From: Scott Menzies <scott.m.menzies@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2020 10:56 AM

To: Lemos, June

**Cc:** Morsell-Haye, Jessica

**Subject:** Item 3A: SUPPORT Two-Year \*Maximum\* Appointment; OPPOSE Four-Year

Appointment

Regarding the appointments of Mr. Lee and Mr. Norvell:

- 1. The Council should move forward with the appointments, but \*only\* for a maximum of TWO YEARS, not the full term.
- 2. At the latest, the election should be wrapped into the next City Council election in 2022, electing all five Council seats together.

It is certainly reasonable to want to save the \$10,000 to hold the unopposed election. It is also reasonable that, being unopposed, voters be allowed to focus their energy on other races this November.

However, it must be understood that the absence of challengers during a world-wide pandemic and the throes of a national racial justice reckoning \*cannot\*, and \*must not\*, be taken as an affirmation of Mr. Lee and Mr. Norvell's work as Council members or as a mandate of the people. It is merely a testament to the fatigue, fear, and distraction by the people of Fort Bragg, especially BIPOC, who have the work of ongoing racial justice efforts weighing extra heavily right now.

The people of Fort Bragg still have a right to an election, even if it is delayed. Two years is enough time for our world to stabilize to its new normal, and places the next election with the three other Council seats.

Thank you, Scott Menzies

Scott Menzies, M.A. (Environment & Community) Instructor/Proprietor Perfect Circle T'ai Chi Martial Arts P.O. Box 1243 / 330 N. Franklin St, Fort Bragg, CA 530-410-3333 (cell) 707-962-3009 (studio - ringer always off)

From: Dianna Mertle <dmertle@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2020 10:00 PM

To: Lemos, June

**Subject:** 2020 City Council Elections

Hi June, I wanted to let you know My husband Gene and I think we have an amazing group running our City right now. Mayor Will Lee and Vice Mayor Bernie Norvell are so involved with every aspect of our City. If I have a question or concern they are never too busy to take the time for us. We weren't surprised no one ran against them, they are a winning team. We understand there are some people trying to disrupt the voters choice by changing the rules, We hope this is not going to happen. We'll be watching closely. Thanks for your time

From: Jeannette Rasker < jrasker1@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2020 9:48 PM

**To:** Lemos, June; jmorselhaye@fortbragg.com; tabinsmith@fortbragg.com; Lee, Will;

bnorvel2@fortbragg.com; Peters, Lindy

**Subject:** re: special appointments

Dear City Council members.

I suggest you indeed go ahead with the appointments, as you have described and by doing so, among other things, saving significant funds.

I see this as a postponement of an election. But not more than that! I believe it IS important to give the voters of Ft Bragg a chance in the election of 2022, to vote regarding these members of the Council.

All Council seats will have to be voted on at that time. That can be done!

Respectfully yours, Jeannette Rasker

Sent from my iPad

From: chris sittig <chrissittig@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2020 8:22 PM

To: Norvell, Bernie; Lee, Will; Morsell-Haye, Jessica; Lemos, June; Albin-Smith, Tess; Peters,

Lindy

**Subject:** Item 3A: SUPPORT Two-Year \*Maximum\* Appointment; OPPOSE Four-Year

Appointment

Please consider that a two year appointment under present circumstances, would be a more appropriate appointment than a four year term. Hopefully there will be more interest in running for council in the near future.

Respectfully, Chris Sittig

From: Linda Jupiter <jupiter@mcn.org>
Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2020 7:24 PM

To: Morsell-Haye, Jessica; Albin-Smith, Tess; Lee, Will; Norvell, Bernie; Peters, Lindy

**Cc:** Lemos, June; Miller, Tabatha

**Subject:** Item 3A: SUPPORT Two-Year Maximum Appointment; OPPOSE Four-Year Appointment

## Greetings, all,

I want to thank you for the great work you're doing for our town. So glad you, Will and Bernie, are willing to keep working and thinking well for our town.

