

RESOLUTION NO. 472

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF MOUNT CARMEL BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN, TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF VICE MAYOR WILLIAM L. BLAKELY AND DECLARE AN ALDERMANIC VACANCY ON THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN.

WHEREAS, Pursuant to *Tennessee Code Annotated* §6-3-107 Sections 6-3-107(a) and (b)(1) of the general law mayor-aldermanic charter provide that:

(a)The board shall elect an alderman to the office of vice-mayor, who shall serve as mayor when the mayor is absent or unable to discharge the duties of the mayor's office, and in case of a vacancy in the office of mayor, until the next regular municipal election; and

(b)(1) By affirmative vote of a majority of the remaining members, the board shall fill a vacancy of the office of alderman for the unexpired term, but any portion of an unexpired four-year term for alderman or mayor that remains beyond the next municipal election shall be filled by the voters at that election, if the vacancy occurs at least twenty (20) days before the latest time for filing nominating petitions for candidates in that election.

WHEREAS, Vice-Mayor William L. Blakely has advised the Board of Mayor and Aldermen that he has moved his residence from the Town of Mount Carmel; and

WHEREAS, Vice-Mayor William L. Blakely has submitted his written resignation to the Town of Mount Carmel Board of Mayor and Alderman, and;

WHEREAS, the Mount Carmel Board of Mayor and Aldermen respectfully wishes to accept the resignation of Vice-Mayor Blakely and to thank him for his years of service.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN OF THE TOWN OF MOUNT CARMEL, TENNESSEE AS FOLLOWS:

Section I. The resignation of Vice-Mayor William L. Blakely from the Town of Mount Carmel Board of Mayor and Aldermen is hereby accepted.

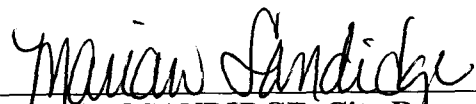
Section II. The Board of Mayor and Aldermen hereby declares the aldermanic seat formerly held by William L. Blakely to be vacant.

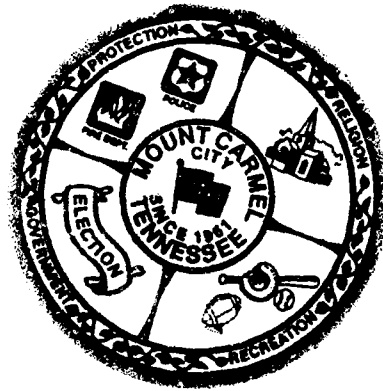
Section III. This Resolution shall take effect upon its passage the public welfare requiring it.

Duly passed and approved this the 31st day of May, 2011, by roll call vote of the Mount Carmel Board of Mayor and Alderman.


GARY W. LAWSON, Mayor

ATTEST:


MARIAN SANDIDGE, City Recorder



APPROVED AS TO FORM:


LAW OFFICES OF MAY & COUP

FIRST READING	AYES	NAYS	OTHER
Vice-Mayor William Blakely			X
Alderman Eugene Christian	X		
Alderman Leann DeBord	X		
Alderman Frances Frost			absent
Alderman Kathy Roberts			absent
Alderman Carl Wolfe	X		
Mayor Gary Lawson	X		
TOTALS	4	0	3

PASSED: May 31, 2011

May 31, 2011

Mr. Gary Lawson

Town of Mount Carmel

100 E. Main St.

Mount Carmel, TN 37645-1421

Dear Mayor Lawson,

As Vice-Mayor and as a citizen of Mount Carmel, I want to thank you for the opportunity to work together since my election in 2008. It has been a privilege to have worked with such dedicated employees and with our town's citizens who have made the meaningful contributions and sacrifices to improve the economic vitality of our town. Looking back before my election, our success speaks for itself: several new grants have been obtained, an ordinance has been passed to preserve what limited space we have available for retail business to ensure it will be used for retail business, our town has been able to proudly keep it's identity as a town by budgeting to save our Senior Citiizen Center, Library, and Post Office, and our town has not had to lay off any town employees during these harsh economic times, but have made the wise decisions to budget and act resourcefully not only for today's needs such as equipment for our departments, but also for the future of tomorrow. Under my leadership, these are just a few feats which have been accomplished since 2008.

I truly believe that in order for our town to prosper, we must start at the basics. Communication is the key. As a member on the board, both as Alderman and currently as Vice-Mayor, I have not been completely satisfied with the level of communication we have on our board. It often seems as one hand never knows what the other is doing, and this can be widely demonstrated across the board. For example, in 2010 when I had been meeting with the Save-A-Lot grocery store chain, and other retailers, who at the time had told me they were ready to open business here in Mount Carmel provided that a few stipulations were met... our own Vice-Mayor at the time questioned why a business would even want to locate here in Mount Carmel. Furthermore, we have a New Business Board, created at our last election, designed to promote economic growth for our town, and I have never heard of it's meetings, nor know who it's members are. Needless to say, along with other board members on our BMA, I have felt like things can't get accomplished due to our town's lack of ambition and drive, and we need to assign each BMA member duties to fulfill, since we are getting payed by our town's taxpayers to provide them with a service.

