

**Minutes of Special City Council Meeting
held Thursday, April 8, 2021, at 5:00 P.M.
in the Council Chambers, 11 North 3rd Street,
Jacksonville Beach, Florida**



CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Hoffman called the special meeting to order at 5:00 P.M.

ROLL CALL

Mayor: Christine Hoffman

Council Members:	Georgette Dumont	Sandy Golding	Dan Janson
	Fernando Meza	Cory Nichols (<i>absent</i>)	Chet Stokes

Also present were City Manager Mike Staffopoulos, Deputy City Manager Karen Nelson, and City Clerk Laurie Scott.

PURPOSE OF MEETING

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the acceptance of the City Attorney's [Chris Ambrosio] resignation and advertise for the position of City Attorney.

BACKGROUND

City Manager Mike Staffopoulos explained the Council adopted Resolution No. 2081-2021 on March 31, 2021, which started the process for termination of the City Attorney for cause. The City was required to follow the requirements in the City Charter for the termination process. Mr. Staffopoulos said Mr. Ambrosio was advised of the financial obligations the City had only up to the point of termination.

The Resolution also asked the City to reach out to Mr. Ambrosio for a possible alternative resolution to this matter. The City's attorney on this issue, Cliff Shepard, reached out to Mr. Ambrosio's attorney once the City learned Mr. Ambrosio was legally represented. On April 7, 2021, the City received an email communication stipulating Mr. Ambrosio's resignation, which would be effective immediately conditioned upon payment of the accrued leave, base salary, and employee benefits, only to the extent outlined in the April 1, 2021, letter to Mr. Ambrosio [on file].

Mr. Staffopoulos said City staff also sought authorization to begin the process of advertising for the position of City Attorney. He referenced two handouts provided to the Council [on file], a marked-up version of the brochure from the previous hiring process for the City Attorney two years ago, and a detailed job description. Mr. Staffopoulos noted some of the requirements and changes made to the job description and salary range.

Mr. Staffopoulos stated staff intended to discuss with the Council the screening criteria and process at the April 26, 2021, Council Briefing.

Mayor Hoffman requested a motion.

Motion: It was moved by Ms. Golding and seconded by Mr. Janson to accept the City Attorney's resignation effective immediately, conditioned upon payment of the accrued leave, base salary, and employee benefits as outlined in the letter and notice to Mr. Ambrosio dated April 1, 2021, and authorize staff to advertise for the position of City Attorney.

Deputy City Manager Karen Nelson explained the financial impact to the City would be approximately \$22,246 in compensation and benefits through the end of April.

Mr. Staffopoulos said any changes the Council wanted to make related to specific terms and conditions of the employment contract could be discussed at the April 26, 2021, Council Briefing.

Discussion:

A brief Council discussion ensued about utilizing a third party for the hiring process versus the process the City used previously and bringing in an outside attorney for contract negotiations.

Mayor Hoffman asked Council members to look over the material provided and give their suggestions and feedback to staff.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes – Dumont, Golding, Janson, Meza, Stokes, Mayor Hoffman
The motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:13 P.M.

Submitted by: Laurie Scott
City Clerk

Approval:



Christine H. Hoffman, MAYOR

Date:

4/19/21

LS: sg