

# CITY OF WESTLAKE



## MINUTES - DRAFT

**Emergency City Council Meeting**  
Thursday, April 15, 2021 at 6:30 PM

Westlake Council Chambers  
4005 Seminole Pratt Whitney Road  
Westlake, Florida 33470

### **CITY COUNCIL:**

Roger Manning, Mayor  
JohnPaul O'Connor, Vice Mayor  
Patric Paul, Council Member – Seat 1  
Kara Crump, Council Member – Seat 2  
Katrina Long Robinson, Council Member – Seat 4

### **CITY STAFF:**

Ken Cassel, City Manager  
Zoie P. Burgess, City Clerk

[TENTATIVE: SUBJECT TO REVISION]

An Emergency meeting of the City Council of the City of Westlake was held on Monday, April 15, 2021 at 6:30 PM., at the Westlake Community Center, 4005 Seminole Pratt Whitney Road.

As a preliminary matter, Ms. McNeil noted that Mayor Roger Manning, Vice Mayor JohnPaul O'Connor, Robinson, Councilman Patric Paul were present physically. Councilwoman Kara Crump and Councilwoman Katrina Long-Robinson are attending via communications media technology.

Ms. McNeil noted that City Manager Kenneth Cassel and Deputy City Clerk Jomekeyia McNeil were present physically.

Ms. McNeil identified that Councilwoman Kara Crump and Councilwoman Katrina Long-Robinson were attending via communications media technology and confirmed if able to speak and hear.

Ms. McNeil provided further instruction regarding public comments, noting that comments will be acknowledged by the Mayor and accepted at the appropriate times as indicated in the Agenda and those who wish to speak may use the "virtual" hand raise feature.

Ms. McNeil provided the disclaimer that the meeting is being recorded by both voice and video, reminding the audience that microphones are live. Ms. McNeil further explained that microphones will be muted; audience members have the ability to unmute themselves and anyone that has called in should mute their device.

Ms. McNeil noted that anyone causing a disruption or being inappropriate will be removed from the meeting.

Ms. McNeil reminded Council Members physically present to utilize microphones for a clear record of the proceeding.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Manning called the City of Westlake Regular City Council meeting of April 15, 2021 to order at 6:32 PM.

### **ROLL CALL**

Present and constituting a quorum:

Councilwoman Katrina Long-Robinson  
Councilwoman Kara Crump  
Crump Councilman Patric Paul  
Vice Mayor JohnPaul O'Connor  
Mayor Roger Manning

Also, present:

Kenneth Cassel, City Manager  
Jomekeyia McNeil, Deputy City Clerk

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## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Manning led the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **ADDITIONS, DELETIONS OR MODIFICATIONS, AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mayor Manning called for any additions, deletions, or modifications to the Agenda.

Motion by Councilman Paul to approve the Agenda, seconded by Vice Mayor O'Connor.

### **UPON ROLL CALL:**

Councilwoman Long-Robinson	YES
Councilwoman Crump	YES
Councilman Paul	YES
Vice Mayor O'Connor	YES
Mayor Manning	YES

With all in favor, motion carried without dissent (5-0).

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS AND REQUESTS- (OPEN FORUM NON-AGENDA ITEMS)**

*This is the designated time for the public to speak. Comments will be limited to three (3) minutes each.*

Ms. McNeil noted there were no public comment cards received prior to the meeting.

Ms. McNeil gave the virtual participants a moment to raise a virtual hand or unmute their devices and provided a reminder to state name and address.

There being no comments, the next item followed.

## **EMERGENCY AGENDA**

### **A. Review and Select Counsel for Interim Legal Services**

- Goren, Cherof, Doody & Ezrol P.A.
- Ottinot Law P.A.
- Brandenburg & Associates, P.A.

Mayor Manning introduced the Item.

Mr. Cassel explained the reason for this item. He named the firms that are before the Council and advised that each will have 3-5 minutes in the to provide a presentation in Chambers. Once all have provided their presentations all firms will step outside to allow Council the opportunity to discuss and select a firm.

