

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 November 14, 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 6:00 p.m. with all Councilmen, the City Manager, City Clerk, and City Attorney present.

Pastor Greg George with Gulf Beach Baptist Church gave the invocation and Councilman Casto led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Thomas announced the upcoming Community Events. He commented the Boys and Girls Club needs drivers if anyone has a CDL and is interested in helping.

The Minutes of the Regular Council Meetings of September 26, 2019, October 10, 2019, and October 24, 2019 were read. The Minutes of the City Council and Planning Board Workshop and the County Commissioners and Council Meeting of October 24, 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 Casto</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Councilman Chester</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Councilman McConnell</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Councilman Solis</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Thomas</b>	<b>Aye</b>

Mayor Thomas asked if there were any additions or deletions to the Agenda. There were none. Ms. Myers clarified that regular item 10 has been advertised as a Public Hearing.

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

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

**PRESENTATIONS**

**1 BOYS & GIRLS CLUB CIVIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD.** Councilman Casto introduced Haleigh Trimnel and presented her with the Civic Achievement Award for exemplary service to the Boys and Girls Club. Ms. Latina Reed, Club Representative, spoke of Haleigh's contributions to the Club. The audience responded with applause.

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

Mayor Thomas opened the Public Comments section of the meeting at 6:07 p.m. and invited comments.

**1 Tom Trossen, 107 Heron Turn.** Mr. Trossen commented he is in favor of Ordinance 1501 and thanked the City staff for creating the Ordinance. He requested, if Ordinance 1501 is approved, that a database query be available to the public, similar to

the public database query for building permits. He commented he is in favor of Ordinance 1502 and thanked the Planning Board for their hard work.

He closed the Public Comments at 6:10 p.m.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Ms. Bossert read the Consent Agenda Item by title.

**1 RESOLUTION 20-18, PCB MARATHON ROAD CLOSURE.** *“A Resolution of the City of Panama City Beach, Florida, related to the “Panama City Beach Marathon”; authorizing careful traffic control and extraordinary usage of portions of Front Beach Road (U.S. 98), South Thomas Drive, and Surf Drive on Saturday, December 7, 2019; and providing an immediately effective date.”*

**2 RESOLUTION 20-19, BEACH HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS ROAD CLOSURE.** *“A Resolution of the City of Panama City Beach, Florida, authorizing the temporary closure of a portion of West Pier Park Drive to vehicular traffic on November 29 and 30, 2019 to accommodate patrons attending the “Beach Home for the Holidays” event.”*

**3 RESOLUTION 20-20, CHRISTMAS PARADE ROAD CLOSURE.** *“A Resolution of the City of Panama City Beach related to the annual Christmas Parade; authorizing closure of portions of Pier Park Drive, Starfish Street, Bluefish Drive, Stingray Drive, L.C. Hilton Drive, and Powell Adams Road between 3:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. on December 14, 2019, for the parade; and authorizing temporary usage of a portion of Front Beach Road (U.S. 98) between 3:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. on December 14, 2019 to permit the parade.”*

**4 RESOLUTION 20-21, BID AWARD – MULTI-PRO 5800 G SPRAYER.** *“A Resolution of the City of Panama City Beach, Florida, approving an agreement with Jerry Pate Turf and Irrigation for the purchase of a dedicated sprayer vehicle in the amount of \$70,008.89.”*

**5 RESOLUTION 20-22, BID AWARD – PTO 60 SPORTS TURF RENOVATOR.** *“A Resolution of the City of Panama City Beach, Florida, approving an agreement with Power Turf Renovation for the purchase of a Sports Turf Renovator in the amount of \$12,995.”*

**6 RESOLUTION 20-08, AUTHORIZING RAFTELIS MID-CYCLE UTILITY RATE REVIEW.** *“A resolution of the City of Panama City Beach, Florida, approving an agreement with Raftelis Financial Consultants, Inc., for a financial analysis of Water/Wastewater rates and revenue, in the amount of \$32,855.”*

**7 RESOLUTION 20-27, APPROVING PEST CONTROL CONTRACT.** *“A Resolution of the City of Panama City Beach, Florida, approving an agreement with Florida Pest Control for pest control services to city facilities in the annual amount of \$3,276.”*

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

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

**REGULAR AGENDA**

**ITEM 1 PLAT APPROVAL, EMERALD COVE – PUBLIC HEARING.** Ms. Myers read. She explained this plat is a four-lot subdivision and has been reviewed by Staff. There are no improvements that are being dedicated to the City and the property is remaining private.