I understand that since no one else submitted papers to run for City Council (other than Will and Bernie), the Council is holding a special meeting tomorrow to appoint them to their seats rather than hold a \$10,000 election for unopposed candidates. I think that's a smart idea.

Since we're in the midst of a pandemic and people are fighting just to pay the rent and stay safe, it's not surprising that no one has stepped up. However, the absence of challengers during this pandemic cannot be taken as a mandate of the people. It may be merely a testament to the overwhelm felt by almost all of the people of Fort Bragg.

With that in mind, and because I and others have been actively seeking out BIPOC candidates to run for City Council, I ask that these appointments be for two years, rather than four.

Combining all five seats provides an opportunity to organize toward the implementation of Proportional Representation to elect those five seats, all at once. If all five seats are up at the same time, we can again save thousands of dollars for additional elections.

Hoping to attend tomorrow's meeting.

Respectfully, Linda Jupiter Fort Bragg

From: Cynthia Gair <Cgair@mcn.org>
Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2020 7:20 PM

To: Lemos, June; Morsell-Haye, Jessica; Albin-Smith, Tess; Lee, Will; Norvell, Bernie; Peters,

Lindy

**Subject:** Item 3A: SUPPORT Two-Year \*Maximum\* Appointment; OPPOSE Four-Year

Appointment

### Dear City Council,

It makes sense for the Council to appoint the upcoming Bernie Norvell and Will Lee seats, since they are unopposed. I agree that's a good way to save taxpayer money, especially given our region's current health and economy emergency.

However, the appointments should be for TWO years, NOT for four years. Since we'd be altering the usual democratic election process, it's important to also alter the timeframe for the appointments. Elections for the two positions could be wrapped into the next City Council election in 2022.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Cynthia Gair

From: Christie Olson Day <christie@gallerybookshop.com>

Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2020 7:18 PM

To: Lemos, June; Morsell-Haye, Jessica; Albin-Smith, Tess; Lee, Will; Norvell, Bernie; Peters,

Lindy

**Subject:** Item 3A: SUPPORT Two-Year \*Maximum\* Appointment; OPPOSE Four-Year

Appointment

City Council,

I'd like to comment on one of the items for the upcoming special meeting.

I support appointing Bernie and Will for a shortened term. We don't need to spend money on an uncontested election, but the citizens of Fort Bragg deserve an election as soon as possible after the current crises pass. The Council should move forward with the appointments, but \*only\* for a maximum of TWO YEARS, not the full term.

At the latest, the election should be wrapped into the next City Council election in 2022, electing all five Council seats together.

Thank you.

Christie Olson Day 206 North Sanderson Way Fort Bragg

From: Doug Nunn <dnunn@mcn.org>
Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2020 7:11 PM

To: Lemos, June

**Cc:** Morsell-Haye, Jessica; Albin-Smith, Tess; Lee, Will; Norvell, Bernie; Peters, Lindy **Subject:** "Item 3A: SUPPORT Two-Year \*Maximum\* Appointment; OPPOSE Four-Year

Appointment"

## Dear Fort Bragg City Council members!

I ask you to consider limiting the upcoming City Council reappointments to two years instead of 4. I understand your need to move forward to save unnecessary spending on the election, but this seems a wise choice.

- 1. The Council should move forward with the appointments, but \*only\* for a maximum of TWO YEARS, not the full term.
- 2. At the latest, the election should be wrapped into the next City Council election in 2022, electing all five Council seats together.

Thanks very much,

Doug Nunn 735 Perkins Way, FB, CA 95437

**From:** Andy Wellspring <andywellspring@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2020 6:13 AM

To: Lemos, June; Morsell-Haye, Jessica; Albin-Smith, Tess; Lee, Will; Norvell, Bernie; Peters,

Lindy

**Subject:** Item 3A: Support Two-Year Maximum Appointment; Oppose Four-Year Appointment

Hello Fort Bragg City Council,

I do not live in the City limits, I am not a Fort Bragg voter, but I do live up Pudding Creek Road and feel like I live in Fort Bragg, it is my town. I do support you making the decision to skip an election this year, it makes a lot of sense. I also think it makes a lot of sense to hold one in 2 years and elect the whole council together at that time since you will already be having an election so it won't cost any more money.

