

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 January 10, 2019.

ROLL

MAYOR MIKE THOMAS

COUNCILORS:

PAUL CASTO

PHIL CHESTER

GEOFF MCCONNELL

HECTOR SOLIS

CITY MANAGER:

MARIO GISBERT

CITY CLERK:

JO SMITH

CITY ATTORNEY:

AMY MYERS

Mayor Thomas called the Regular Meeting to order at 6 P.M. with all Councilmen, the City Manager, City Clerk and City Attorney present.

Derrick Bennett, Campus Pastor of the Northstar Church, gave the invocation and Councilman Solis led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Thomas announced the upcoming Community Events.

The Minutes of the Special Meeting for Hurricane Michael Updates/Needs of October 18, the Regular Meeting of November 8 and the Special Meeting of November 26, 2018 were read. **Councilman Chester made the motion to approve the Minutes as written. Second was by Councilman McConnell and the motion passed by unanimous roll call vote recorded as follows:**

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

Mayor Thomas asked if there were any additions or deletions to the Agenda. Councilman Solis requested to add a discussion of local gas prices to the agenda. **Councilman Chester made the motion to approve the Agenda as written with the addition of a discussion of local gas prices. Second was by Councilman Casto and the motion passed by unanimous roll call vote recorded as follows:**

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

Mayor Thomas added the Local Gas Price Discussion as Item #13 to the Agenda.

PRESENTATIONS

1 BOYS & GIRLS CLUB CIVIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD. Councilman Chester introduced Master Adrian Mitchell and presented her with the Civic Achievement Award for exemplary service to the Beach Boys and Girls Club. Ms. Latina Reed, Club representative, spoke of Aniyah's contributions to the Club. The audience responded with applause.

2 HALF-CENT SALES TAX CITIZENS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE PRESENTATION. Councilman Solis welcomed Chair Roger Scheeres to the podium as well as Vice-Chair Doug Gilmore. Chair Scheeres announced the names of the other Committee members and gave a brief history of the Oversight Committee and its duties. He reported that the City Council had only approved one task using the Half-Cent Sales Tax, the engineering for the Bay Parkway Segment 2 project. During FY18, \$284,371.06 had been spent toward that engineering task order.

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

Mayor Thomas opened the Public Comments section of the meeting at 6:10 P.M. and invited comments. There were none. He closed the Public Comments.

CONSENT AGENDA

Ms. Smith read the Consent Agenda Item by title.

1 "FLORIDA ARBOR DAY" PROCLAMATION. *"A Proclamation designating January 18, 2019 as "Florida Arbor Day" in Panama City Beach and reporting volunteers will plant 1,000 longleaf pines February 2, 2019 at the Conservation Park during the annual Longleaf Tree Planting Celebration."*

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

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

REGULAR AGENDA

ITEM 1 SHOREWALK SUBDIVISION PLAT APPROVAL, PUBLIC HEARING CONTINUED. Ms. Myers explained the staff requested this hearing be continued until the next council meeting. The plat and the title work had been received and had every expectation it would be ready for approval at the next Council meeting.

ITEM 2 ORDINANCE 1482, CHARTER AMENDMENT REGARDING CIVIL SERVICE BOARD POWERS, 2ND READING, PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPTION. Ms. Myers read Ordinance 1482 by title. The Mayor opened the Public Hearing at 6:14 p.m.

1 Mr. Burnie Thompson, 19272 Front Beach Road. Spoke in opposition to Ordinance 1482. Mr. Thompson commented that the Civil Service Board helps screen potential employees and it was mentioned before that it saves department heads time. Mr. Thompson questioned the cost and urgency of holding a special election.

Mayor Thomas explained the ballot proposal does not do away with the Civil Service Board, but allows to remain as a grievance board. Mayor Thomas commented that the Civil Service Board does a great job but there had been problems in the past which hindered hiring quality candidates. With nothing further, the Public Hearing was closed at 6:17 p.m.

Councilman Casto commented the Civil Service Board was working fine and had been in place almost fifty years. Councilman Casto commented that removing the Board's hiring duties would place a heavy workload on the employees where the Board performs that service for free. Councilman Chester clarified that each board member gets paid ten dollars a month. Mayor Thomas reiterated the problems with the pace of the Board and felt that the process slowed down the department heads and the best candidates which had a negative effect on the City. Councilman Casto explained the Civil Service Board had begun meeting twice a month to help expedite problems. He expressed concern that the Board will be able to stay together if they only meet once or twice a year for a grievance. Councilman Solis commented the department heads supported having a quicker hiring practice. He felt that cities of our size were doing direct hiring, while few still have a Civil Service Board. **Councilman Solis made the motion to approve Ordinance 1482. Second was by Councilman McConnell and the motion passed by majority roll call vote recorded as follows:**

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

ITEM 3 RESOLUTION 19-39, BALLOT LANGUAGE FOR CHARTER AMENDMENT. Ms. Myers read Resolution 19-39 by title. No discussion. **Councilman Solis made the motion to approve Resolution 19-39. Second was by Councilman McConnell and the motion passed by majority roll call vote recorded as follows:**

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

ITEM 4 ORDINANCE 1484, CONFIRMING LSV CAP, 2ND READING, PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPTION. Ms. Myers read Ordinance 1484 by title. Mayor Thomas opened the Public Hearing at 6:23 p.m. and asked for comments.

