

The Regular Meeting of the City Council of the City of Panama City Beach, Florida, and when permitted or required by the subject matter, the Panama City Beach Community Redevelopment Agency, held on September 26, 2019.

ROLL

MAYOR MIKE THOMAS

COUNCILORS:

PAUL CASTO

PHIL CHESTER

GEOFF MCCONNELL

HECTOR SOLIS

CITY MANAGER:

MARIO GISBERT

CITY CLERK:

MARY JAN BOSSERT

CITY ATTORNEY:

AMY MYERS

Mayor Thomas called the Regular Meeting to order at 9 a.m. with all Councilmen, the City Manager, City Clerk, and City Attorney present.

Pastor Jason Williams of Woodstock Church gave the invocation and Councilman Chester led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Thomas announced the upcoming Community Events. He reminded everyone that the new sports complex is in the county, it is not run by the City. Mr. Gisbert announced the FSU Beach Volleyball Tournaments will be held in Panama City Beach in October.

The Minutes of the Special Meeting of August 8, 2019, the Regular Meeting of August 22, 2019 and the Budget Workshop of August 22, 2019 were read.

**Councilman Casto made the motion to approve the Minutes as written. Second was by Councilman Chester and the motion passed by unanimous roll call vote recorded as follows:**

<b>Councilman Chester</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Councilman McConnell</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Councilman Solis</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Councilman Casto</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Thomas</b>	<b>Aye</b>

Mayor Thomas asked if there were any additions or deletions to the Agenda. Ms. Myers added a discussion to set a meeting date for a joint meeting with the County to discuss the Front Beach Road Development Area and Plan.

**Councilman McConnell made the motion to approve the addition to the agenda. Councilman Chester seconded the motion passed by unanimous roll call vote as follows:**

<b>Councilman Chester</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Councilman McConnell</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Councilman Solis</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Councilman Casto</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Thomas</b>	<b>Aye</b>

#### **PRESENTATIONS**

**1 PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER – COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT UPDATE.** Ms. Debbie Ward, Public Information Officer, gave a brief overview of City Communications since her hiring as the City's first PIO in April 2018. She talked about internal and external communications, news coverage, special events, and public outreach. She provided stats and demographics for Facebook and website. She said several big events are coming up in 2020, such as a welcoming reception for a new City Manager, swearing-in of elected officials next April, a grand opening of the new City Hall and Fire Station, and the celebration of the City's 50th birthday in August.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS (REGULAR NON-PUBLIC HEARINGS AND CONSENT ITEMS)**

Mayor Thomas opened the Public Comments section of the meeting at 9:24 a.m. and invited comments.

1 Griff Griffiths – 5422 Hopetown Lane. Mr. Griffiths thanked the Council for the work that they do. He asked to delay the vote on the CRA. He understands the joint meeting will be rescheduled.

With no further comments, Mayor Thomas closed the Delegations period at 9:25 a.m.

### CONSENT AGENDA

Ms. Bossert read the Consent Agenda Item by title.

**1 RESOLUTION 19-136, "BREW N' BOO FESTIVAL" ROAD CLOSURES.** "A Resolution of the City of Panama City Beach, Florida related to the "Brew N' Boo Festival" authorizing road closures on portions of Pier Park Drive between L. C. Hilton Drive and Longboard Way, and of Sea Monkey Way on Saturday, October 26, 2019 for the event."

**2 RESOLUTION 19-141 "SPOOKTACULAR" ROAD CLOSURES.** "A Resolution of the City of Panama City Beach, Florida related to the "Pier Park Spooktacular" authorizing road closures on portions of Sea Monkey Way, Longboard Way, and Pier Park Drive between L. C. Hilton Drive and Front Beach Road on Thursday, October 31, 2019 for the event."

**3 RESOLUTION 19-142, SEAFOOD FESTIVAL ROAD CLOSURES.** "A Resolution of the City of Panama City Beach, Florida related to the "Pier Park Seafood Festival" authorizing road closures on portions of Pier Park Drive between Sea Monkey Way and Longboard Way on Saturday, November 9, 2019 for the event."

**4 RESOLUTION 19-143, NEW YEAR'S EVE BALL DROP AND ROAD CLOSURES.** "A Resolution of the City of Panama City Beach related to the New Year's Eve Beach Ball Drop; authorizing road closures within Pier Park on December 27, 28, 29, 30 and 31, 2019 and January 1, 2020 for the event; and providing an immediately effective date."

**5 REVISION OF THE MASTER AUDIT LIST TO REMOVE OBSOLETE ITEMS.** These items are to be removed from the Master Audit List. STAFF RECOMMENDS approval to remove these items. By approval of this matter in the Consent Agenda, the City Council makes a finding of surplus for these items and approves their removal from the Master Audit List.

