



City of
Panama City Beach

City Hall
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PCB, FL 32413
www.pcbfl.gov

MINUTES of the **April 1, 2022 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 April 1, 2022 special meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

ROLL CALL

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

A quorum was present with all five council members. Others present were City Manager Drew Whitman, Assistant City Manager Holly White, City Attorney Cole Davis, City Clerk Lynne Fasone, Directors, staff, and members of the public and press.

Pastor Wayne from Destiny Worship Center led the invocation. Councilman Chester led the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA AND DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

ITEM 1. ORDINANCE NO. 1586 - EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CIVIL EMERGENCY AUTHORITY, FIRST READING.

Mayor Sheldon introduced Mr. Cole Davis, City Attorney. Mr. Davis read Ordinance 1586 by title only. Mr. Cole reported that the City does not currently have a civil emergency management ordinance. Mr. Davis explained the purpose of the emergency management ordinance, civil emergencies as defined in the ordinance, powers of the City Manager listed in the ordinance, City Manager powers being limited to 72 hours maximum before it has to come back to Council, powers begin limited in scope geographically and if the Chief of Police makes a written request showing that there is credible intelligence that there is likely to be a civil emergency in the next 12 hours, the City Manager can take much more limited measures as outlined in the ordinance. Mr. Davis further explained the notification requirements of the ordinance and penalties and fines.

Mayor Sheldon invited Police Chief Talamantez to comment. Chief Talamantez summarize the atrocious events of the past weekend. Chief Talamantez reported that the City had about 130 officers on the streets at any given time, about a 600% increase of normal staffing. Chief Talamantez further reported on additional personnel, and additional equipment that could be used, and intelligence working an event. Chief Talamantez explained the "60% Rule" with respect to staffing and further discussed finding good police candidates in the given environment. Chief Talamantez reported on the increased calls for services. Chief Talamantez reported that the City's support staff, including Communications Staff, was also needed. Chief Talamantez reported that the City's support staff, including Communications Staff, was also needed. Chief Talamantez discussed not being able to control who comes to town and this past weekend being an unusual and an unprecedented event. Chief Talamantez reported on the City's mutual aid agreements and thanked the municipalities who assisted the City. Chief Talamantez thanked city leadership for supporting

him and this staff. Chief Talamantez recommended that a professional and educated plan be developed to work the problem.

Mayor Sheldon thanked Chief Talamantez and reported that the City was 77 strong and yet there was over 130 officers strong on the streets helping the City. Mayor Sheldon thanked Bay County, Lynn Haven, Panama City, FWC, State Police, and every municipality who helped the City. Mayor Sheldon added that the City was prepared for this, however, this was not spring break people, not college educated people coming down to have a good time, they were coming down to be lawless. Mayor Sheldon thanked Chief Talamantez and the entire team and noted they had the support of City Council.

Mayor Sheldon invited comment from the City Manager Whitman. Manager Whitman commented that he was extremely proud of Chief Talamantez and the troops. Manager Whitman reported the City had over 100 Officers supporting PBC. Manager Whitman added that he stands behind the Chief. Manager Whitman added that the City did not get caught with pants down. Manager Whitman discussed daily briefings between he and the Chief. Manager Whitman stated that he was very proud of Chief Talamantez and the men and woman of the City's Police Department. Manager Whitman explained that this ordinance was really nothing new, Council had these powers, however, it eliminates a delay. Manager Whitman added that these powers were in the State statue. Manager Whitman explained how the ordinance provides some relief for business owners. Manager Whitman thanked those businesses who voluntarily helped the City by closing early, pulling their scooters off the streets, etc. Manager Whitman added that he would always protect the Chief, his staff, and this community. Manager Whitman stated he stood behind the ordinance.

Councilman Casto noted his support of Ordinance 1586 and added this was a good first step. Councilman Casto added that this event was not promoted by the TDC, the City, nor any business on the beach. Councilman Casto reported that the promoter of this event was arrested here on our beach. Councilman Casto concurred that the Police Department was prepared for this event by using all its equipment and manpower they had. Councilman Casto reported that today's goal was to make sure this type of event never happens again. Councilman Casto offered his support of Chief Talamantez and Manager Whitman and noted together they had over 50 years in service. Councilman Casto thanked Manager Whitman, the police departments, fire departments and everyone who help the City this past weekend. Councilman Casto added that he was here today to do whatever he could to make sure this type of event doesn't happen again.

Councilman Chester concurred with Councilman Casto. Councilman Chester added that he would always support the PCB Police. Councilman Chester thanked Manager Whitman, the police departments, fire departments and everyone who help the PCB this past weekend. Councilman Chester offered his support for Ordinance 1586.

Councilman Jarman thanked PCB residents for attending today's meeting and those watching online. Councilman Jarman commended the efforts of all first responders and dispatchers who assisted this weekend. Councilman Jarman offered his support of Ordinance 1586 and added that his actions were based on recommendations. Councilman Jarman added that PCB's identity was family-friendly and the City must stay true to its identity. Councilman Jarman added that today's actions were endorsed by the Chamber. Councilman Jarman added that Council fully supported its Police Department and Council was prepared to implement the ordinance to keep the community safe.

Vice Mayor McConnell thanked the law enforcement community, elected officials, and business owners who stepped up. Vice Mayor McConnell thanked those who reached out to the Police Department anonymous portal with photographs, etc. and asked that people continue to send intelligence to the Police Department. Vice Mayor McConnell offered his support of Ordinance 1586 and added that it goes a long way to give the City, City Manager and the Chief the ability to respond to any emergency.

Mayor Sheldon thanked the business community for their support. Mayor Sheldon discussed spring break in 2015-2016. Mayor Sheldon discussed the City being a family-friendly destination. Mayor Sheldon reported that this past weekend's event was not permitted by the City, was not a business event, it was a group that came to town. Mayor Sheldon recommended giving the City Manager and Police Chief more tools to work with. Mayor Sheldon thanked the State's Attorney Office and the Defender's Office for the maximum mandates imposed on the offenders. Mayor Sheldon discussed informing the public and the influencer promoting the event. Mayor Sheldon added that the City was blessed to have the situation turn out the way it did, as there was hand to hand interactions that removed those 75 guns off the streets. Mayor Sheldon added that the Police Department was not caught off guard and reiterated that this group was not permitted by the City and that it was run off the beach so they went over to Panama City.

Mayor Sheldon called for public comments.

Mark Meade, Laketown Warf - Mr. Meade thanked the Police and Fire Departments. Mr. Meade discussed the lawless crowds last weekend and called it a failure of leadership. Mr. Meade called for the Mayor's resignation, being the CEO of the City.

Rick Ramos, Resident of PCB – Mr. Ramos commented that he typically does not speak at meetings. Mr. Ramos applauded and thanked the Mayor for his leadership. Mr. Ramos thanked Chief Talamantez for doing a fine job. Mr. Ramos added that he would not accept the Mayor's resignation. Mr. Ramos suggested that the Council look at pay to park, since parking was at a premium and recommended property owners bring in extra security.

Casey White, White's Wrecker Service – Ms. White commended the City's leadership, the police and fire departments on their actions. Ms. White stated she and her company were here to offer their service and help anyway needed.

John Latham – Mr. Latham stated he objected to Ordinance 1586 on every level. Mr. Latham stated he believed that the event was a "false-flag0", allowed to escalate, and that Police were encouraged to stand down in an effort to secure incumbent candidates reelection and the passing of the charter amendments. Mr. Latham further discussed the Florida League of Cities and the City waiving immunity.

Arlene Fremming – Ms. Fremming recommended increased communications with residents. Ms. Fremming asked that the residents be more informed and asked the City to do better with communicating with the residents. Ms. Arlene commented that she realized this was an unprecedented event. Ms. Fremming thanked Council for the meeting today, responding to this issue, and added that she appreciated everyone.

Mike Canzoneri, Resident of PCB forever. Mr. Canzoneri reported that he was a senior military officer. Mr. Canzoneri applauded Council and first responders for making our beach safer. Mr. Canzoneri recommended that Council keep the beach a family-friendly beach and to keep that motto in the City's long-range plans. Mr. Canzoneri again thanked law enforcement. Mr. Canzoneri asked Council to try not to limit everyone's freedoms when putting the ordinance in place. Mr. Canzoneri thanked everyone and added that he appreciated everyone's efforts.

Anthony Gingrow, Edgewater Crossing – Mr. Gingrow commented on the 2015 Spring break issues. Mr. Gingrow recommended that the City reached out promoters and pastors as they did in 2015. Mr. Gingrow added that this was nothing new, that these were the “100 milers”. Mr. Gingrow asked everyone to not point fingers, but to come together and move forward. Mr. Gingrow added that he did not think that the ordinance was a bad idea, that he supported it, and that he thought the City nailed it.

Breanna Hoffman, PCB Resident – Ms. Hoffman reported that she was born and raised here. Ms. Hoffman commented that she thought that the ordinance addressed all of her issues. Ms. Hoffman commented that her daughter was at the Arnold High School prom. Ms. Hoffman asked that the City to please communicate with the Schools so they can make informed decisions.

Todd Trossen, Resident of The Glades – Mr. Trossen expressed his appreciation for the law enforcement community who did a fantastic job this past weekend. Mr. Trossen commended that it was fortunate the City’s Fire Department and EMS was not needed. Mr. Trossen expressed support for Ordinance 1586. Mr. Trossen inquired about Section 29-41-10, and inquired if private security was allowed on the streets. Mr. Trossen thanked the first responder and community for supporting the ordinance.

Burnie Thompson – Mr. Thompson stated he had been calling for more resources. Mr. Thompson recommended that TDC money be used to support public safety. Mr. Thompson commented that more money should be directed toward police to hire and train them. Mr. Thompson commented that he felt that the intelligence was there and that the City knew this event was coming. Mr. Thompson stated that he felt that the owner of VibeZ, in town, was related to some councilmembers’ campaign manager. Mr. Thompson talked about an FBI investigation.

Pastor Ramon Duvull from Beachside Center– Pastor Duvull thanked Pastor Wayne for setting the tenor of today’s meeting in prayer. Pastor Duvull commended all officials and first responders. Pastor Duvull asked all to trust in God. Pastor Duvull added that all of the intelligence could never be foolproof, as nothing could stop those that took part in this past weekend’s event. Pastor Duvull asked all to put trust in God and recognize that there may be a culture war going on.

Alfie Martin, PCB Resident – Mr. Martin thanked the Chiefs. Mr. Martin talked about perception of PCB. Mr. Martin talked about making calls that this was building up. Mr. Martin asked that the noise on the streets be controlled better. Mr. Martin discussed getting the names and car registrations of all of this rental guests.

Michelle Carter – Ms. Carter talked about her day on March 26th. Ms. Carter talked about traffic, that Chief Talamantez and the Police Department had done a good job. Ms. Carter recommended that the National Guard be sent in if another event happens. Ms. Carter stated she did not believe that this was Council’s nor the Mayor’s fault. Ms. Carter expressed concern with the ordinance as she felt that it was bad for the business owners.

Julie Hilton, Resident of PCB – Ms. Hilton stated she was grateful for Council, the first responders and all that everyone did this weekend. Ms. Hilton stated she was appreciative to be part of PCB. Ms. Hilton reported that her properties did not have the element of people that took part in all this bad stuff. Ms. Hilton stated her damages were the hundreds of reservations that were canceled. Ms. Hilton asked for better communications between the City, community and business owners. Ms. Hilton stated that she was in favor of the idea of having roadblocks, however, she understood there might be a legal challenge to that. Ms. Hilton expressed appreciate of the Council and first responders. Ms. Hilton stated, with regard to the ordinance, she was in favor and asked that it just not be abused.

Jeanie Cavanaugh, Resident PCB – Ms. Cavanaugh stated she lived near what was going on. Ms. Cavanaugh stated that the Police Officers were the best. Cavanaugh expressed concern that Council knew they were coming this year, however, Council did not stop the group from coming. Ms. Cavanaugh asked Council for better communication with the community. Ms. Cavanaugh asked Council to take care of those trucks that were up in the front and get rid of them. Ms. Cavanaugh asked that our Officers be more protected.

Christopher McLane, President of the Beach Chamber and PCB Resident. Mr. McLane thanked the men and woman of the Police Department. Mr. McLane agreed there was no easy solution, however, he felt that Ordinance 1586 was a good start to fixing the problem and asked that everyone to stand together.

Captain Matt Smith, Panama City Inshore Fishing and lifelong resident – Mr. Smith commented that he had been in the fishing charter business for 13 years. Mr. Smith reported that many of his charters canceled because of this weekend. Mr. Smith commented that his future hangs in the balance as the City's imagine was everything to his business. Mr. Smith asked Council to be proactive. Mr. Smith thanked law enforcement and first responders.

Michelle Richardson, Resident of PCB. Ms. Richardson recommended more law enforcement presence on the beach as there was too much drinking and drug activity on the beach.

Robert Cox, 26-year Resident of PCB – Mr. Cox commented that he supported most of what was said today. Mr. Cox offered his support of the City's law enforcement. Mr. Cox asked Council to make plans to prevent this type of situation in the future. Mr. Cox discussed city funding.

Pastor Wayne from Destiny Worship Center – Pastor Wayne asked for prayer for all people. Pastor Wayne commented that culture was changing and called all to prayer for the community. Pastor Wayne noted that he was grateful that Council allowed the community to speak today and added that the community was standing behind you in prayer.

Jim Bradley, Shipwreck Limited – Mr. Bradley commented that the Police need more tools, including more canines. Mr. Bradley discussed the effectiveness of canines. Mr. Bradley asked the TDC to fund more canines. Mr. Bradley commented that the ordinance calls for small businesses to patrol its own parking lots. Mr. Bradley stated that that was almost an impossible job for a small business to do. Mr. Bradley asked Council to please revisit that part. Mr. Bradley thanked everyone for everything. Mr. Bradley asked Council to revisit command centers, similar to Seaside, and more canines for the PD.

Karen Lott, Resident off Allison, behind the Church – Ms. Lott recommended that the Police Department block off the bridges all year around and have the Police Department check for guns and take them away at those roadblocks.

Mayor Sheldon called for additional public comments. Hearing and seeing none, Mayor Sheldon closed public comments at 9:30 a.m. Mayor Sheldon called for a brief 5-minute recess.

At 9:36 a.m. Mayor Sheldon reconvened the meeting. Mayor Sheldon noted this item was available to Council.

Councilman Casto reported that, as a board member of the TDC, he would push the TDC for more funding for the Police Department for public safety.

Councilman Chester concurred with Councilman Casto. Councilman Chester added, being a TDC representative as well, he had talked with Mr. Rowe about money that would legally be able to be used for public safety, lifeguards, etc. Councilman Chester added that he supported our Officers.

Councilman Jarman commented that he believed Ordinance 1586 addressed communications. Councilman Jarman added that he would talk with other cities about how they addressed these types of events. Councilman Jarman reported that his son was at prom at Edgewater as well and he felt that the area was secure. Councilman Jarman asked the City Attorney to address the private security issue. Councilman Jarman concurred with Councilmen Casto and Chester with respect to TDC funding and added that he constantly was in communications with the TDC about funding. Councilman Jarman reported that the Police Department was constantly shutting down this event/promoter and that is why they kept moving the location of the party. Councilman Jarman reported that addressing the modified trucks was at the State of Florida level.

