015.

Denise Mizelle, 1015 Autumn Park Drive Apt. C, told the Council she was there to clear her name and she was not guilty of any of the allegations. She referred to Item 1a. in the Notice of Removal and said that she is against the proposed fence at Autumn Park because she does not feel that it is needed at this time and she does not want to be locked in by a fence if there is a fire at her apartment. She referred to Item 2a. and said she has

not spoken to anyone about the Housing Authority Board Members and is not demeaning to anyone. She referred to Item 2b. and said she does not understand the accusation because the residents have not been informed of any changes to procedures. She referred to Item 2c. and said she is not guilty of discussing any confidential information from closed sessions and has not divulged anything to this day. She also told the Council she had not asked any of the residents to come to the hearing and speak on her behalf.

Attorney Tim Brouillette explained that the Housing Authority Board is governed by federal laws and city ordinances and the role of the Resident Commissioner is to help the board gain more resident involvement and to help them understand procedures. He said there is also a Resident Council, which is separate from the board, whose members are elected by the residents. He told the Council that the Housing Authority Board members held a meeting on June 29, 2015 and voted 4 to 1 to recommend the removal of Denise Mizelle from her duties as Commissioner. He entered two Exhibits into the record. Exhibit B, six pages of meeting minute history showing Ms. Mizelle abstaining from voting for a number of items; and Exhibit C, statements from residents in support of removing Denise Mizelle from the board.

Jennifer Smith, Executive Director of North Platte Housing Authority, told the Council there are 250 units scattered around town that are part of the Housing Authority, which provides affordable housing to residents in need. She said that Ms. Mizelle attended training after she was appointed to the board and was told that she is supposed to maintain confidentiality in her position. She believes she has a problem controlling her temper and has an attitude towards residents and tries to give direction to other staff members as well as herself. She said that Denise abstains from voting on all items during board members and puts her personal interests ahead of her profession duties.

Penny Kennedy, 1003 Autumn Park Drive, told the Council she is the Chair of the Residence Council and her position is elected by residents to help get them involved in activities. She said she supports the decision to remove Denise Mizelle from the board.

Carolyn Trujillo, Housing Authority Board Member, told the Council that to her knowledge, she has not heard Denise Mizelle speak badly about anyone.

Linda Keeney, 909 Autumn Park Drive, told the Council she used to work in the Housing Authority Office and her job was to copy documents. She said that Denise Mizelle never asked her for any information on any of the tenants and she never saw her be mean to anyone.

Savanah Sellers, 613 East 8th Street, told the Council she used to be a Resident Commissioner when she lived at Autumn Park. She said she supports Denise Mizelle and believes she tries to help the residents.

Glena Irish, 1006 Autumn Park Drive Apt. D, told the Council that Denise Mizelle has the residents' interests at heart and thinks she is being "put under the bus."


Jean Leibbrandt, 904 Autumn Park Drive Apt. D, told the Council that all tenants at all sites receive a newsletter and are aware of all activities held. She said that Denise Mizelle tends to fight the residents and perceives her position differently than she should.

Petersen moved and Carman seconded the motion to uphold Mayor Livingston's decision to remove Denise Mizelle from the North Platte Housing Agency Board of Commissioners. Roll call vote: "AYE": Nisley, Petersen, Pedersen, Lee, Carman, Steinbeck, Campbell. "NAY": Baker. Motion carried.

ADJOURN

Baker moved and Lee seconded the motion to adjourn. Roll call vote: "AYE": Nisley, Baker, Petersen, Pedersen, Lee, Carman, Steinbeck, Campbell. "NAY": None. Motion carried.

Adjourned at 6:29 p.m.



Angela Gilbert, City Clerk