



## MINUTES

### BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS SPECIAL MEETING JUNE 26, 2024 5:30 p.m.

The City of Madeira Beach Board of Commissioners held a special meeting at 5:30 p.m. on June 26, 2024, in the Patricia Shontz Commission Chambers at City Hall, located at 300 Municipal Drive, Madeira Beach, Florida.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Anne-Marie Brooks, Mayor  
Ray Kerr, Commissioner District 2  
Eddie McGeehen, Commissioner District 3

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** David Tagliarini, Commissioner District 1

**CITY STAFF PRESENT:** Robin Gomez, City Manager  
Clara VanBlargan, City Clerk  
Andrew Laflin, Finance Director/City Treasurer  
Thomas Trask, City Attorney

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Brooks called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

#### 2. ROLL CALL

City Clerk Clara VanBlargan called the roll. Commissioner Tagliarini was absent.

#### 3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Brooks opened to public comment.

Chuck Dillon, 529 Lillian Drive, commented that the Board of Commissioners has almost a \$45 million budget and gets little pay. They should be paid a decent wage and not an almost-voted volunteer. He asked the Board of Commissioners to consider giving the Planning Commission more responsibilities. He wondered why they needed commission districts and not just four commissioners and a mayor. Without districts it would simplify things.

Mayor Brooks said one of the things they hear consistently from residents in Madeira Beach is that their voices are not heard. It is not protocol to speak and get in a dialog with someone when they come up to the Commission. It shows favoritism to speak and dialog with one resident, not another. She would like to propose, if the Commission agrees, at the end of their meetings to discuss topics brought to them, such as the ones from Mr. Dillon and others that might come up during different

topics and decide whether or not to place them on a workshop or a future meeting agenda. Commissioner Kerr said it was a great suggestion to put it on a workshop if it was limited to a yes or no to do that. Commissioner McGeehen said he agreed and if a yes or no. Commissioner Kerr asked if they needed to put the subject on a workshop or apply it. The City Manager said they could start doing it at the end of their meetings.

#### **4. COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 4 VACANCY**

##### **A. Discuss and approve the District 4 Commissioner Vacancy Application and Process for Selection and Appointment**

The City Attorney said Mayor Rostek resigned his position as mayor on June 14, 2024. Pursuant to the City's charter, the vice mayor assumes the office of the mayor, which is why Mayor Brooks is now sitting in that seat. As a direct result, it caused a vacancy in the District 4 Commissioner seat. The seat will need to be filled. Under Section 2.2 of the City's charter, it requires that action to take place within 30 days of the original resignation. They have until July 14 to address the vacancy. Unfortunately, the charter does not provide a process. He provided a possible process by email and in the packet for the Board to consider. They can create or provide comments on an application or applicants. In the packet, he provided a form application that he had created. He and the City Clerk had a lot of discussions about the application by email, and the one provided in the packet has since been tweaked. Those tweaks were provided to the Board on the dais today. The tweaks addressed the residency requirement both in the City and in District 4, provided information relative to the requirement of Form 1 needing to be filled out, and an acknowledgment was added to the back page that the City Clerk's Office had received the application. The application itself will provide some basic information about the applicants. It does not mean that they cannot provide more, but at least at a minimum, those are the things that are important to address when the Board looks at the applicants. He is requesting that the Board determine what the application looks like, and the actual process listed in his memorandum dated June 17 and provided in the packet:

1. The city clerk will make the Vacancy Application available to the public tonight, June 26, 2024, after the Commission approves whatever the form of the application is.

The City Attorney said they did not want to make any assumptions that the application he and Clara created would be acceptable. Once they have that, they will make it available. Otherwise, it could have been made available earlier.

2. The city clerk will accept completed applications through 4:00 p.m. on July 3, 2024.

The City Attorney said that day is to make sure they get all the applications, have them available, and the Board can read and digest them before their meeting on July 10. July 3 gives a week, but the application is fairly easy to fill out. Most interested people will be able to do that in a week.

3. The procedure set forth below will be followed at the July 10, 2024, meeting:
  - a. Five (5) minute introduction by each applicant (alphabetical order).
  - b. Ten (10) minute question and answer period for each applicant by Commission

members.

