

MINUTES of the May 11, 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 Mark Sheldon called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

ROLL CALL

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

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

Vice Mayor McConnell led the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Sheldon called for approval, additions and/or deletions to the agenda. Vice Mayor McConnell moved to approve the agenda. Councilman Jarman 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 - TO CONSIDER REGULATIONS AND ACTIONS THAT MAY BE TAKEN TO ADDRESS PUBLIC SAFETY ISSUES THAT HAVE OCCURRED IN RECENT WEEKS AND ARE EXPECTED TO CONTINUE THROUGHOUT THE BUSY SUMMER SEASON.

Mayor Sheldon announced that he called this meeting a couple days ago to have a discussion to consider regulations and actions that may be taken to address public safety issues that have occurred in recent weeks and are expected to continue throughout the busy summer season. Mayor Sheldon asked Chief Lindsey to provide an update.

Chief Lindsey acknowledged that the City was indeed experiencing a busier year this year than last year. Chief Lindsey reported that the calls for service were ahead of last years' calls for service; over 80,000 calls. Chief Lindsey reported the issues facing the Police Department were not solely law enforcement issues and possibly the City could find a solution jointly with the business community. Chief Lindsey noted he was available to take questions and/or provide data Council may need.

Vice Mayor McConnell inquired about the number officers on the strip on the weekend, at any given time. Chief Lindsey reported that the number was dependent upon events and intel gathered. Chief Lindsey reported that, during one of the busiest weekends in March, with mutual aid, the City had

around 60 officers. Discussion regarding utilizing mutual aid outside of Spring Break and on a more regular basis took place. Vice Mayor McConnell inquired as to how much was approximately budgeted for officers and mutual aid during Spring Break. City Manager Whitman reported that \$100,000 was budgeted last year and the City had already spent that amount this year.

Mayor Sheldon called for further comments for Chief Lindsey. Hearing and seeing none, Mayor Sheldon thanked Chief Lindsey.

Mayor Sheldon asked Council members to consider increasing fines/penalties for loud music, etc. Mayor Sheldon suggested that the City and the business community look at "nuisance businesses." Mayor Sheldon suggested that the City possibly look at hiring more reserve officers.

Vice Mayor McConnell concurred with Mayor Sheldon and recommended that the City partner with the business community to police its parking lots.

Councilman Chester reported that the TDC would be providing more funding for safety, for police, mutual aid, etc. Discussion regarding how the City finds mutual aid officers and the City's reserve force took place.

Councilman Casto noted he agreed with Vice Mayor McConnell, that the City should look into asking the businesses for help, especially with the parking lot problems at night. Councilman Casto discussed asking the businesses to police their own parking lots, as had been done in the past. Councilman Jarman agreed with Councilman Casto and recommended focusing on the areas that take the bulk of the City's resources. Discussion regarding adding extra security and towing in the parking lots took place.

Mayor Sheldon called for further comments from Council. Hearing and seeing none.

ITEM 2. PUBLIC COMMENTS. Mayor Sheldon called for public comments.

Michael Steinkirchner, 132 Lakeside Circle – Mr. Steinkirchner reported that this week was national police officer week. Mr. Steinkirchner called everyone's attention to a recent case dealing with illegal firearms. Mr. Steinkirchner recommended that City Council and voters reach out to the States Attorney Office and judges and ask for stricter penalties.

Tom Klumps, 614 Poinsettia Court – Mr. Klumps discussed the City's recent survey, Thunder Beach, traffic congestion, poor behavior of visitors, noise pollution, and the Jeep Jam. Mr. Klumps inquired as to where the TDC advertises and to whom they advertise to. Mr. Klumps suggested that the TDC does not care about the PCB residents. Mr. Klumps asked the TDC to advertise to better demographics to get better people here.

Dave Trepanier, Shops of Edgewater, Firefly Restaurant – Mr. Trepanier thanked Council for bringing this item to a meeting. Mr. Trepanier reported that the shop owners at Edgewater were trying to find solutions, that they had brought in four off-duty officers and were putting up light towers in the parking lot. Mr. Trepanier reported they would tow if needed. Mr. Trepanier thanked the Police and Sherriff for their help and noted he was in favor of larger fines/penalties.

Jim Bradley, Shipwreck Limited – Mr. Bradley reported that it was getting to the point on the weekends that he needed to close his business early. Mr. Bradley added that he and his employees were concerned for their safety. Mr. Bradley inquired about where the TDC advertised. Mr. Bradley expressed concern with the two large condo towers hear his business leasing rooms to more than the permitted number of

occupants per room. Mr. Bradley asked that the City to bring in higher level events that might help to eliminate the troublesome individuals.

John, owner of Mr. Surfs – John thanked Council for discussing this item. John discussed the recent incident involving a shooting of two young men on the beach. John suggested that the City was fighting a spiritual warfare. John invited the PCB Police Officers, any anyone else, to come to his business and pray.

Colleen Swab, Outlaw and California Rentals – Ms. Swab reported that the golfcart companies had gotten together and decided that they would not permit overnight rentals and no 3-day rentals May 20-23. Ms. Swab added that she would also be requiring renters to be 25 years of age and have proof of insurance. Ms. Swab added that she would be closing her stores down early during these dates. Ms. Swab reported that she would have spotlights at her Thomas Drive and Edgewater Shops stores and had hired a police officer for Friday and Saturday nights. Ms. Swab reported that the golfcart community was coming together to do what they could to be part of the solution.

Mayor Sheldon called for further comments from the public. Hearing and seeing none, Mayor Sheldon closed the public comment portion at 11:26 a.m.

Mayor Sheldon reported that he would reach out to the States Attorney Office and asked for stricter penalties. Mayor Sheldon called for further discussion from Council.

Councilman Chester invited everyone to come to a TDC meeting to get answers on advertising questions.

Vice Mayor McConnell thanked the LSV community for being proactive. Mayor Sheldon and Councilman Jarman concurred.

Councilman Casto noted his support if Council needed to change some of the rules to keep the City safe and family oriented.

Mayor Sheldon asked legal counsel if they had a direction. Mrs. Myers reported that it appeared there was some appetite to increase fines/penalties with respect to noise and parking lot violations. Council members concurred.

With nothing further, Mayor Sheldon adjourned the meeting by unanimous consent at 11:29 a.m.

READ AND APPROVED this 9th day of August, 2021.



Mark Sheldon, Mayor
City of Panama City Beach, Florida

ATTEST:



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.