I think things are too chaotic right now for people to start many things, including political campaigns. Please give folks a chance to run, and voters to vote, in 2 years instead of 4 when things are hopefully stabilized. As I understand things, you are not required to appoint for full 4 year terms, and I think it will show a good faith effort to support democracy if you have 2 year appointments.

Thanks, Andy Wellspring

From: JULIE MCHENRY < juliemchenry@comcast.net>

Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2020 8:24 AM

To: Lemos, June

**Subject:** 2020 Council Election

Hello June,

This letter is in regards to the 2020 Counsil election. Beings no one ran against Will Lee and Bernie Norvell I believe the reason is because they are doing an outstanding job. They should retain their seats for the next four years.

Thank you,

Julie McHenry Mick McHenry

Fort Bragg

From: Jacob Patterson < jacob.patterson.esq@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2020 8:43 AM

To: Lemos, June Cc: Miller, Tabatha

**Subject:** Public Comment -- 8/13/20 Special CC Mtg., Item 3A

## Councilmembers [via BCC],

I read the public comments that were posted this morning about the potential appointment of of Will and Bernie to fill their current seats that are up for election in November. Many people are calling for a shorter two-year appointment probably relaying on the provisions on Elections Code section 10229, subd. (d) that was uploaded to the agenda packet along with the public comments. The City has not yet elected to pursue that option and adopt an ordinance that allows us to make Council appointments pending a special election and I do not believe we have time to adopt one prior to the November election to allow us to use it this time. That said, we probably should have adopted this ordinance this spring when Lindy was running for Supervisor and there was the possibility that his seat would have been vacant. The fact that we did not is an example of us dropping the ball and experiencing unintended consequences that could have been avoided (i.e., having appointed rather than elected Council members when the people could have had the opportunity to vote for the candidates of their choice at an earlier opportunity). Of course, it is entirely possible that we will have a different election system in place prior to the 2022 Council election anyway but the appointed versus elected Councilmember issue will remain regardless. I recommend that the Council pursue a simple ordinance to allow the City Council and voters the option of shorter appointments followed by special elections. If we had done this a few months back, it would already be in place and the option some people are calling for would have been available to us today.

Regards,

--Jacob

From: Brittaney Dondanville <adamdandbrittd@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2020 11:59 AM

**To:** Lemos, June **Subject:** Will and Bernie

Jone Lemos and to Whom It May Concern:

Please allow Will Lee and Bernie Norvell the respect of allowing them to serve full four year terms. Their performances as servants of and representatives of their communities speak for themselves. It has been a hard pill for me to swallow that anyone would be ill advised and prejudiced enough to suggest that people who have not served to the degree that these men have should be sought out to replace them based upon their skin color. I hope the rumors I am hearing are untrue. I'm very comfortable allowing these men to continue working hard for us and it is very comforting to know that they put for the effort of not only years of service but to step up and be readily available in a multitude of arenas without being sought out and recruited by people with agendas. I hope those who wish to shorten their terms based upon prejudice can be redirected to make donations for scholarships for at risk youth.

Love, Brittaney Dondanville

From: Linda Jupiter <jupiter@mcn.org>
Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2020 8:45 AM

To: Norvell, Bernie

Cc: Morsell-Haye, Jessica; Albin-Smith, Tess; Lee, Will; Peters, Lindy; Lemos, June; Miller,

Tabatha

**Subject:** Re: Item 3A: SUPPORT Two-Year Maximum Appointment; OPPOSE Four-Year

Appointment

Dear Bernie.

You are the city council member who responds most often to my emails and you always make me think, which is good.

First of all, I do want to appreciate you. I've heard and read about all you do for our homeless community and how supportive you are to other newer council members. I certainly would vote for you again. You seem to have an open mind about issues and care deeply about community.