1 Tod Ingram, 12202 Hutchinson Boulevard. Mr. Ingram spoke in opposition and noted that the LSV's were supposed to replace scooters and that the market should dictate the number of LSV's.

2 Burnie Thompson, 19272 Front Beach Road. Mr. Thompson spoke in opposition and agreed with Mr. Ingram. Mr. Thompson stated that government should not regulate the free market.

3 Gary Beck, 17001 Front Beach Road. Mr. Beck spoke of his Federal case and commented on the various properties that was stolen from him. With nothing further, the Public Hearing was closed at 6:33 p.m. **Councilman Solis made the motion to approve Ordinance 1484. Second was by Councilman McConnell and the motion passed by majority roll call vote recorded as follows:**

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

ITEM 5 ORDINANCE 1485, AMENDING LDC RELATED TO PARKING CHANGES, 2ND READING, PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPTION. Ms. Myers read Ordinance 1485 by title. Mayor Thomas opened the Public Hearing at 6:35 p.m. and asked for comments.

1 Genese Hatcher, 203 S Wells Street. Ms. Hatcher commented parking has been a major issue. Ms. Hatcher asked about the Planning Department's work on additional changes to the Land Development Code which would change parking and increase building size. \

2 Burnie Thompson, 19272 Front Beach Road. Mr. Thompson spoke in opposition. He asserted that the Ordinance was designed to hurt Ms. Hatcher by Councilman Solis. He commented that Mayor Thomas' diner has parking spaces that are too short.

3 Gary Beck, 17001 Front Beach Road. Mr. Beck stated that the government is targeting people with statutes. He spoke of disputes with Bay County government. Mr. Beck spoke of Mr. Thompson's Facebook. With nothing further, the Public Hearing was closed at 6:42 p.m.

Mr. Mel Leonard explained these changes came from suggestions the Planning Board made along with the height incentive requests considered from discussion at that meeting. He is finishing up a summary of draft changes in the land development code. Councilman McConnell commented these are good changes. **Councilman McConnell made the motion to approve Ordinance 1485. Second was by Councilman Solis and the motion passed by unanimous roll call vote recorded as follows:**

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

ITEM 6 ORDINANCE 1486, AMENDING LDC CLARIFYING VARIANCE APPEALS, 2ND READING, PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPTION. Ms. Myers read Ordinance 1486. Mayor Thomas opened the Public Hearing at 6:45 p.m. and invited audience comments. There were none. He closed the Public Hearing at 6:45 p.m. **Councilman Chester made the motion to approve Ordinance 1486. Second was by Councilman Casto and the motion passed by unanimous roll call vote recorded as follows:**

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

ITEM 7 ORDINANCE 1487, ANNUAL UPDATE OF CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS SCHEDULE, 2ND READING, OUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPTION. Ms. Myers read Ordinance 1487 by title. Mayor Thomas opened the Public Hearing at 6:47 p.m. and invited audience comments. There were none. He closed the Public Hearing at 6:47 p.m. **Councilman Casto made the motion to approve Ordinance 1487. Second was by**

Councilman Chester and the motion passed by unanimous roll call vote recorded as follows:

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

ITEM 8 ORDINANCE 1488, AMENDING CHAPTER 25 CODE ENFORCEMENT PROCESS, 2ND READING, PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPTION. Ms. Myers read Ordinance 1488 by title. Mayor Thomas opened the Public Hearing at 6:48 p.m. and asked for comments.

1 Burnie Thompson, 19272 Front Beach Road. Mr. Thompson spoke in opposition and alleged that the Council was taking away recourse from the people.

2 Gary Beck, 17001 Front Beach Road. Mr. Beck commented he is a victim of corrupt code enforcement. The Public Hearing was closed at 6:55 p.m.