**Councilman McConnell made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Second was by Councilman Solis and the motion passed by unanimous roll call vote recorded as follows:**

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

### REGULAR AGENDA

**ITEM 1A SCHEDULE JOINT MEETING WITH THE COUNTY.** Ms. Myers explained an interlocal agreement with the County was established in 2005 that lays out the framework to have an annual joint meeting with the County regarding Front Beach Road Community Redevelopment Plan. She commented the County has requested to hold that meeting. She asked to schedule it, the date of Oct 22<sup>nd</sup> is not workable for the County. She explained Florida Statutes now require that each governing body pass a resolution that states the date, time and purpose of the meeting. She suggested the date of October 10<sup>th</sup>. Mayor Thomas asked Mr. Banks to approach the podium. Mr. Banks asked if the date works for the County. He stated the date does work. All Council agreed on October 10<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 p.m.

**ITEM 1 RESOLUTION 19-144, FLWARN MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT.** Ms. Myers read Resolution 19-144 by title. There were no comments.

**Councilman Chester made the motion to approve Resolution 19-144. Second was made by Councilman McConnell and the motion passed by unanimous roll call vote recorded as follows:**

Councilman Chester	Aye
Councilman McConnell	Aye
Councilman Solis	Aye

Councilman Casto           Aye  
Mayor Thomas               Aye

**ITEM 2       RESOLUTION 19-145, HGMP GRANT APPLICATION.** Ms. Myers read Resolution 19-145 by title. She explained one change is requested; staff recommends striking project number 64 – South Glades Drainage Improvements from the project list and Resolution.

**Councilman McConnell made the motion to approve Resolution 19-145 with the change. Second was made by Councilman Chester and the motion passed by unanimous roll call vote recorded as follows:**

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

**ITEM 3       RESOLUTION 19-146, SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS & BUDGET AMENDMENT #67.** Ms. Myers read Resolution 19-146 by title. There were no comments.

**Councilman Casto made the motion to approve Resolution 19-146. Second was made by Councilman McConnell and the motion passed by unanimous roll call vote recorded as follows:**

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

**ITEM 4       RESOLUTION 19-148, RETIREMENT CONSULTANT RANKING.** Ms. Myers read Resolution 19-148 by title. Councilman Casto inquired on how the consultant would be paid. Ms. Myers explained the consultant will be paid out of the general fund. Councilman McConnell asked if the new plan will only affect new employees. Ms. Myers confirmed that was correct. Ms. White explained the retirement plans.

**Councilman Solis made the motion to approve Resolution 19-148. Second was made by Councilman McConnell and the motion passed by majority roll call vote recorded as follows:**

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

**ITEM 5       RESOLUTION 19-149, FORM OF CRA ASSESSMENT NOTICE.** Ms. Myers read Resolution 19-149 by title. She explained the purpose of the Resolution. There were no comments.

**Councilman Solis made the motion to approve Resolution 19-149. Second was made by Councilman Casto and the motion passed by unanimous roll call vote recorded as follows:**

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

**ITEM 6       RESOLUTION 19-147, CIGP GRANT FOR BAY PARKWAY PHASE 2.** Ms. Myers read Resolution 19-147 by title. There were no comments.

**Councilman McConnell made the motion to approve Resolution 19-147. Second was made by Councilman Chester and the motion passed by unanimous roll call vote recorded as follows:**

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

**ITEM 7\* RESOLUTION 19-140, FIRST AMENDMENT TO FRONT BEACH ROAD COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT PLAN, PUBLIC HEARING.** Ms. Myers read Resolution 19-140 by title. The Mayor asked if there were any questions by the Council Members; there were none. He opened the Public Hearing at 9:40 a.m.

1 Mark Lawson, Miccosukee, Florida. Mr. Lawson encouraged the Council to include the report from Owen Beitsch that substantiates both the reasoning and the theory behind the law in Florida on how Community Redevelopment is achieved and done over time, so that becomes part of the record as evidence and testimony.

2 Amy Myers, City Attorney. Ms. Myers commented the statutes are clear on the process to amend or modify a plan. She explained all notices have been sent and the amendment itself only to extend the duration to 30 years, which is the maximum allowed. She suggested submitting Owen Beitsch's report, as an independent analysis into the record.

3 Don Banks, County Attorney. Mr. Banks requested the letter written from the County to the Council be placed in the record as a part of this Public Hearing.

4 David Campbell, CRA Manager. Mr. Campbell commented that this is one of the most important projects the City has ever undertaken. He explained this project is vital for economic and transportation reasons. He explained the long-term plan for Front Beach Road is to make it multi-modal, which will encourage people to use other modes of transportation. He explained he has seen a tremendous amount of people walking and using their bicycles instead of driving. The full potential will be felt after the Front Beach Road and Richard Jackson area is finished. He commented as the City continues to grow, the roads will need to be four-lane. He explained projected to 2031, right now the CRA revenue is \$12,600,000 with a debt obligation of \$3.4 million dollars and operational expenses of \$1 million, leaving roughly 8 million for road work. He commented Alf Coleman needs to be raised out of the flood plain, Hills Road is two lanes and it is vital this road be improved; Nautilus Street is another door to Front Beach Road that needs improvement. He explained the CRA expires in 2031 and needs to be extended in order to complete the plan. He commented this extension will benefit the City and also greatly benefit the County in the long run.

