

January 13, 2026

**COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT COLLINS, COLORADO**

**Council-Manager Form of Government**

**Special Meeting – 6:00 PM**

**SPECIAL MEETING**

**6:00 PM**

**Called by City Council on December 2, 2025**

**A) CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Mayor Jeni Arndt called the special meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers at 300 Laporte Avenue, Fort Collins, Colorado, with hybrid participation available via the City's Zoom platform.

**B) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Jeni Arndt led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

**C) ROLL CALL**

**PRESENT**

Jeni Arndt, Mayor  
Emily Francis, District 6, Mayor Pro Tem/Mayor-Elect  
Chris Conway, Councilmember-elect District 1  
Julie Pignataro, District 2  
Tricia Canonico, District 3  
Josh Fudge, Councilmember-elect District 3  
Melanie Potyondy, District 4  
Kelly Ohlson, District 5  
Amy Hoeven, Councilmember-elect District 5

**ABSENT**

Councilmember Susan Gutowsky

**STAFF PRESENT**

City Manager Kelly DiMartino  
City Attorney Carrie Daggett  
City Clerk Delynn Coldiron

**D) Reading of the City of Fort Collins Land Acknowledgment**

The Land Acknowledgement was guided by the Native Nations Community Advisory Panelist team to recognize Indigenous peoples and their connection to the land on which Fort Collins resides. City Manager Kelly DiMartino read the City of Fort Collins Land Acknowledgment.

## **E) OATHS OF OFFICE**

### **1. Newly Elected Mayor and Councilmembers are sworn in by the City Clerk.**

District 1 Chris Conway  
District 3 Josh Fudge  
District 5 Amy Hoeven  
Mayor Emily Francis

**Newly Elected Mayor and Councilmembers are seated.**

## **F) RECEPTION**

### **2. Reception to Welcome Incoming Members of Council and Bid Farewell to Outgoing Members.**

*Following the swearing-in of Mayor and Council, Council took a break from the meeting to hold a reception in the CIC Room for 30-45 minutes. Council will reconvene after the reception at approximately 7:00 pm to review the applications for the District 6 vacancy and take action to determine the finalists to be interviewed.*

## **G) DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **3. Council Consideration of Motion to Elect a Mayor Pro Tem.**

*The purpose of this item is to consider a motion to elect a Mayor Pro Tem.*

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Colin Garfield expressed support for Councilmember Pignataro for Mayor Pro Tem. He commented on her strong leadership, preparedness, and ability to understand complex information and stated her leadership would help accelerate the new Council.

Jenny Bramhall expressed support for Councilmember Pignataro for Mayor Pro Tem. She commented on her longevity and the way she has seen and experienced growth in the community. She also noted her experience with the major issues facing the city, including affordable housing, environmental stewardship, and transportation.

Angie Dixon expressed support for Councilmember Pignataro for Mayor Pro Tem. She commented on her responsiveness, engagement, and awareness of issues. She stated Councilmember Pignataro has demonstrated deep commitment to the community and her constituents and she would be dedicated to ensuring the city continues to thrive.

Matthew Behunin expressed support for Councilmember Pignataro for Mayor Pro Tem. He commented on her volunteer experience with the League of Women Voters ensuring appropriate notices and open meetings. He noted her calm demeanor, fairness, and alignment of her values with the city. He stated she is savvy and would make a great Mayor Pro Tem.

#### **COUNCIL QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION**

Councilmember Pignataro thanked those who came out to speak and expressed interest in the Mayor Pro Tem role.

***Councilmember Hoeven moved, seconded by Councilmember Potyondy, to elect Councilmember Pignataro as Mayor Pro Tem.***

Councilmember Potyondy offered her support and stated Councilmember Pignataro has great experience, keeps a cool head, is very analytical and will do a great job.

Councilmember Conway echoed the sentiments heard during public comment. He noted he has seen Councilmember Pignataro listen to constituents and different viewpoints and make hard decisions. He expressed support for the motion.

Councilmember Fudge stated he is happy to support Councilmember Pignataro for the role.

Councilmember Hoeven echoed all that has been said. She stated Councilmember Pignataro has been a valuable mentor for her.

Mayor Francis noted her support as well.

***The motion passed 6-0.***

**4. Resolution 2026-007 Determining the Finalists to be Interviewed for the District 6 Councilmember Vacancy.**

*The purpose of this item is to consider the applications for the District 6 vacancy and take action to select finalists to be interviewed at the January 14 work session.*

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Jill Baron spoke in support of LeAnna Warren.

Caleb Carlson spoke on behalf of him and his wife in support of LeAnna Warren.

Tory Pappas spoke in support of Anne Nelsen.

Tate Williams spoke in support of LeAnna Warren.

Sandra Hetzel spoke in support of Van Dougherty.

Sean Dougherty spoke in support of Van Dougherty.

Sere Williams spoke in support of herself.

John Gaffney spoke in support of Jenn Fieldhack.

Amy Burnett spoke in support of Jenn Fieldhack.

Sue McShane spoke in support of Jenn Fieldhack.

Tom Livingston spoke in support of Ted Shepard.

**COUNCIL QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION**

Mayor Francis thanked all who applied for the vacancy and acknowledged the difficulty of this decision.

Mayor Pro Tem Pignataro echoed the appreciation for all who applied and noted thirteen applications were received and reviewed. She noted Councilmember Potyondy was initially appointed to Council in this manner and stated her first step regarding the applicants is to consider those who took the step to reach out to Councilmembers for meetings. She put forth those four names for consideration: Emily Galichotte, Anne Nelsen, Kat Steele and LeAnna Warren.

Councilmember Potyondy also thanked everyone for applying and noted her appreciation for those who reached out. She confirmed her support for the four members that were mentioned and added her support for Ted Shepard.

Councilmember Fudge agreed with the other Councilmembers who have spoken and concurred a great deal of experience is represented by the applicants. He supported the four names initially put forward and added his support for Van Dougherty.

Councilmember Conway stated Fort Collins is filled with a depth of experience, intelligence and commitment to the city and added that he was impressed with all the applications, noting the diversity of experience that was represented. He expressed support for the four names that were mentioned and stated he had met with those individuals. He also supported Ted Shepard stating his experience should not be ignored.

Councilmember Hoeven echoed the comments and expressed appreciation to the four applicants who reached out to her. She stated she reached out to a few more of the applicants with additional questions. She agreed with the four initially named to move forward and also agreed with moving Ted Shepard forward due to his experience.

Mayor Francis noted it has been helpful to hear Council comments and stated she is very proud of everyone in District 6 who applied. She concurred with the four members initially mentioned and stated they are well matched with the needs of the District. She also supported Ted Shepard.

***Mayor Pro Tem Pignataro moved, seconded by Councilmember Potyondy, to adopt Resolution 2026-007 adding Emily Galichotte, Anne Nelsen, Kat Steele, LeAnna Warren and Ted Shepard as the applicants who would move forward to interviews.***

Councilmember Potyondy noted her support for the motion and thanked all who applied. She encouraged those who are not moving forward to continue with their interest in the community.

Mayor Pro Tem Pignataro provided a reminder that this is a two-year appointment.

Mayor Francis noted opportunities for serving on City Boards and Commissions.

***The motion passed 6-0.***

**R) ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

ATTEST:

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City Clerk

DRAFT