Mayor Thomas opened the Public Hearing at 6:13 p.m. and invited comments. There were none.

With nothing further, Mayor Thomas closed the Public Hearing at 6:13 p.m.

Councilman Solis made the motion to approve the Emerald Cove Plat. Second was made by Councilman McConnell and the motion passed by unanimous roll call vote recorded as follows:

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

**ITEM 2 ORDINANCE 1501, BUSINESS TAX REPORTING, 2ND READING, PUBLIC HEARING.** Ms. Myers read Ordinance 1501 by title. There were no comments.

Mayor Thomas opened the Public Hearing at 6:14 p.m. and invited comments. There were none.

With nothing further, Mayor Thomas closed the Public Hearing at 6:14 p.m.

Councilman McConnell made the motion to approve Ordinance 1501. Second was made by Councilman Casto and the motion passed by unanimous roll call vote recorded as follows:

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

**ITEM 3 ORDINANCE 1503, CHANGING COUNCIL MEETING PLACE, 1ST READING.** Ms. Myers read Ordinance 1503 by title. There were no comments.

Councilman McConnell made the motion to approve Ordinance 1503. Second was made by Councilman Solis and the motion passed by unanimous roll call vote recorded as follows:

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

**ITEM 4 ORDINANCE 1502, NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS, 1ST READING.** Ms. Myers read Ordinance 1502 by title. There were no comments.

Councilman Casto made the motion to approve Ordinance 1502. Second was made by Councilman Chester and the motion passed by unanimous roll call vote recorded as follows:

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

**ITEM 5 ORDINANCE 1499, SETTING MAXIMUM RATES AND STANDARDIZING NOTICE PROCEDURES FOR NON-AD VALOREM ASSESSMENTS, 2ND READING, PUBLIC HEARING.** Ms. Myers read Ordinance 1499 by title. There were no comments.

Mayor Thomas opened the Public Hearing at 6:16 p.m. and invited comments. There were none.

With nothing further, Mayor Thomas closed the Public Hearing at 6:16 p.m.

Councilman McConnell made the motion to approve Ordinance 1499. Second was made by Councilman Solis and the motion passed by unanimous roll call vote recorded as follows:

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

**ITEM 6 RESOLUTION 20-28, ESTABLISHING AND PROVIDING UNIFORM MAXIMUM RATES FOR ASSESSMENTS.** Ms. Myers read Resolution 20-28 by title. There were no comments.

**Councilman McConnell made the motion to approve Resolution 20-28. Second was made by Councilman Chester and the motion passed by unanimous roll call vote recorded as follows:**

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

**ITEM 7 RESOLUTION 20-23, BUDGET AMENDMENT #4 EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE GRANT FOR PCBDP DIGITAL FORENSIC CAMERAS.** Ms. Myers read Resolution 20-23 by title. There were no comments.

**Councilman Chester made the motion to approve Resolution 20-23. Second was made by Councilman Casto and the motion passed by unanimous roll call vote recorded as follows:**

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

**ITEM 8 RESOLUTION 20-24, BUDGET AMENDMENT #5 EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE GRANT AND PURCHASE OF TACTICAL RESPONSE EQUIPMENT.** Ms. Myers read Resolution 20-24 by title. There were no comments.

**Councilman Solis made the motion to approve Resolution 20-24. Second was made by Councilman McConnell and the motion passed by unanimous roll call vote recorded as follows:**

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

**ITEM 9 RESOLUTION 20-25, PAY STUDY UPDATE – DISCUSSION.** Ms. Myers explained Staff recommends RFQ for the vendor to get the best consultant for an updated pay study.

