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DOOLITTLE

# Meeting may have violated state law

Council calls  
special meeting to  
accept resignations

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In a special meeting Wednesday that turned out not to be too special, the Doolittle City Council accepted the resignations of two its aldermen.

Two days after aldermen Gary DuHadway and Earl Link informed the city of their decisions, but before official resignations letters were submitted, the council voted unanimously to accept the resignations.

Wednesday's meeting also seemed to violate Missouri Sunshine Law regarding meeting notification. According to the Missouri Sunshine Law, notification of meetings must be made at least 24 hours in advance, unless such notice is impossible.

A handwritten notification posted at the Doolittle City Hall and signed by Mayor Paul Smith was put up around 4 p.m. Wednesday. The *Rolla Daily News* did not learn of Wednesday's meeting until 4:30 p.m.

Asked why 24-hour notification was impossible to be made, city officials could not provide a specific reason.

"It wasn't impossible, (it was) just to our advantage," Smith said, adding that he had the impression from the council the matter of

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**The handwritten notice posted outside of the Doolittle City Hall, listing Wednesday's special meeting to discuss the resignations of aldermen Gary DuHadway and Earl Link.**

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finding replacements needed to be addressed.

"We need to do this as soon as possible," Alderwoman Zelma Smith said.

No replacements, which are nominated by the mayor and with the council's approval, were named during the meeting. Several residents were brought up during the discussion, but council members did not take

**Missouri Sunshine Law** section 610.020.2 requires at least 24 hours of notice (excluding weekends and holidays) before the meeting, unless such notice is impossible.

any action.

The resigning aldermen cited a frustration for a reason for their departure.

"I believe in serving the citizens, and I don't think that is happening here," DuHadway said Monday night.

With both DuHadway and Link resigning, the city council is now down to only four members, the minimum for a quorum. It was a point Smith noted Monday, and Alderman Roy Stevenson echoed Wednesday.

However, during the week's first meeting, city officials said there was no rush to come up with replacements. Asked whether something had changed in the past two days, officials were did not cite a specific reason for the new sense of urgency.