

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 April 23, 2020.

ROLL

MAYOR MARK SHELDON

COUNCILORS:

PAUL CASTO

PHIL CHESTER

GEOFF MCCONNELL

MICHAEL JARMAN

CITY MANAGER:

TONY O'ROURKE

INTERIM CITY CLERK:

JO SMITH

CITY ATTORNEY:

AMY MYERS

Councilman Chester called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M.

Mayor-Elect Mark Sheldon was sworn in as Mayor with his family in attendance. He then took his place on the dais.

Councilman-Elect Michael Jarman was sworn in as Councilman, Ward 4, with his family in attendance. He then assumed his seat at the dais.

Councilman-Elect Phil Chester was sworn in as Councilman, Ward 2, with his family in attendance. He then assumed his seat at the dais.

Ms. Smith then called the roll at 9:06 A.M. with all the Council, City Manager, Interim City Clerk, and City Attorneys present.

Councilman Chester gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Sheldon read the Community Announcements.

The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 12 and the Emergency Special Meeting of March 17, 2020 were presented for approval.

Councilman McConnell 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:

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

Mayor Sheldon asked if there were any additions or deletions to the Agenda. The Mayor said the City Manager asked to add **Ordinance 1520-E, Limited Beach Reopening**, and it be moved to the front of the Agenda. There were no objections.

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

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

PRESENTATION

Councilman Chester asked Chief Whitman to come to the Podium as he read the Proclamation declaring May 10-16, 2020 as "National Police Week" and May 15th as "Peace Officers Memorial Day". Chief Whitman thanked the Council on behalf of his men and women.

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

Mayor Sheldon opened the Public Hearing at 9:07 A.M. and asked for comments. There were none. He closed the Public Comments section at 9:08 A.M.

REGULAR AGENDA- DISCUSSION/ACTION

ITEM 1 ORDINANCE 1520-E, LIMITED BEACH REOPENING. Ms. Myers read Ordinance 1520-E and stated it mirrored the County's Emergency Ordinance with social distancing, hours, no commercial activity, and extension until May 1st.

Councilman Chester asked to add the Fire Chief to Section 5, and there were no objections.

Councilman Casto said a soft beach reopening was a logical step, with groups no more than ten (10). He said he did not anticipate many visitors because of the short-term rental prohibition. He reminded that the Governor encouraged outdoor exercise and fresh air, and the big open space and a phased-in approach.

Councilman McConnell said it had been difficult to keep the beaches closed, and this was a good first step. He reminded that the bars and restaurants remained closed. The beaches would be strictly for recreation.

Councilman Jarman said he trusted that the County had done their due diligence in wanting to reopen the beaches.

Councilman Chester said the TDC was not advertising for visitors.

Mayor Sheldon said it was time to open for limited beach access

Councilman McConnell made the motion to approve the amended Ordinance 1520-E adding the Fire Chief. Second was by Councilman Casto and the motion passed by unanimous roll call vote recorded as follows:

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

ITEM 2 RESOLUTION 20-98, COVID-19 CLOSURES/UPDATE. Ms. Myers read Resolution 20-98 and asked to strike Section 1.

Mr. O'Rourke presented a powerpoint presentation and explained using a graduated approach rather than an aggressive approach. He spoke of hotspots and the potential reignition of the disease coupled with the flu in the fall. He repeated the past steps taken by the Council and outlined the Phase 1 steps for the record. He said the pool was open, receiving people from Pensacola to Tallahassee. He said the Pier was open as well as the Conservation Park and Gayle's Trails. He spoke of the current figures for the virus and how the infection could spread through the A/C systems. Mr. O'Rourke explained the benchmarks and potential vaccines, being proactive and better prepared.

Councilman McConnell said it was great the City and County taking the same steps. He said it was reasonable to hold until May 15th on the section 2, parades and special events. Both Councilman Casto and Councilman Chester concurred.

Councilman McConnell made the motion to approve Resolution 20-98 with the May 15th date on Section 2. Second was by Councilman Jarman and the motion passed by unanimous roll call vote recorded as follows:

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

Related to Section 3, the consensus was again May 15th in Resolution 20-98.

Councilman McConnell made the motion to approve Resolution 20-98 with the May 15th date on Section 3. Second was by Councilman Chester and the motion passed by unanimous roll call vote recorded as follows:

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

Councilman Chester made the motion to approve amended Resolution 20-98 with the May 15th dates. Second was by Councilman Casto and the motion passed by unanimous roll call vote recorded as follows:

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

ITEM 3 RESOLUTION 20-96, APPROVE BUDGET AMENDMENT #28 AND PAYMENT FOR EMERGENCY REPAIRS WEST BAY TRANSMISSION LINE REPAIRS. Ms. Myers read Resolution 20-96 by title. Mayor Sheldon expressed the need for a redundant water system and the City Manager concurred. Mr. O'Rourke said Mr. Shortt would present information at the next Council meeting.