**Councilman Casto made the motion to start the RFQ process. Second was made by Councilman McConnell and the motion passed by unanimous roll call vote recorded as follows:**

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

**ITEM 10 RESOLUTION 20-16, RE-ADOPTING FIRST AMENDMENT TO FRONT BEACH ROAD COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT PLAN, PUBLIC HEARING.** Ms. Myers read Resolution 20-16 by title.

Mayor Thomas opened the Public Hearing at 6:21 p.m. and invited comments. There were none.

With nothing further, Mayor Thomas closed the Public Hearing at 6:21 p.m.

**Councilman Solis made the motion to approve Resolution 20-16. Second was made by Councilman Casto and the motion passed by majority roll call vote recorded as follows:**

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

**ITEM 11 APPROVAL OF AMENDED JOB DESCRIPTION – BEACH RESCUE DIVISION DIRECTOR.** Chief Couch commented the City has received few applicants for this position and requested to change the language. Mayor Thomas commented he has an issue with changing the job description. Chief Couch commented the pay grade is too low. Councilman Chester suggested bumping up the pay for good applicants. Mr. Gisbert commented as City Manager he cannot authorize hiring above a certain pay grade. Chief Couch suggested a high 50 thousand to low 60 thousand and add additional training that is required.

**Councilman Solis approved to adjust the pay grade. Second was made by Councilman Casto and the motion passed by unanimous roll call vote recorded as follows:**

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

**ITEM 12 CIVIL SERVICE BOARD APPOINTMENT.** Ms. Myers explained Mr. Jarman requested to be reappointed to the Civil Service Board. He is the only applicant for the vacancy.

**Councilman Chester approved the Civil Service Board re-appointment. Second was made by Councilman McConnell and the motion passed by unanimous roll call vote recorded as follows:**

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

**ITEM 13 TDC BOARD VACANCY APPOINTMENT.** Mayor Thomas explained there were three applicants for the TDC Board vacancy. The Council Members made their selections on the paper ballots for the vacant seat and passed the votes to Ms. Bossert to tabulate.

**Copies of the paper ballots are attached to and become an official part of these Minutes.**

**DELEGATIONS**

Mayor Thomas explained the Delegations period and opened this portion of the meeting at 6:33 p.m.

1 Burnie Thompson, 17292 Front Beach Road. Mr. Thompson requested clarification on the Front Beach Road and CRA funding. He asked about projected funds. He also asked how much money the County has given the City, his calculations showed 120 million. He made verbal public records request for sheets of the TDC board votes and copies of any federal subpoenas.

2 Paul Dalton, 107 Manistee. Mr. Dolton requested the new City Hall building be named after the late Sergeant Kight.

3 Gary Wayne Beck. Mr. Beck spoke about the BP oil spill and how it affected him to pay his water bill and other utilities. Mayor Thomas requested Mr. Beck to be seated. Mr. Beck continued to rant. Mayor Thomas again asked him to be seated.

4 Molly Allen, 16211 East Lullwater. She commented on her concern with Lullwater Lake becoming stagnant. She requested the City to remove the weeds after cutting them when conducting maintenance work around the Lake.

With no further comments, Mayor Thomas closed the Delegations period at 6:43 p.m.

Mayor Thomas explained the 4.5 million dollars he spoke about at the joint County meeting was projecting the next section of the CRA that increased due to construction price inflations.

David Campbell, CRA Director, explained construction went up dramatically after the storm. He commented the original projections did not have the cost of the underground power. Councilman Casto commented he believed the underground power was an

additional 2 million. He asked for an explanation of the \$100 million or a list of projects since the CRA started. Mr. Campbell explained approximately \$32 million in land that has been acquired since the beginning of CRA. He commented some of that land was for stormwater ponds, parking lots, and temporary construction easements. He explained the projects include Richard Jackson, Churchwell Drive, Powell Adams Road, South Thomas Drive, Front Beach Road Segment 1 and Front Beach Road Segment 2 as well as a P&E study for the entire length of Front Beach Road. The Council thanked Mr. Campbell.