With that said, I think that it's important to have our council reflect our community. It's great that we have two women on board but there are no BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) folks at all. If there were two BIPOC folks running that I support, and no one was running against them, I would like to think that, yes, I would still be asking for a two-year term but am not 100% sure of that.

There's as much racism here in FB as anywhere else and our BIPOC folks get the short end of almost everything. They're not running for office because of the racism, because they're most often on the low end of a working wage, because of fear (whether citizens, documented or undocumented). I want there to be more chances in the near future for a city council that reflects all of Fort Bragg, which is why I support a two-year appointment for you and Will.

Salud, Linda

On Aug 13, 2020, at 6:09 AM, Norvell, Bernie < Bnorvell2@fortbragg.com > wrote:

Good morning Linda. I've been thinking about your request. I have only one question. Had two candidates of your liking or choice been the only two nominated would you still be asking for a two year term. Thank you in advance.

B.

Bernie Norvell Vice Mayor City of Fort Bragg

On Aug 12, 2020, at 7:23 PM, Linda Jupiter < jupiter@mcn.org > wrote:

Greetings, all,

I want to thank you for the great work you're doing for our town. So glad you, Will and Bernie, are willing to keep working and thinking well for our town.

I understand that since no one else submitted papers to run for City Council (other than Will and Bernie), the Council is holding a special meeting tomorrow to appoint them to their seats rather than hold a \$10,000 election for unopposed candidates. I think that's a smart idea.

Since we're in the midst of a pandemic and people are fighting just to pay the rent and stay safe, it's not surprising that no one has stepped up. However, the absence of challengers during this pandemic cannot be taken as a mandate of the people. It may be merely a testament to the overwhelm felt by almost all of the people of Fort Bragg.

With that in mind, and because I and others have been actively seeking out BIPOC candidates to run for City Council, I ask that these appointments be for two years, rather than four.

Combining all five seats provides an opportunity to organize toward the implementation of Proportional Representation to elect those five seats, all at once. If all five seats are up at the same time, we can again save thousands of dollars for additional elections.

Hoping to attend tomorrow's meeting.

Respectfully, Linda Jupiter Fort Bragg

Email correspondence with the City of Fort Bragg (and attachments, if any) may be subject to the California Public Records Act, and as such may therefore be subject to public disclosure unless otherwise exempt under the Act.

From: Scott Menzies <scott.m.menzies@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2020 10:18 AM

To: Lemos, June

**Cc:** Morsell-Haye, Jessica; Miller, Tabatha

Subject: UPDATED Comment: Item 3A

I respectfully demand the City Council, if unable to do two-year appointments at this time due to legal constraints, put off this appointment and draft a change to the code IMMEDIATELY. With two months' time before the election, there is plenty of time to both change the code and appoint the incumbents.

That said, if the Council chooses not to do this, they should run the election and allow the voters a say, even if that say is limited to a negative - i.e. not voting for them. \$10,000 is not a lot of money in the grand scheme of City function, especially when it comes to supporting the voice of the people, though it would be nice to save it, but only if appointments are two years.

Thank you, Scott Menzies

Scott Menzies, M.A. (Environment & Community) Instructor/Proprietor Perfect Circle T'ai Chi Martial Arts P.O. Box 1243 / 330 N. Franklin St, Fort Bragg, CA 530-410-3333 (cell) 707-962-3009 (studio - ringer always off)

From: Judith Valadao <j.valadao@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2020 10:21 AM

To: Lemos, June Subject: City Council Election

Mayor Lee, Vice Mayor Norvell, Council, and Tabatha Miller City Manager,

I'm in favor of not holding an election. It's obvious there was no one willing to step up and challenge the seats of Mr. Lee or Mr. Norvell.

I look forward to each of them serving the City of Fort Bragg for the next 4 years as stated in Resolution 4262-2020 and in Resolution 4263-2020.

I see there are a few who would like to change the rules in mid stream. Why? As stated by Linda Jupiter "because I and others have been actively seeking

out BIPOC candidates to run for City Council, I ask that these appointments be for two years, rather than four." I'm wondering if she realizes there was a

deadline to file and because she and others couldn't find someone to run is no reason to change the rules to suit their needs.

