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BREAKING

Lake Park fires police chief

By Terry Richards terry.richards@gafnews.com

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LAKE PARK — Lake Park City Council voted to fire Police Chief James Breletic in an emergency council session Friday.

The 3-1 vote to terminate Breletic's employment came after discussion of alleged insubordination on the chief's part.

Councilmember Carl Taylor, former commander of Valdosta's Georgia State Patrol post, said Breletic was put on administrative leave Tuesday.

"There has been an overwhelming effort to resolve this amicably," Taylor said. "I get no pleasure where I'm at today."

After the vote to terminate Breletic, council decided to make longtime police employee David Kinsey acting police chief. Councilmembers also discussed wrapping up Breletic's vacation and leave time.

"Tuesday, he was told to turn in his badge and all his city property immediately," which had not been done as of the meeting Friday, Sandlin said.

The mayor said he couldn't talk about some of council's concerns involving Breletic because litigation is involved.

The mayor expects the search for a permanent police chief to take three to six months.

Breletic was hired as police chief in 2013 following a law-enforcement career in Forrest Park and Cobb County. Attempts to contact Breletic Friday were unsuccessful.

Terry Richards is senior reporter at The Valdosta Daily Times.

Conversation

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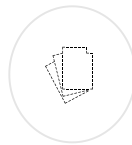


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