Ms. Myers explained the duties that were previously performed by the County Clerk of Courts would now be administered by the City Clerk or its designee. The due process provided by the city is unchanged, only the parties are changing. **Councilman McConnell made the motion to approve Ordinance 1488. Second was by Councilman Casto and the motion passed by unanimous roll call vote recorded as follows:**

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

ITEM 9 RESOLUTION 19-42, BID AWARD- DISASTER DEBRIS MONITORING CONTRACTS. Ms. Myers read Resolution 19-39 by title. This resolution would award two five year contracts to each firm, but no task orders would be issued. These companies would be on standby for debris monitoring services if needed, in event of another storm. Currently, city staff was undertaking debris monitoring for Hurricane Michael related debris. **Councilman Chester made the motion to approve Resolution 19-42. Second was by Councilman McConnell and the motion passed by unanimous roll call vote recorded as follows:**

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

ITEM 10 RESOLUTION 19-44, MULTI-USE TRAIL EXTENSION EAST, GAYLE'S TRAILS PHASE 11, PANHANDLE ENGINEERING MSA, TASK ORDER #2019-01 & BUDGET AMENDMENT #8. Ms. Myers read Resolution 19-44 by title. No discussion. **Councilman Chester made the motion to approve Resolution 19-44. Second was by Councilman McConnell and the motion passed by unanimous roll call vote recorded as follows:**

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

ITEM 11 RESOLUTION 19-45, BID AWARD- DISASTER DEBRIS REMOVAL, REDUCTION, & HAULING SVCS CONTRACT, TASK ORDER #2019-01 & BUDGET AMENDMENT #6. Ms. Myers read Resolution 19-45 by title. No discussion. **Councilman Casto made the motion to approve Resolution 19-45. Second was by Councilman Chester and the motion passed by unanimous roll call vote recorded as follows:**

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

ITEM 12 RESOLUTION 19-43, NEW CITY CLERK HIRING AND COMPENSATION. Ms. Myers explained Resolution 19-43 and that action by the Council was required to hire and set the compensation for a new City Clerk. **Councilman McConnell made the motion to approve Mary Jan Bossert as City Clerk. Second was by Councilman Casto and the motion passed by unanimous roll call vote recorded as follows:**

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

Mr. Gisbert explained that, in the past, the starting salary would be 5% more than candidate's current pay or the lowest scale of the new position, whichever is greater. **Councilman Solis made a motion to approve the salary range. Second was by Councilman Casto and the motion passed by unanimous roll call vote recorded as follows:**

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

ITEM 13 GAS PRICES- DISCUSSION. Councilman Solis commented the gas prices were high in the Panama City Beach compared to other areas. Councilman Solis commented that the area was being punished and being taken advantage of. He suggested the Council write a letter to the legislative representatives to get involved in this issue as well as send notice to our neighboring cities. He noted that, following Hurricane Michael, gas prices were affecting a lot of families in the area. He requested a letter be written, all Council members agreed.

DELEGATIONS

Mayor Thomas explained the Delegations period and opened this portion of the meeting at 7:05 P.M.

1 Burnie Thompson, 19272 Front Beach Road. Mr. Thompson commented that the Council's actions also were price-gouging. He saluted all police officers in honor of Officer Appreciation Day that was this week. He commented Mayor Thomas did not go through the metal detector.

2 Gary Beck, 17001 Front Beach Road. Mr. Beck commented on his ongoing dispute with the local governments of the area and the judicial system.

3 Cherie Crim, 17680 Front Beach Road. Ms. Crim thanked the Council for addressing the gas price issue. She commented it is not fair to residents to have one ballot in 2019, She would like to know the number of businesses that are not open due to the storm. She asked for empathy and respect.

4 Genese Hatcher, 203 S Wells Street. Ms. Hatcher asked how the council knows what items are before they vote on it.

With no further comments, the Mayor closed the Delegations period at 7:16 P.M. Mayor Thomas explained before every meeting he goes over the Agenda with the City Manager. If he has any questions, he checks with the City Attorneys and department heads. The Council members do the same thing. Councilman Solis commented the Council receives the Agenda a week before the meeting regarding every issue. If something needs to be answered, they get clarification. Each Council member goes to the City Manager separately to get their questions answered.

ATTORNEY REPORT

Ms. Myers stated she had no report.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

Mr. Gisbert read the open bids and available jobs.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Casto commended the street department crew, for doing a great job cleaning up our City. He discussed making sure the remaining debris piles were picked up before Spring Break. Mr. Gisbert explained these areas are commercial areas, this is why the City does not pick them up. The businesses should have received their letters of notice.

Councilman Solis commented there are still a lot of businesses closed. During the winter, businesses are closed for the season. Solis stated that he believed Firefly would be open at the end of the month. Boars Head was being repaired. He explained that many difficult things were hindering businesses from opening due to waiting on insurance for repairs. He discussed issues with parking, including semi-trucks blocking driveways and parking on the roads. He suggested the City offers a parking pass for semi-trucks if we have the space like it does for cars. Mr. Gisbert commented we will need to do research on that.

Councilman McConnell explained the Planning Board met yesterday and discussed the comprehensive plan. He requested the City Manager to start working on the strategic plan and also requested monthly financial statements from the City Manager.

With nothing further, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 P.M.

READ AND APPROVED this 24th of January, 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