

The Special Meeting of the City Council of the City of Panama City Beach, Florida, related to the Hurricane Michael curfew, held on October 14, 2018.

ROLL
MAYOR MIKE THOMAS

COUNCILORS:
PAUL CASTO
PHIL CHESTER
GEOFF MCCONNELL
HECTOR SOLIS

CITY MANAGER:
MARIO GISBERT
CITY ATTORNEY:
AMY MYERS

Mayor Thomas opened the meeting at 6:00 P.M. with all the Council present, together with the City Manager and the City Attorney. He said that he called the meeting after receiving several calls from folks about when the curfew in the City would be lifted. Folks said they could not work and then go to the store. After consulting with the Police and Fire Departments, it appeared that we were secure in our City. The Police Department did request that the curfew remain in place past 9:00 P.M. because of problems elsewhere in County but confirmed they had enough officers to secure the City.

Councilman Casto said that he agreed since we were the only City still standing and needed to serve others. He said if the Chief was okay with an extension of the curfew to 9:00 P.M., he was comfortable with it as well. Councilman Casto continued that many people were still coming here and needed the businesses in the City.

Councilman McConnell stated that he had many concerns, largely the optics and enforceability on the eastern end of the island. He thought it was problematic to have half of the City's Police and Fire Departments helping Panama City and this additional enforcement obligation because it stretched them too thin. He did not think the City should keep our businesses open later when our neighbors could not.

Councilman Solis said he also had concerns. He said despite those reservations though, as a community that was supporting the rest, we needed to feed and house folks and keep them working. He suggested that if it proved unworkable, we could pull it back.

Mayor Thomas indicated our neighbors opened and stayed open when the Beach had storms, now we were able to do the same for them.

Councilman Solis said he was willing to give it a chance. He said that he understood the confusion surrounding jurisdictional boundaries between City and County.

Mayor Thomas asked Chief Whitman and Deputy Chief Morgan if this curfew extension would tax their departments because he did not want to create a bigger burden. Chief Whitman said he was here in 1995 and the first step toward recovery was to give folks the grocery stores and supply stores they needed like they did for us back then. He said he was happy to keep a curfew but not back down on the ban on alcohol sales. Deputy Chief Morgan indicated that the change in curfew may increase the call volume but they could handle it. He requested that the City leave for themselves the ability to repeal the extension.

Ms. Myers read Resolution 19-06E by title. Brief discussion ensued regarding its duration. **Councilman Casto made a motion to approve Resolution 19-06E as**

written. Councilman Chester seconded. Ms. Myers called the roll, which passed by majority vote recorded as follows:


Councilman Casto	Aye
Councilman Chester	Aye
Councilman McConnell	Nay
Councilman Solis	Aye
Mayor Thomas	Aye

Mayor Thomas announced that the City would hold a Special Meeting Thursday, October 18th, at 9:45 A.M. to discuss ongoing disaster recovery efforts and actions needed.

With nothing further, the meeting was adjourned at 6:20 P.M.


READ AND APPROVED this 25th of October, 2018.

IN THE EVENT OF A CONFLICT BETWEEN THE FOREGOING MINUTES AND A VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT OF THESE MINUTES, THE FOREGOING MINUTES SHALL CONTROL.



Mayor

ATTEST:



City Clerk