It has been my goal to leave Mount Carmel better off as a town when my term ends than when I was elected as Alderman in 2008. A goal, I believe, which has partially been realized. After passing motions to allow our town to obtain grants, moving forward to promote our town's safety by installing traffic lights, budgeting to purchase new equipment rather than constantly putting our town's employees' safety at risk, and having fellow citizens know that I have been available to act when the call of duty is needed... those are just a few ways in which I see our town better off than when I took office in

2008.

As I plan to resign, effective immediately following tonight's BMA meeting, along with my other duties for the town of Mount Carmel. I pray that our town will move forward and act wisely in obtaining and conserving our resources for the future. Due to personal reasons as we have discussed, I am stepping down from the active duty as Vice-Mayor. I have enjoyed my time serving with you on the BMA, and it has not only been a privilege, but it has been an honor. When I took office, I had never attended a BMA meeting before, having only served on board and committes with work and school. This has truly been a wonderful experience for me, and I have learned a lot and I hope that my actions have positively effected the lives of those within our community. I am resigning my position on good terms, and I have valued my time serving my town to the best of my abilities. Unfortunately, with a conflicting work schedule and personal matters, I am not able to carry out the remainder of my term to serve my town to it's maximum potential. Furthermore, I value our friendship, and I thank you for accepting me in as your new Alderman in 2008, for allowing me to earn your trust, confidence, and once again for the opportunity to serve my community. I trust that we will remain friends in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'William Blakely', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

William Blakely,

Vice Mayor,

Town of Mount Carmel

TOWN OF MOUNT CARMEL
100 EAST MAIN STREET
P.O. BOX 1421
MOUNT CARMEL, TENNESSEE 37645
423-357-7311 423-357-7710 FAX

FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL SHEET

TO:	FROM: Marian Sandidge
COMPANY: Election Commission Office	DATE: 6/2/2011
FAX NUMBER: 423-921-9439	TOTAL NO. OF PAGES INC. COVER: 6
PHONE NUMBER: 423-272-8061	SENDER'S PHONE NUMBER: 423-357-7311
RE: Resignation of Alderman Blakely	YOUR REFERENCE NUMBER:

☐ URGENT ☒ FOR REVIEW ☐ PLEASE COMMENT ☐ PLEASE REPLY ☐ PLEASE RECYCLE

NOTES/COMMENTS:

Please find enclosed a copy of Resolution 472 showing where Alderman William Blakely's resignation. If further information is needed, please give me a call at 423-357-7311 or 357-8125.

Thank you,
Marian Sandidge

specify a process for its municipal officers to resign their positions.

For any municipal official, the best and most responsible way to resign their position is to put it in writing. Elected officials wanting to leave office in a professional, dignified and helpful fashion would do well to submit a written statement addressed to the mayor and board. As a minimum, the resignation should state the title of the office being resigned, the date on which the resignation is effective and bear the notarized signature of the resigning office member.

It is permissible, but certainly not necessary, for the written statement to enumerate the reasons for the resignation. Usually, a short, politely worded statement is sufficient to dispel any rumors about the causes of the resignation.

Some public officials resign their offices by making a simple verbal statement. Such resignations are sufficient to effectively terminate one's participation on the board, but they are clearly not the most professional and courteous way to do the job. Verbal resignations can be misunderstood by the board, the employees and the general public — including the people who voted for and supported the official. They can create legal headaches for the municipality and should be avoided whenever possible.

In the case of verbal resignations, the municipality should document the names and addresses of any witnesses to the resignation — ideally including other members of the board and/or the city staff and noting the time and place of the resignation. If the verbal resignation was made at a meeting of the board, the city recorder's minutes should clearly state the name and title of the resigning official along with the effective date, if possible.

When does a vacancy legally occur?

Whether a resignation is written or verbal, it does not take effect unless and until the board votes to accept it and declares the seat to be vacant.

As with the resignation itself, it is best that the acceptance and vacancy declaration be made in writing, by passage of a short resolution. The resolution should indicate the name and title of the resigning official, as well as a statement declaring the seat to be vacant. A sample resignation acceptance resolution is included in the addendum to this publication.

The board may accept a resignation by adoption of a motion made at a properly convened meeting. Here again, the motion should specify the name and title of the resigning official. The motion should also declare the resigning official's seat to be vacant. The motion and resulting vote should be clearly stated in the city recorder's minutes.

Once the resignation has been accepted by the board and the office declared vacant, a copy of the resignation resolution or the minutes reflecting the board's acceptance should be delivered to the county election commission.

PROBLEMS RELATING TO RETRACTED RESIGNATIONS

It is not unusual for a board member to change his mind and want to retract his resignation. This is most likely to happen when the member resigns in the heat of a contentious debate or after a board decision has not gone his way. It is not unusual for board members to reconsider their resignations the morning after they announced they were quitting.

An elected official may retract his or her resignation at any time before the board has voted to accept it. However, after the board has voted to accept the resignation, it may not be retracted. See *State ex. Rel. v. Bush, Sheriff*, 141 Tenn. 229 (1918).

TRANSMISSION VERIFICATION REPORT

TIME : 06/02/2011 15:28
NAME : TOWN OF MT CARMEL
FAX : 4233577710
TEL : 4233577311

DATE, TIME
FAX NO./NAME
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