Mr. Menzies says the reason no one stepped up to run is "It is merely a testament to the fatigue, fear, and distraction by the people of Fort Bragg, especially

BIPOC, who have the work of ongoing racial justice efforts weighing extra heavily right now." What happened to the gofundme funds that was supposed to take care of the fatigue?

Keep in mind Mr. Norvell and Mr. Lee both hold full time jobs (Mr. Lee working directing with the Hospital handling Covid cases) as well as being Mayor and Vice Mayor of the City of Fort Bragg and sitting on Ad Hoc committees and other appointed positions. Even with holding these jobs and positions and caring for their families they got their paperwork complete with signatures turned in on time.

Beings how Mr. Menzies seems to be a member of the BIPOC group perhaps he should have tried (again) to be voted into a seat on Council instead of once more trying to change the rules.

The rules were followed. Paperwork/signatures turned in on time by those wishing to run. No one else stepped up. I see no reason to hold an election to run against no one. The same thing happened not once but twice with Supervisor Gjerde and he served his full term each time. No one said just let him serve long enough for us to find someone to run against him. When his term was up he was reelected. That is how it is done.

Judy Valadao

From: Tara McGregor <tmcgregor1993@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2020 10:39 AM

To: Lemos, June

**Subject:** public comment 8-13

I am writing in support of Vice Mayor Norvell, and Mayor Lee. I believe they are doing an outstanding job for the City of Fort Bragg. I believe that nobody is running against them, because the citizens of our community feel they are doing a great job!

Vice Mayor Norvell has shown to be one of the most proactive city council members I have seen in years. Vice Mayor Norvell is always donating time to the city of Fort Bragg. I see his truck at the city hall more than his business.

Please vote to Vice Mayor Norvell, and Mayor Lee for the next 4 years.

Sincerely,

Brandon and Tara McGregor

From: k silva <hiksilva@mcn.org>

Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2020 11:07 AM

To: Lemos, June

Subject:Public Comment - Special City Council Meeting - 14 August 2020 - Item 3AAttachments:Public Comment - Special City Council Meeting - 14 August 2020 - Item 3A.pdf

Good morning, June. Will you be kind enough to add my attached public comment to today's Special City Council meeting in whatever manner you see fit? Thank you. I appreciate all that you're doing to make things run smoothly during these curious times...

Kathy Silva

Dear Mayor Lee, Vice Mayor Norvell and Fort Bragg City Councilmembers~

I am a resident of Fort Bragg. I support the recommended action to adopt the resolutions appointing Will Lee and Bernie Norvell to each serve another four-year term on the Fort Bragg City Council. They have both served with honesty and transparency. Their shared desire to continue to work for the good of the City during these unprecedented times is commendable. No one else is willing to step forward to run for office and take on our current challenges. That is a testament to the support both Councilmembers have earned. They deserve to be appointed to their full four-year terms.

This is not a postponement of an election. Appointing current Councilmembers running without opposition is standard practice and we have had sitting Councilmembers appointed in the not-too-distant past. There will still be an opportunity for anyone to run for the three other seats on the City Council in 2022.

~Kathy Silva

From: William Bennett <bennetts4@sbcglobal.net>

**Sent:** Thursday, August 13, 2020 11:52 AM

**To:** Lemos, June; Munoz, Cristal **Subject:** Public Comment: Item 3A

### Dear Fort Bragg City Council:

I am writing you today to express my full support in adopting the resolution appointing. Will Lee and Bernie Norvell to each serve another full – 4 year term. Proper notice and timelines are always posted prior to elections not only on the City website but also on the County website elections page. The "Election and Candidate Information" page includes "Election Due Dates for the Nov. 3, 2020 Statewide General Election." This year, due to COVID-19 concerns, the County of Mendocino made filing paperwork more convenient by allowing candidates to mail-in their original documents with a notarized Declaration of Candidacy. Not only has ample time been given to those considering candidacy, a safe and convenient option for filing was provided.