Councilman Casto made the motion to approve Resolution 20-96. Second was by Councilman McConnell and the motion passed by unanimous roll call vote recorded as follows:

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

ITEM 4 RESOLUTION 20-97, CITY CLERK RECRUITMENT CONSULTANT AND BUDGET AMENDMENT #29. Ms. Myers read Resolution 20-97 by title. Mr. O'Rourke explained the three options for the City Clerk search, with preference for a hybrid approach. He explained the steps which would be taken by Colin Baenziger and Associates.

Councilman McConnell said he had good experience with Mr. Baenziger in the past, finding a qualified City Manager. Mayor Sheldon said it was impressive to see the planned work, very thorough and detailed.

Councilman McConnell made the motion to approve Resolution 20-97. Second was by Councilman Chester and the motion passed by unanimous roll call vote recorded as follows:

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

ITEM 5 RESOLUTION 20-95, BEREAVEMENT POLICY. Ms. Myers read Resolution 20-95 by title. Councilman McConnell said this would be a great benefit.

Councilman Chester made the motion to approve Resolution 20-95. Second was by Councilman Casto and the motion passed by unanimous roll call vote recorded as follows:

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

ITEM 6 CITY BOARD VACANCIES- DISCUSSION.

Councilman Jarman made the motion to appoint Councilman McConnell as Vice-Mayor. Second was by Councilman Casto and the motion passed by unanimous roll call vote recorded as follows:

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

Regarding the two TDC seats, Councilman Chester was currently on the TDC Board and Chair while one seat was vacated by Mayor Thomas. **Councilman McConnell made the motion to appoint Councilman Casto for the second seat. Second was by Councilman Jarman and the motion passed by unanimous roll call vote recorded as follows:**

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

The City Council selects the Planning Board Chair annually. **Councilman Chester made the motion to appoint the current Vice-Chair Josh Wakstein as Chair. Second was by Councilman McConnell and the motion passed by unanimous roll call vote recorded as follows:**

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

The Council directed Staff to advertise for the Planning Board vacancy and bring applicants back to the May meeting.

Regarding the TPO vacancy, replacing Councilman Solis, Mayor Sheldon suggested Councilman Jarman. **Councilman Chester made the motion to appoint Councilman Jarman to the TPO. Second was by Councilman Casto and the motion passed by unanimous roll call vote recorded as follows:**

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

DELEGATIONS

Mayor Sheldon opened the Delegations period at 10:01 A.M. and asked for comments.

1 Mr. Michael Steinkirchner. Mr. Steinkirchner could not be heard on the audio. With no further comments, the Mayor closed the Delegations period at 10:04 A.M.

ATTORNEY REPORT

Ms. Myers had no report.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

Mr O'Rourke thanked Staff for their stepping up during the pandemic with the work being maintained. He said the March Gross Sales may be down as much as 60%, totaling \$9.1 Million Dollars, and reminded that the City had no Ad Valorem taxes, He said Staff was keeping a close eye on the figures and looking for reductions. Regarding the Employee survey, the return rate was 92% to allow input from the employees. He reminded about the 2020 Census and its importance, with the current rate of return relatively low. Mr. O'Rourke spoke of the commitment to the strategic plan with Council input, creating a roadmap leading to results.

COUNCILCOMMENTS

Councilman Casto welcomed the new Councilors.

Councilman Chester welcomed the Mayor and Councilman Jarman.

Councilman McConnell also welcomed the new Councilors. He echoed the City Manager's comments about the Census, so critical to funding. He said he also looked forward to the strategic plan and the 5 year budget.

Councilman Jarman thanked the residents of Panama City Beach for their votes and confidence.

Mayor Sheldon thanked his family for their support, as well as his campaign team and volunteers. He thanked the voters and the City employees, and everyone being a team. He spoke of honor and respect and community feedback.

The Mayor spoke of creating three new Committees with the Councilmembers picking one person each for the Committees. 1) CRA Oversight Committee, 2) Financial Advisory Committee, and 3) Economic Development Committee.

Mayor Sheldon also mentioned revamping the Agenda, allowing the public to speak on every item as presented. He said public comments would be taken on non-Agenda items at the front of the meeting. There would be no delegation period, and everyone would be allowed to speak even if this created a longer meeting, but public input was crucial.

With nothing further, the meeting was adjourned at 10:20 A.M.


READ AND APPROVED this 11th of June, 2020.

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