



**CITY OF BELLE ISLE, FL
CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL CALLED SESSION**

**Monday, March 20, 2023, * 6:30 pm
MINUTES**

Present was:

Nicholas Fouraker, Mayor
District 1 Commissioner – Ed Gold
District 3 Commissioner – Karl Shuck
District 4 Commissioner – Randy Holihan
District 5 Commissioner – Beth Lowell
District 6 Commissioner – Stan Smith
District 7 Commissioner – Jim Partin

Absent was:

District 2 Commissioner – Anthony Carugno

1. Call to Order and Confirmation of Quorum

Mayor Fouraker called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm, and t

Also present were City Manager Francis, Attorney Geller, Chief Grimm, Public Works Director Phil Price, and City Clerk Yolanda Quiceno.

2. Invocation and Pledge to Flag

Comm Gold gave the invocation and led the pledge to the flag.

3. Reports from City Manager on Interim Candidate Search from Colin Baenziger and FCCMA

City Manager Francis said that at the last Council meeting, the Council made two motions, 1- Contact Colin Baenziger to see if they had someone on staff who could function as Interim City Manager, and 2- contact FCCMA and ask if they had range riders on staff. Ken Parker from FCCMA said Senior Advisors are prohibited from being range riders. Both Colin Baenziger and FCCMA said they did not have anyone on staff. Since those did not work out Council said they would move forward with the top candidates. A couple of days later, Colin Baenziger said they had a candidate, Ron Williams. Mr. Francis thanked him for the call but would not consider the candidate since Mr. Williams is not on staff and the monthly fee was high.

Mayor Fouraker called the City Attorney and said Mr. Williams should have been on the agenda, and it wasn't his judgment call to make.

Mayor Fouraker said he reviewed the correspondence between Mr. Francis and Colin Baenziger. If they find a recruit that matches, that person should be considered. That resume stood in Mr. Francis's office for a week. The Council did not give budget parameters or deadlines and believed adding Mr. Williams as a candidate was important. Mayor Fouraker said the process should be inclusive. He said the City Attorney had reviewed the motion and said it was in the right direction, and Council could decide and use their discretion.

Comm Smith and Comm Shuck agreed that they understood that if Colin Baenziger had some on staff, they would be considered not finding someone to fill the role. Comm Shuck also noted that the monthly fee is an exuberate amount. Mayor Fouraker asked how can the monthly fee seem exuberant; it was not discussed, or the monthly rate for the other candidates was known.

Comm Gold said he does not believe it is an excessive salary and would recommend that the interim position be approximately five months. He believes that Mr. Williams should be considered.

4. Interim City Manager Candidate Interviews

The City Council welcomed and interviewed the following candidates,

- Howard Brown
- Lynne Ladner
- Jane Shang
- Alan Rosen

Mayor Fouraker said it was late in the evening; he asked Council if they wanted to move forward with the discussion or continue at the Council Meeting on Tuesday. Comm Holihan said he would like to continue at another date.

Comm Partin asked at what point Council can meet to discuss the process for hiring. Comm Partin said we do not have the benefit of having Comm Carugno and would also like his input.

Comm Gold said Council might want to wait 1-2 weeks to allow the public to comment on their choice and would like to have Comm Carugno present for the vote. He said it is Council's responsibility to negotiate and approve the contract.

Comm Shuck and Comm Smith agreed and said they would prefer to schedule a special called session. Council discussed Colin Baenziger's involvement in facilitating the negotiation process for an interim candidate.

Comm Lowell said having a copy of the current City Manager's contract might be helpful.

Mayor Fouraker said, for the record, that Comm Carugno was not feeling well and asked for an excused absence. He noted that an excused absence is unnecessary at a special session.

Attorney Geller said he sees nothing about the Interim City Manager on the March 21 agenda. The Council would not want the residents to feel like they did not have enough notice.

Mayor Fouraker said he could call and email Colin Baenziger, confirm their availability for a Council presentation, and copy the City Attorney on any correspondence. **Comm Gold moved to authorize Mayor Fouraker to conduct the discussions with Colin Baenziger for the interim city manager negotiations and to schedule a special meeting. Comm Smith seconded the motion, which passed unanimously 6:0.**

City Clerk Quiceno said the City Manager's last day is March 22 and would like clarification on who will be responsible for signing off on general duties, i.e., payables and payroll. After discussion, Attorney Geller said that due to the emergency, he recommended updating the agenda to discuss payroll and payable approval.

12. Adjournment

There being no further business, Mayor Fouraker called for a motion to adjourn.
The motion passed unanimously at 10:20 pm.