Jacob G. Horowitz, Esq. on behalf of the firm Goren, Cherof, Doody & Ezrol P.A. provided an overview of the Firm Background, Hourly Rates Representation; list of other government entities represented. He advised that the firm has 15 attorneys that have their specialties that would allow them not to have to go to outside for counsel. He mentioned that the firm is interested in providing interim legal services.

He noted that he has read the City Charter and inquired if Council has any specific questions they would like to ask. He said that the firm is hands on and they are always accessible 24 hours a day. He said that he is confident that if there are any issue that should come up within the next 60-90 days, the firm will be able to handle. He mentioned that the firm is not interested in a permanent position. He advised that the firm does have a private client base and disclosed that there is a current client who is looking to build a storage facility in Westlake.

Council interviewed Mr. Horowitz and provided discussion.

Pamala H. Ryan, Partner on behalf of Ottinot Law, P.A. introduced herself and provided an overview of the firm. She advised that Mr. Ottinot is attending via communications technology this evening and he is available to answer questions if needed. She continued with her overview, provided a summary of the counsels' experience. She mentioned the cities that the firm has worked with on an interim basis and advised what the firm offers and what the firm can offer to the City of Westlake.

Council interviewed Ms. Ryan and provided discussion.

Further Council discussion regarding each firm's short-term services.

Gary Brandenburg, Esq. of Brandenburg & Associates, P.A. introduced himself and recognized his son Dylan J. Brandenburg. He continued and provided an overview of his firm, work history and experience with municipal government in Palm Beach County, Martin County and Indian River County. He is happy to be able to work with his son; provide the opportunity to work with the City.

Council interviewed Mr. Brandenburg and provided discussion.

Mr. Cassel explained the next steps to Council to select a firm for interim legal services and provided direction.

Council ranked each firm in order as follows:

- 1st Goren, Cherof, Doody & Ezrol P.A.
- 2nd Ottinot Law
- 3rd Brandenburg & Associates, P.A.

Further Council discussion

Mr. Cassel commented that Council will need to advise which firm to proceed with and mentioned that he could work with either firm.

Further Council discussion

Mr. Cassel requested all firms to come back.

Mayor Manning thanked all the firms and advised that the Council will proceed with Doren, Cherof Doody & Ezrol, P.A for interim legal services.

Vice Mayor O'Connor thanked each firm for their time.

Councilman Paul thanked the firms.

Mayor Manning noted that Council has decided to proceed with Doren, Cherof, Doody & Ezrol P.A. at the rate the other firms proposed.

Vice Mayor O'Connor inquired if Mr. Horowitz's firm would help with the RFQ process.

Mr. Horowitz acknowledged that they would, as the firm is not seeking any long-term services.

Motion by Vice Mayor O'Connor authorizing City Manager to enter into an agreement for interim for legal services with Goren, Cherof, Doody & Ezrol P.A. for the City of Westlake at the rate of \$250 per hour, seconded by Councilman Paul.

**UPON ROLL CALL:**

Councilwoman Crump	YES
Councilman Paul	YES
Vice Mayor O'Connor	YES
Mayor Manning	YES
Councilwoman Long-Robinson	YES

With all in favor, motion carried without dissent (5-0).

Mr. Cassel advised that he wants to get an idea from Council on how to handle the RFQ process and provide Council with options. He said that he does not want to wait too long to start the process.

Mayor Manning advised that he likes the input that Council provided, and Council should be involved in hiring the City Attorney.

Mr. Cassel advised that workshops can be set up to get Council input on the RFQ

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mayor Manning called for any public comments.

Ms. McNeil noted there were no public comment cards received prior to the meeting.

Ms. McNeil gave the virtual participants a moment to raise a virtual hand or unmute their devices and provided a reminder to state name and address.

There being no further comments, the next item followed.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Manning adjourned the meeting at 8:32 PM.

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Zoie Burgess, City Clerk

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Roger Manning, Mayor