Councilman Solis commented Mr. Campbell viewed the assessment optimistically; he stated it is extremely optimistic to say the schedule will be done on time when setbacks such as storms and recessions have happened in the past to slow down progress.

5 Genese Hatcher, 601 Gardenia. Ms. Hatcher explained Mr. Campbell is doing a great job. She explained the cost of projects is increasing and adding additional roads will cost more money. She commented the Council needs to look at beautifying the entire city and adding funds from the public instead of just one area.

6 Brian Leebrick, County Attorney's office reiterated to place the letter written from the County to the Council be placed in the record as part of the Public Hearing.

With no further comments, Mayor Thomas closed the Public Hearing at 10:01 a.m.

Mayor Thomas commented the County has requested the City delay the vote, but it is the job of the Council to take care of the City of Panama City Beach. He explained the beach is important to the entire County. He commented property values are booming. He stated he served twelve years on the Board of County Commissioners. The City had a \$250,000 agreement with the County and the County did not hold up their end of the agreement. He commented he is very proud of the CRA and should move forward and vote to meet with the County. He commented the Council has done a great job moving forward with projects and the CRA extension will help the County.

Councilman Solis commented the City made a commitment and in the last three years, we have done what has been done in the last fifteen years. He commented the CRA benefits everyone. He explained the City needs to move forward because the State Legislature tries to take the CRA every year. He commented all will benefit from the extension.

Councilman McConnell explained he does not agree with the length of time for completion of the CRA project, he does agree it is one of the most important projects the City has ever done. He stated the Council should honor the County's request and hold off on a vote until after the joint meeting.

Mayor Thomas suggested to come up with a percentage or additional revenue from the CRA to give to the County.

Councilman Chester commented there was a commitment with thirteen years remaining, the commitment should be honored. He commented the CRA has not been a top priority, he suggested a monthly update at the 9 a.m. Council Meetings.

Councilman Solis commented the CRA project has been a top priority since he has been on the Council. Councilman Chester disagreed. He commented if it is extended and time is given, more items will be on the backburner.

**Councilman McConnell made the motion to continue the Public Hearing until the October 24<sup>th</sup> council meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Chester and the motion failed by majority roll call vote as recorded as follows:**

<b>Councilman Chester</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Councilman McConnell</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Councilman Solis</b>	<b>Nay</b>
<b>Councilman Casto</b>	<b>Nay</b>
<b>Mayor Thomas</b>	<b>Nay</b>

**Councilman Solis made the motion to move forward with the Public Hearing, Item 7, Resolution 19-140, First Amendment to Front Beach Road Community Redevelopment Plan. The motion was seconded by Councilman Casto and the motion passed by majority roll call vote as recorded as follows:**

<b>Councilman Chester</b>	<b>Nay</b>
<b>Councilman McConnell</b>	<b>Nay</b>
<b>Councilman Solis</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Councilman Casto</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Thomas</b>	<b>Aye</b>

Ms. Myers explained she drafted a Resolution setting the joint meeting with the County on October 10, 2019, at 4:30 p.m. Ms. Myers read the Resolution 19-154 by title.

**Councilman Chester made the motion to approve Resolution 19-154. The motion was seconded by Councilman McConnell. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote as recorded as follows:**

<b>Councilman Chester</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Councilman McConnell</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Councilman Solis</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Councilman Casto</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Thomas</b>	<b>Aye</b>

Mayor Thomas thanked the County and explained everything that has been done in the past is to help the entire Bay County.

#### **DELEGATIONS**

Mayor Thomas explained the Delegations period and opened this portion of the meeting at 10:32 a.m.

1 Genese Hatcher, 601 Gardenia. Ms. Hatcher commented the City has put limitations on building new homes, whereas the County has no limits. She commented homes within the City are old and new homes need to be built. She commented Councilman Solis has been after her and not allowing her the three feet she has requested. She commented Councilman Solis has not only limited her but the entire City. She commented the County is building the more expensive homes.

Mayor Thomas called Mr. Leonard to the podium. He asked Mr. Leonard if there has been a downturn in building permits in the City. Mr. Leonard stated no.

2 Cherie Crim, 17680 Front Beach Road. Ms. Crim stated Mayor Thomas made a sexist statement against Ms. Hatcher. She commented she agreed with a lot the Mayor stated today.

3 Burnie Thompson, 17292 Front Beach Road. Mr. Thompson made a verbal public records request for the legal letter that was reference from the County to the City. He commented on the ongoing litigation and inquired on how the City awards contracts. He stated rumor has it that Mr. David Scruggs, currently a Planning Board Member will be the next City Manager. He asked if Councilman McConnell is going to apply for City Manager. Councilman McConnell denied the allegation.

With no further comments, Mayor Thomas closed the Delegations period at 10:39 a.m.

With nothing further, the meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

READ AND APPROVED this 14th of November 2019.

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

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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City Clerk