

AI Summary: Fort White Town Council Meeting – Attorney Quits – Mayor Walks Out

During a tumultuous 30 minutes of the Fort White Town Council meeting on Monday evening, tensions escalated over procedural issues, leading to the resignation of Town Attorney Rhett Bullard and Mayor Thomas walking out. The session began routinely with agenda approvals but quickly devolved into disputes about adding items and interpreting the Town Charter.

Councilman Harrell proposed electing a new Presiding Officer, citing the need for **"orderly, fair, and effective and efficient conduct of meetings."** He nominated Vice Mayor Kathryn Terry, who seconded the motion.

The motion sparked confusion about the town charter and whether Council rules had been properly followed. Attorney Rhett Bullard complained about last-minute agenda additions and struggled to find the correct version of the Town Charter, which had been available on the Town website for over a year.

After extended arguments between Harrell, Mayor Thomas, and Bullard - who the article notes "often appears to be confused about whether he is the Town Attorney, a Town Councilman, or a judge" - tensions boiled over. Bullard announced his resignation mid-meeting, declaring: **"I'm done, and I tell you what you can do. Come January, I won't be here. This is my last meeting."** He complained of being called on weekends and warned that **"every single thing we touch turns into hundreds, if not 1000s, of dollars more in expenses."**

Councilwoman Terry supported the leadership change, stating bluntly: **"What we have is not working... It's embarrassing."**

The vote to replace the Presiding Officer resulted in a 2-1 split (without the Mayor's vote per council rules). Unable to prevent the transition, Mayor Thomas reluctantly ceded control, telling Councilwoman Terry: **"Go ahead, Presiding Officer."** He then put on his coat and left the meeting. Ms. Terry took over, acknowledging the dysfunction by saying, **"This whole thing is a mess."**