Mayor Thomas explained the County does not give the City money. He explained the County collects money from the City. The County collects money and returns it to the City. He explained at this time there are no subpoenas. He explained there will be a next CRA project that has a portion set it to make a drain to drawdown on the lake as they do at Deerpoint during cold points of the winter to clean up the lake.

#### **ATTORNEY REPORT**

Ms. Myers requested to add regular business to the Special Meeting that has been noticed for December 2, 2019, at 1:00 p.m. All Council agreed. She recognized her colleague, Cole Davis, for winning the trial where the court affirmed and upheld the two scooter ordinances that prohibited overnight rentals of scooters and the ban that was to go into effect. The Mayor thanked Amy, Cole, and the staff for working hard.

#### **CITY MANAGER REPORT**

Mr. Gisbert thanked the Mayor for the ability to have the new City Hall for the residences of Panama City Beach. He thanked the contractor, the architects, the design team, and he thanked Al Shortt for running the project. He thanked the City Hall Staff that is currently working on the move that will happen over the weekend. He explained the existing City Hall facility will remain 100% open on Friday and the new City Hall will open and fully functional the following Monday; no time of service will be lost during the transition. He thanked everyone that had a part of bringing the new City Hall to fruition.

#### **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Councilman Solis thanked City Attorney, Cole Davis, and commented the City has an outstanding legal team. He commented he is very proud of all their hard work. He thanked Mr. Gisbert for his vision and guidance provided over the years to the City.

Councilman McConnell thanked Chief Whitman and his department for obtaining grants. He wished Chief Whitman a belated happy birthday. He reminded everyone of the Town Hall Meeting next Tuesday, November 19<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers.

Councilman Casto commented one of the City's biggest problems is traffic and transportation. He explained at the last meeting, Council voted to extend the CRA because Mr. Campbell informed the Council that the CRA would not be finished by the deadline. Councilman Casto directed legal staff to start the process or bonding out the rest of Front Beach Road to speed up the process.

Councilman McConnell would like to see this item on the agenda for information ahead of time. Councilman Solis commented something was already discussed previously.

**Councilman Casto made a motion to start the bonding process. The motion died for a lack of a second.** Mayor Thomas commented he is hesitant shutting down Front Beach Road, it will create traffic issues. Councilman Solis agreed with bonding Front Beach Road. Ms. Myers explained the firm has been talking with the bond team to collect information, having this discussion lets her know they want to move forward. Ms. Myers explained any action taken on a bond will require a formal Resolution or a directory Resolution. She stated she understands the Council's direction to move forward with the bond process and bring information back to the Council.

Councilman Chester recognized Mr. Jim Ponek and the Parks and Recreation Department by congratulating them for receiving the Sports Event Readers' Choice Award. The audience responded in applause.

Mayor Thomas gave Mr. Ponek direction to work on the area on Escanaba. He asked the Council to give him direction and come up with a budget amendment to fix up that area for a park.

Mayor Thomas requested staff to get with the Tourist Development Council (TDC) for beach pictures for the bare walls throughout the building. Councilman Solis stated he would like to see a section dedicated to pictures showing the history of Panama City Beach. He thanked GAC and DAG Architects for all their hard work and a job well done. He commented no money is owed on the City Hall building; it is paid for.

**ITEM 13 TDC BOARD VACANCY APPOINTMENT (Continued).** Ms. Bossert announced that Mr. Steve Bailey was appointed to the TDC Board by a unanimous vote.

Mayor Thomas suggested placing "In God We Trust" along the Dias and asked for a motion.

**Councilman Casto made a motion to place the words "In God We Trust" along the Dias. Second was made by Councilman Chester and the motion passed by unanimous roll call vote recorded as follows:**

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

Mr. Gisbert commented a grand opening will be held later at the end of January 2020.

With nothing further, the meeting was adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

READ AND APPROVED this 12th of December 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:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk