

**MINUTES of the August 4, 2021 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.**

**Mayor Sheldon called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.**

**ROLL CALL**

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

Others present were City Manager Drew Whitman, Assistant City Manager Holly White, City Attorneys Amy Myers and Cole Davis, City Clerk Lynne Fasone, Directors and members of the public and press.

Councilman Michael Jarman led the invocation and the led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Sheldon reported that Council had a hard stop today at 11:15 a.m. so Council would roll outstanding items into Council's next special meeting on August 18<sup>th</sup>.

**BUDGET WORKSHOP AND PUBLIC HEARING**

Mayor Sheldon called for public comments.

**Dr. Sean Preston with Gulf Coast State College Foundation.** Dr. Preston discussed the College receiving \$200,000 in CARES Act funding. Dr. Preston asked Council to consider making a similar sized gift to provide scholarship funds to kids in the area. Discussion regarding "first dollar scholarships," endowments, and workforce for area took place. Council thanked Dr. Preston.

Mayor Sheldon called further public comments. Hearing and seeing none.

**GENERAL FUND FY 2022**

Mayor Sheldon open up the General Fund discussion.

City Manager Whitman thanked staff, especially Miss Joey, for their work on the budget. City Manager Whitman turned the dais over the Assistant City Manager Holly White. Ms. White reviewed the General Fund PowerPoint slides **attached**.

Council generally discussed personnel, services provided by Hagerty, ongoing grant management and funds paid to assist with obtaining grants.

Councilman Jarman recommended Staff prepare a spreadsheet on what the City had spent and anticipated to spend with Hagerty. Discussion regarding breaking down the Hagerty billing numbers took place. Discussion regarding the services that Hagerty performs, grant writers and grant compliance took place. Discussion regarding Hagerty's contract terms took place.

Councilman Casto reported he was an advocate for employees, however, he expressed concern with the 14 proposed new positions. Councilman Casto noted that it was time to be more conservative. Councilman Casto recommended that Councilmembers do one-on-ones with Drew and Holly to talk about the proposed 14 new positions. Councilman Casto noted he did not have as much concern with the Capital budget, however, he was concerned with the 14 new positions. Councilman Casto noted he did not have heartburn with the 5% raise.

Assistant Manager White reported that the most critical positions, in her opinion, were the IT Department positions. Mayor Sheldon asked Mr. Pickle to come up. Mayor Sheldon inquired, based on the survey, how many employees should be in the IT Department. Mr. Pickle reported six. Mayor Sheldon recommended that moving to four IT full-time people would be the right thing to do. Mayor Sheldon discussed remote work. City Manager Whitman concurred about the IT positions, recommended filling James Cramer's position, and cutting the electrician position this year.

Councilman Jarman concurred with the full-time IT positions and noted that those positions were included in the 5-year budget. Councilman Jarman noted he was more focused on the additions on top of what was already approved in the 5-year plan. Mayor Sheldon reported that Council appeared to be in agreement to move the electrician position out of this budget year and fund the IT positions.

Discussion regarding police department staffing and the number of full-time City employees being 370 took place. Discussion generally regarding providing for employees in the future, expenditures, the City's five-year plan and accounting for responsible growth took place.

Mayor Sheldon summarized that Council would like to see a spreadsheet on Hagerty by the next meeting, move the electrician position to 2024, and fund the IT positions.

Ms. White reviewed the **Legal Fund PowerPoint slides attached**. Mayor Sheldon called for comments. Hearing and seeing no comments and questions.


Ms. White reviewed the **Planning Department Fund PowerPoint slides attached**. Mayor Sheldon called for comments.

Vice Mayor McConnell commented that Director Leonard's budget was typically spot on. Councilman Casto concurred and inquired about the administrative aid position. Mr. Leonard discussed the purpose of the position, mostly to provide one centralized point of connection and further provided examples of duties. Mayor Sheldon discussed single point of contacts at the City and noted his support for this position. Discussion regarding software in the department took place. Councilman Casto inquired if the Utilities Department would pay for part of this position. Director Leonard stated yes.

Mayor Sheldon called for further comments. Hearing none, Mayor Sheldon recommended Council pause for now and reconvene on August 18<sup>th</sup>. Council members concurred.

With nothing further, Mayor Sheldon adjourned the meeting by unanimous consent at 11:15 a.m.

READ AND APPROVED this 18th day of August, 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.