Vice Mayor McConnell reminded everyone that the TDC was not a city organization. Vice Mayor McConnell added that the City was currently looking for additional resources to fund public safety. Vice Mayor McConnell concurred that the City could have done a better job communicating during the event and we would work on that. Vice Mayor McConnell discussed how the Police Department tracked events and the balance of not crying wolf. Vice Mayor McConnell discussed Council being proactive. Vice Mayor McConnell reported that this ordinance was allowed by state law and offered his support. Vice Mayor McConnell assured everyone that this event was mortifying and the City did not want to have it happen again.

Vice Mayor McConnell moved to approve Ordinance 1586. Councilman Casto seconded the motion. Mayor Sheldon called for final discussion from Council.

Mayor Sheldon asked Mr. Davis to speak about the private security question. Mr. Davis reported that the ordinance authorizes the City to aid businesses, authorizes the City Manager to place security personnel, aid the businesses/private property owners, not involved in the emergency. Mr. Davis added the ordinance provides aid without charging them. Mr. Davis explained, alternatively, if a business was encouraging the emergency how the City could act.

Mayor Sheldon reminded everyone that this event was not a City event. Mayor Sheldon assured everyone that the City was in communication with the Superintendent of School and continues to be in contact with him. Mayor Sheldon discussed TDC funding. Mayor Sheldon added that he would have the team look at the squatted trucks. Mr. Davis reported that, under this ordinance, the City Manager was authorized to prohibit squatted trucks, those type of trucks, from certain streets, during an emergency. Mayor Sheldon recommended hotel/condo owners keep rates higher and get a list of people who rent, as Alfie discussed. Mayor Sheldon reported that "EventBright" was a ticketing company, they were not the organizer behind this event. Mayor Sheldon reported that he would work with the City Manager and Assistant City Manager to get more canines on the streets.

Mayor Sheldon called for further discussion from Council. Hearing and seeing none, Mayor Sheldon asked Ms. Fasone to call the roll. All were in favor of approval of Ordinance 1586 by a roll call vote (5-0).

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

CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Whitman reported that the gentleman’s comment that he asked the Police Department to standby was completely false. Chief Whitman reported that he was completely behind Chief Talamantez. Manager Whitman thanked Chief Morgan and the Fire Department for standing up this weekend. Manager Whitman also thanked the Street Department employees who were out cleaning up the streets at 5:00 a.m. the next day.

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

Mr. Davis reported that Ordinance 1586 would be back for a second reading and final consideration by Council on April 14, 2022.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Sheldon called for comments from Council. Councilman Casto asked Manager Whitman to take a strong look at roadblocks and to please report back as to if that could be done.


Councilman Chester commented that canines were an essential part of the Police Department. Councilman Chester inquired if the City could call in the canines from the Navy Base. Chief Talamantez agreed that canines were extremely helpful and explained that when he takes a patrol officer and make him/her a canine officer, we remove the ability of transporting prisoners, a second car needs to be called out to transport offenders. Chief Talamantez added that the City could call military working dogs out for certain things. Councilman Jarman inquired with respect to transportation, could the City look at other agencies to minimize impact on our officers.

Vice Mayor McConnell discussed multiple detention centers on the Beach and agreed that it was a lot of manpower to escort prisoners to Star Ave. Vice Mayor McConnell added that a mobile facility would be a great asset on the Beach.

Mayor Sheldon thanked all of the City’s workers and noted he was proud of all of our teams. Mayor Sheldon added that we are a community of families and great tourist, that we are all in this together and that today’s ordinance was a start that gives the City Manager needed emergency powers. Mayor Sheldon added that Council would look at giving the Police Department more resources, more canines, larger transport facilities, etc. Mayor Sheldon thanked everyone and asked for continued prayer for our first responders and community.

With nothing further, Mayor Sheldon adjourned the meeting by unanimous consent at 9:57 a.m.

READ AND APPROVED this 14th day of April, 2022.



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.