- c. Three (3) minute follow-up comments by the applicants based on the question/answer period.
- d. When the question/answer sessions for all of the applicants have been completed, the Mayor will open the floor for public comments (5-minute time limit per speaker). Only comments will be received regarding the applicants. The public will not be allowed to question the applicants.
- e. The Commission will vote by ballot to appoint an applicant.
- f. Once the applicant has been chosen he or she will be sworn in by the City Clerk that night.

The City Attorney said that would give them about a 4-day leeway, July 10 versus July 14 the cutoff date. Based on that, he would suggest that the agenda item for July 10 read, "Review applications for Board of Commissioners vacancy and appoint a District 4 Commission Member."

The City Attorney said they would like for the Board to do two things:

- (1) Determine whether or not the application is acceptable and if not, what changes need to be made and
- (2) Determine the actual process, similar to what he suggested in his memorandum or any other changes.

Mayor Brooks asked for public comment.

Chuck Dillon, 429 Lillian Drive, asked if there were no applicants. When he applied to the Planning Commission, there were six applicants; when his term ended, there were two applicants for three openings. For many years, District 4 has not had anybody going for it. If that should happen again, they would be waiting for applications at the last minute.

Commissioner Kerr said that it all looked great. His question would be between 3. a. and 3. b., assuming they have multiple applicants, would each applicant come up and do their 5-minute introduction in series and then followed by them coming back up for a 10-minute question/answer period, or would one applicant come up and have the opportunity to introduce themselves and take questions at that time? He thought all introductions should be done first, and then each applicant should be called back up for questions. It would be more advantageous for an applicant with a last name starting with Z to get an idea of what questions might be on the Commission's mind.

Commissioner McGeehen said he did not have any questions concerning the application process. A great job was done on it. He looks forward to all the applicants who come in and want to help serve the City.

Mayor Brooks said she reviewed the application and had no issues. She would be curious to know Mr. Trask's thoughts on Commissioner Kerr's comments on how to go through that process.

The City Attorney said in the ones that he has seen the applicant step up to the podium and give a 5-minute spiel, then questions and answers, and then they sit down. They did it that way in the past, so they do not have the up, down, up, down kind of situation. It does not matter which way the Board would want to do it. If thought to be an advantage given to people with Z-lettered last names, they could solve that by having everybody do their presentation first and have questions next. It does not matter.

Commissioner Kerr said he could understand the fluid nature of how it was originally intended. Rethinking it, he has no issue with it. The questions will probably pertain to their application regardless, so there will not be many questions about whether they can make each meeting, etc. It is not something rehearsed or well thought out. He would be fine with the continuity.

Commissioner Kerr motioned to approve the application for District 4 Commissioner. Commissioner McGeehen seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL:

Commission Kerr	"YES"
Commissioner McGeehen	"YES"
Mayor Brooks	"YES"

The motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Kerr motioned to approve the process outlined in Mr. Trask's June 17<sup>th</sup> memorandum. Commissioner McGeehen seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL:

Commission Kerr	"YES"
Commissioner McGeehen	"YES"
Mayor Brooks	"YES"

The motion carried 3-0.

The City Attorney said the application will be made available tonight and posted on the City's website. The City Clerk confirmed. The City Attorney said the packet mentioned there would be an advertisement in the newspaper about the need to fill the seat, and the ad was also on the dais. The City Clerk said the position was advertised today in the Tampa Bay Times and tomorrow in the Gabber and the Beach Beacon. The City Attorney said people see the advertisement on the City's website and in all three newspapers. No other city he represents did an advertisement when they were doing the Form 6 resignations. The City has gone above and beyond what other cities did regarding the vacancies.

Mayor Brooks asked if they would like to discuss the resident's comment regarding the Commissions pay in a future workshop or a future meeting. The consensus was to discuss it at a future workshop. The City Manager said he would add the item to a workshop agenda.

## 5. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:49 p.m.

---

Anne-Marie Brooks, Mayor

ATTEST:

---

Clara VanBlargan, MMC, MSM, City Clerk

DRAFT