

CITY COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING

MINUTES

APRIL 30, 2014

6:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION

PRESENT:

Maria Lowe, Mayor
Melinda Pletcher, Vice Mayor
Terri Finnerty, Commissioner
Gregory Premer, Commissioner

ALSO PRESENT:

Elaine Edmunds, Interim City Manager
Mike Davis, City Attorney
Rebecca C. Haynes, City Clerk

1. Action Items

- a. Separation Agreement with Michael P. Bonfield

City Attorney Davis provided the background information on the process of terminating the employment of a city manager in accordance with the City's Charter. Mr. Davis detailed several clauses in the proposed severance agreement which has been executed by Mike Bonfield.

Vice Mayor Pletcher moved to approve the separation agreement with Michael P. Bonfield. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Premer.

After a short discussion, Mayor Lowe set Audience Comments at two (2) minutes per person.

Mayor Lowe called for audience comments.

John Michael, Bay Street, stated that the city manager's contract should be effective in conjunction with elections with no change for six (6) months before or after an election.

Paul Pfister, Gulf Boulevard, spoke in favor of an explanation to terminate the City Manager.

Mayor Lowe explained that the preliminary motion to terminate City Manager Bonfield was in accordance with the Charter and, in accordance with Mr. Bonfield's preference, the public hearing was waived. Ms. Lowe requested public comments be contained to the severance agreement proposed and not performance issues.

Tom Brodersen, Sunset Way, stated that he took exception to the method in which the termination procedure took place.

Deborah Edney, 73rd Avenue, spoke about people who want more than others and noted that what is fair for one person is fair for everyone.

Dayn Beam, 7th Avenue, recommended focusing on whether or not the terms of the severance package are fair to the voters and to elect or appoint members who will remain fair, open and honest.

Ward Friszolowski, Belle Vista Drive East, supports the proposed severance contract and noted several accomplishments under Mr. Bonfield's management.

Deborah Schechner, Boca Ciega Isle Drive, spoke in support of the proposed severance contract and looked forward to the resolution of legal issues the City currently faces.

Lorraine Huhn, Blind Pass Road, supports the proposed severance contract and asked the community members to stop personal agendas and to work together. Ms. Huhn encouraged those in decision making positions to think clearly, wisely and on their own.

Bill Pyle, Sunset Way, supports honoring a valid employment agreement and complimented the Commissioners on respecting the wishes of Mr. Bonfield.

Robert Urban, 2nd Palm Point, felt many things were not accomplished by Mr. Bonfield.

Harry Metz, Pass-a-Grille Way, spoke in support of the severance agreement and the financial status of the City.

Deborah Martohue, Blind Pass Road, spoke in support of the severance package and against the method of termination used.

Maria Urban, 2nd Palm Point, spoke in support of the Mayor.

Fran Travison, Boca Ciega Isle Drive, supports the severance package.

Rick Falkenstein, 4th Palm Point, spoke in favor of the proposed severance package and moving forward.

There being no additional comments, Mayor Lowe called for the vote.

The motion was unanimously approved by an individual roll call vote.

b. Interim City Manager Salary

Interim City Manager Elaine Edmunds reviewed the past interim city manager salaries offered, which ranged from 5% to 23%, and the Personnel Rules & Regulations that allowed for either a 5% salary increase or the lowest step of the pay grade for the position. In light of there being no pay grade for the manager position, Ms. Edmunds proposed a temporary 10% salary increase with an additional 3% increase towards her retirement fund.

Vice Mayor Pletcher moved to authorize the Interim City Manager's pay grade to be increased by 10% with an additional 3% contributed to the ICMA retirement account. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Finnerty.

Mayor Lowe called for audience comments.

Bill Pyle, Sunset Way, noted that compensation should be in line with the responsibility not a percentage.

Harry Metz, Pass-a-Grille Way, stated that Ms. Edmund's responsibility level has increased tremendously and compensation should be more in the 18% to 20% range.

Deborah Schechner, Boca Ciega Isle Drive, also supported a higher salary increase and stated that Ms. Edmunds works additional hours outside the regular business hours.

Deborah Edney, 73rd Avenue, supported an interim salary range equal to that of the city manager position.

Bruno Falkenstein, Pass-a-Grille Way, recommended a higher compensation rate for Ms. Edmunds.

Mayor Lowe suggested an increase slightly higher than the median which would be 15% salary increase with the 3% retirement contribution.

Vice Mayor Pletcher amended her motion to include a 15% salary adjustment with an additional 3% retirement contribution to the ICMA Fund. Commissioner Finnerty concurred with the amended motion.

Being there were no additional audience comments, Mayor Lowe called for the vote.

The motion was unanimously approved by an individual roll call vote.

c. Discuss Process for Filling Vacant District 2 Commission Seat

City Attorney Davis explained that the person chosen for the interim commission seat is required to meet the same qualifications as a candidate for a regular election, such as a one-year district residency and registered voter status. In accordance with the City Charter, the Commission must call for a special election to fill the vacancy within 90 days of the vacancy.

City Clerk Haynes itemized the cost difference to hold a special election at approximately \$7,092.74 or run in conjunction with the August 26th primary election through the Pinellas County Supervisor of Elections Office at an approximate cost of \$3,208.44.

It was the consensus of the Commission to request the City Attorney return with an ordinance modifying the City Charter to allow for an election outside of the 90-day requirement.

It was the consensus of the Commission to post the vacancy on the City's website and to accept letters of intent and resumes through Tuesday, May 6, 2014. Each Commissioner will draft two questions to ask all candidates during the interview process with a determination made during the regular meeting at 6:00 p.m. on May 13, 2014.

Commissioner Premer asked Mayor Lowe to step down from her position as Mayor.

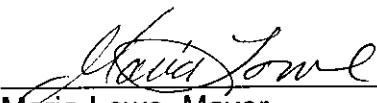
Mayor Lowe responded that she will not resign her position.

2. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Attest:


Rebecca C. Haynes, City Clerk


Maria Lowe, Mayor

Minutes approved on: 5/27/2014