

AI Summary in a minute: Fort White: An Out-of-Control Special Meeting to Approve Town Clerk Contract Marked by Civil Disobedience

The July 30 special meeting in Fort White, Florida, highlighted severe municipal dysfunction as the town faced imminent financial paralysis.

- **Municipal Solvency:** The town of approximately 650 residents was completely unable to pay bills, process invoices, or function without an authorized clerk to sign checks.
- **Procedural Chaos:** The meeting devolved into chaos, marked by severe breaches of decorum. This included audience catcalls and continuous out-of-order interruptions, primarily from Mayor Thomas, who had previously been removed as presiding officer for similar behavior.
- **Contract Disputes:** The council clashed over uncirculated, last-minute modifications to new Town Clerk Glenn Hunter's contract. Disagreements centered on a proposed \$5,000 monthly salary for a three-day workweek. The council voted to table the contract.
- **Banking Authorization:** Despite the shelved contract and intense pushback over Hunter's financial background from non-town residents, the council voted 3-2 to grant Hunter banking access to prevent the Town from shutting down entirely.

Important Quotes

- Town Attorney Leonard Ireland on the Town's dire stakes: *"The important thing is that you get a town clerk that can sign a check. Otherwise, you're out of business."*
- Presiding Officer Kathryn Terry defending Hunter's rapid interim appointment: *"We've gone several years without qualified individuals in here..."*
- Mayor Thomas, circumventing procedure [blurting] to express his opposition: *"I make a motion that we deny this contract and that we immediately terminate Glenn Hunter's employment relationship with the Town of Fort White."*
- Town Clerk Glenn Hunter, denying rumors of financial misconduct and dismissing the opposition as *"nothing more than cyberbullying."* He stated: *"I've never been found guilty. I've never been investigated. I've never been charged with misappropriation of funds."*
- Public Commenters: Nine citizens spoke out against Hunter's appointment, citing alleged FDLE summaries, lawsuits, and background check concerns. However, as a recurring theme: almost all of the vocal opponents lived outside of the town's jurisdiction (such as in nearby Three Rivers) and were not actual residents of Fort White.
- Security Issues: During the meeting, Hunter revealed that Town Hall's camera system had been deliberately disconnected because someone outside the office appeared to be "tapped into the apps."