Sincerely, Nancy Bennett



Virus-free. www.avast.com

From: Hilary White <hilarbee@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2020 11:28 AM

To: Lee, Will; Norvell, Bernie; Morsell-Haye, Jessica; Albin-Smith, Tess; Peters, Lindy

Cc: Lemos, June Subject: Item 3A

To the members of the Fort Bragg City Council, I am writing in support of the Council moving forward with the appointments of Councilmembers Lee and Norvell, but only for an interim term of, at most, two years, not four. Appointments, while cost effective and logical under the circumstances, eliminate two choices for the voters of this community: the possibility of a write-in candidate and most importantly, the ability to make our voices heard by casting or withholding our votes for the candidates.

If the Council does move ahead with the appointments, as I agree is warranted at this time, I would like to see the term extended until 2022, so that all five Council seats are elected at the same time, with the ultimate goal of reforming our electoral system to a more representational one.

The past two elections have been very competitive with many candidates running and I imagine that this election would have been too, if not for the coronavirus and the resultant economic crisis. Our community deserves to have robust electoral dialogue, and full representation of the community. In order to have this, we must be very careful not to fall into a cycle of full-term appointments.

I appreciate all of you for continuing to serve our community during this incredibly difficult time.

Thank you for your consideration, Hilary White Resident, City of Fort Bragg

From: Steve Orsi <orsi8300@mcn.org>
Sent: Steve Orsi <orsi8300@mcn.org>
Thursday, August 13, 2020 3:08 PM

To:Lemos, JuneSubject:2020 City electionsAttachments:2020 City elections.docx

June, Please include my opinion on the upcoming elections. Thank you, Steve Orsi

To: City of Fort Bragg

From: FB Fire Chief Steve Orsi

08/13/2020

Re: City Council Elections

I am strongly urging the City of Fort Bragg to resist the idea of appointing the two open board seats to two year terms instead of the "normal" four year term. You would be disrupting the continuity of the City's government by having all of the board seats open for election at the same time. As small as our fire department is, we realize the importance of staggering the "board openings" to allow potential new board members to benefit from the existing members experience. It has worked well for many years and I would hope the City would want to maintain something that is working.

The other note that shouldn't be discarded is the job being done by the two individuals who are up for election. In these trying times they have both demonstrated their abilities to lead by example. They are working hard to keep our community aware and prepared during the current COVID 19 pandemic and during the P,G &E shut downs last summer they were out helping community members cope with what we felt (at the time) was a disastrous event. Having leaders that keep you informed and roll up their sleeves and pitch in when needed is vital in times like these.

Having good leaders is something no one should take for granted. Appointing these two board members for their full term of four years will ensure that the City of Fort Bragg will be in the best position possible to ride out these tough times for years to come

From: Paul McCarthy <mendocinosportsplus@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2020 5:21 PM

To: Lemos, June

**Subject:** COMMENT FOR ITEM #3A, SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

To the Honorable Members of the Fort Bragg City Council & Mayor Will Lee

I note the usual civic killjoys want the city council to amend election law during tonight's special meeting to reduce the four-year city council terms of Will Lee & Bernie Norvell to "two years" because of "fatigue, fear, and distraction by the people of Fort Bragg." They added, "Two years is enough time for our world to stabilize to its new normal, and places the next election with the three other Council seats."

But there is also a better idea circulating. If the council is entertaining amending election law, the city should adopt a "Benevolent Dictatorship" form of city government. It takes strong leadership to take charge and relieve the "fatigue, fear, and distraction" of the people as well as secure economic stability in this time of pandemic. If adopted by the council, the city saves on spending money on ANY election - ever! Think of the savings.

Please give this idea as much consideration as the proposal from the vocal, frustrated minority who want to tailor the city to their altered worldview- in other words - none.

Keep up the great work - the whole world is watching,

Regards,

Paul McCarthy

From the Athens of Mendocino County - Elk