

**MINUTES of the Special 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 March 8, 2021.**

**Mayor Sheldon called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM.**

**ROLL CALL**

MAYOR MARK SHELDON  
VICE MAYOR GEOFF MCCONNELL  
PHIL CHESTER  
PAUL CASTO  
MICHAEL JARMAN

Others present were Interim City Manager Al Shortt, City Attorneys Amy Myers and Cole Davis, City Clerk Lynne Fasone, Directors, and members of the public and press.

Councilman Jarman led the invocation. Vice Mayor Geoff McConnell led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Sheldon called for approval, additions and/or deletions to the agenda. Hearing and seeing none, Vice Mayor McConnell moved to approve the agenda. Councilman Chester seconded the motion. All were in favor of approval of the agenda by a roll call vote (5-0).

Vice Mayor McConnell	Aye
Councilman Jarman	Aye
Councilman Casto	Aye
Councilman Chester	Aye
Mayor Sheldon	Aye

**REGULAR AGENDA- DISCUSSION/ACTION**

**ITEM 1. Discussion Item – Review of the City Manager Candidate Resumes/ Applications.**

Mayor Sheldon reported Council was in session today to review the city manager candidate resumes and applications. Mayor Sheldon reported Council was each given 97 resumes/applications to review over the past several days. Mayor Sheldon explained the ballot process; that Members would list their top 10 candidates, with the number one candidate give 10 points, etc. Mayor Sheldon asked each Member to fill out their ballot sheet and give to Ms. Fasone.

While Finance Director Holly White tabulated the votes in real time, live on the screen, Mayor Sheldon provided community announcements.

Finance Director White reported there was a tie for 5<sup>th</sup> place.

**ITEM 2. Discussion Item – Shortlist of City Manager Candidate Applications.**

Mayor Sheldon called for discussion from Council on Item 2. Mayor Sheldon announced that the top candidates were: 1<sup>st</sup> Whitman, 2<sup>nd</sup> Hayes, 3<sup>rd</sup> Haskins, 4<sup>th</sup> Trombino and a tie for 5<sup>th</sup> Oman and Van Haute.

Councilman Jarman called Chief Whitman to the podium. Councilman Jarman asked Chief Whitman if he was prepared to make the transition and noted that this would take him out of Civil Service. Chief Whitman stated yes and talked about his public service and commitment to the community. Councilman Jarman noted that with his time on the Civil Service Commission, the Commission tried to hire from within.

Council discussed the process going forward, virtual interviews with the top six and/or top three candidates, not spending city funds on flights, hotels, etc. and possibly holding another special meeting, if needed.

Councilman Chester moved that Council interview the top three candidates. Councilman Casto seconded the motion. All were in favor of interviewing the top three candidates (stated above).

Mayor Sheldon reported that, for purposes of the agenda, Council was now on **Item 3, Discussion Item – Discussion of Timeline for Next Steps**. Mayor Sheldon noted there was a motion and a second to interview the top three candidates. Mayor Sheldon called for discussion. Mrs. Myers recommended Council open up the floor to public comments.

Mayor Sheldon called for public comments on the motion in front of Council.

Burnie Thompson – Mr. Thompson expressed his concern with the City Manager hiring process. Mr. Thompson made a verbal public records request for the memo that the last city manager provided to City Council, with redactions if necessary.

Michelle Carter – Ms. Carter commented that she would like to see a Mayor/Council form of government. Ms. Carter asked Council to take its time to find a City Manager from outside of Bay County. Ms. Carter commented that she would like the candidate to have college credentials.

Mayor Sheldon called for further public comments. Hearing and seeing none, Mayor Sheldon closed public comments.

Mayor Sheldon restated that there was a motion and a second on the floor to interview, virtually if necessary, the top three candidates from the scoring done by ballot. Mayor Sheldon called for further comments from Council. Hearing and seeing none, Mayor Sheldon asked Ms. Fasone to call the roll. The motion was unanimously adopted (5-0) by roll call vote.

Vice Mayor McConnell	Aye
Councilman Jarman	Aye
Councilman Casto	Aye
Councilman Chester	Aye
Mayor Sheldon	Aye

With nothing further, Mayor Sheldon adjourned the meeting by unanimous consent at 1:22 PM.

READ AND APPROVED this 27<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2021.



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Mark Sheldon, Mayor  
City of Panama City Beach, Florida

ATTEST:



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Lynne Fasone, MMC  
City Clerk

\* ACTION ITEMS NOTED WITH AN ASTERISK ARE TAKEN BOTH BY THE CITY COUNCIL AND THE PANAMA CITY BEACH REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY JOINTLY AND CONCURRENTLY.

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