

January 14, 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 Emily Francis called the special meeting to order at 8:19 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 Emily Francis led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

**C) ROLL CALL**

PRESENT

Emily Francis, Mayor  
Julie Pignataro, District 2, Mayor Pro Tem  
Chris Conway, District 1  
Josh Fudge, District 3  
Melanie Potyondy, District 4  
Amy Hoeven, District 5

STAFF PRESENT

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

**D) CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS IDENTIFIED IN THE CALL OF SPECIAL MEETING**

- 1. Resolution 2026-008 Making an Appointment to Fill a Vacancy for Councilmember for District 6 on the Fort Collins Council.**

*The purpose of this item is to make an appointment to fill the vacant District 6 Council seat. Mayor Pro Tem Emily Francis was elected Mayor on November 4, 2025, leaving the District 6 Council seat vacant effective January 13, 2026.*

PUBLIC COMMENT

Nicole Socia spoke in support of Anne Nelsen.

Claudia Boot spoke in support of Anne Nelsen.

Gregory Franckowiak spoke in support of LeAnna Warren.

Michelle Foster spoke in support of Kat Steele.

Sydney St. Rose-Finear spoke in support of LeAnna Warren.

Charles Shobe spoke in support of Emily Gallichotte.

#### COUNCIL COMMENT

Councilmember Potyondy thanked all who came tonight, particularly the applicants. She stated each interviewee made it clear that local government is about making the community better, not about politics. She stated it was an honor to have interviewed them all and stated making the decision will be difficult.

Mayor Pro Tem Pignataro shared some thoughts about why she moved forward to support the applicants who reached out for meetings. She added that all thirteen applicants had a lot of strengths; however curiosity and courage are needed to make a good Councilmember, and that was demonstrated by those who reached out.

Mayor Pro Tem Pignataro shared some highlights from the interviews, including hoping Mayor Francis would weigh in regarding District 6 needs, all interviews included the topic of housing, and all interviewees were kind and have a true passion for diversity in the community. She cited valuable characteristics of each of the interviewees.

Mayor Francis commented on the awkwardness of this decision given she knows all five candidates. She stated the interviewees are amazing people, dedicated public servants, and passionate about the City and District 6, and she encouraged them all to stay engaged. She noted she was watching the way the candidates spoke about District 6, particularly as related to housing, affordability, active modes given the fact that the infrastructure is built out, and the fact that the District does not get capital improvement funds because it is built out. She stated Anne Nelsen, Kat Steele, and Ted Shepard were the stand-out candidates for her in terms of their understanding of District 6, with Anne and Kat particularly understanding the diversity and needs of the District. She noted Ted Shepard had excellent housing ideas, as did Kat Steele. She stated Anne Nelsen has had experience with going through the development review process which would be extremely valuable.

Councilmember Conway stated there is no doubt that whoever is chosen will be able to do the job extremely well and will represent District 6 admirably. He stated all candidates had varied experience, knowledge, and expertise and concurred that Mayor Francis has the best idea of the needs of District 6.

Councilmember Potyondy concurred that Mayor Francis knows District 6 the best and added support for Emily Gallichotte given her public engagement experience.

Councilmember Fudge stated all candidates are accomplished, educated people who could all hit the ground running. He concurred that he wanted to respect the knowledge that Mayor Francis brings to District 6.

Councilmember Hoeven concurred this is not an easy decision and commended the quality of the applicants and their experience. She stated she respects Mayor Francis' opinion and knowledge regarding the District. She stated she believes Ted Shepard's experience stands out to her regarding housing.

**Mayor Pro Tem Pignataro moved, seconded by Councilmember Fudge, to approve Resolution 2026-008 making an appointment to fill the Council vacancy in District 6, inserting the name of Anne Nelsen.**

Mayor Francis thanked the interviewees and encouraged them to stay involved.

**The motion carried 5-1.**

**Ayes: Mayor Francis, Mayor Pro Tem Pignataro, Councilmembers Fudge, Potyondy, and Conway.**

**Nays: Councilmember Hoeven.**

**R) ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk