

**NORTH PORT CITY COMMISSION
MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING
FRIDAY, MARCH 11, 2011**

PRESENT: Commissioner Blucher, Chair; Commission Jones, Vice-Chair; Commissioners Garofalo, Treubert, and Yates; Interim City Manager Lewis; City Attorney Robinson; Deputy City Clerk Adkins; Recorder Hale; and Police Captain Estrada.

The North Port City Commission Special Meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. in City Chambers by Commissioner Blucher, Chair.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Commission.

1. SELECTION OF A NEW CITY MANAGER

Consultant Colin Baezinger, of Colin Baezinger & Associates provided an overview of the three remaining candidates for the position of City Manager of North Port. It was recommended to perform a straw vote for the top two choices. A short discussion ensued concerning the need to have a second choice in case the first choice pulls out of the running.

Commissioner Treubert moved to hold a straw poll to narrow the candidates to two; seconded by Commissioner Jones. Commissioner Yates moved to amend the motion and proposed casting only one vote for the top choice and thereafter, hold a discussion on whether or not an alternate is needed. The motion died for lack of second. *The vote on the motion carried unanimously.*

Mr. Baezinger announced the ballot results: (1) Jonathan Lewis received five votes from all Commissioners; (2) Mark Kutney received two votes from Commissioners Jones and Garofalo; and (3) Alan Cohen received two votes from Commissioners Blucher and Treubert. Commissioner Yates only cast one vote due to her not having a second choice. Discussion ensued regarding the characteristics and qualifications of Mr. Lewis.

Commissioner Garofalo moved to select Jonathan Lewis as the City Manager for the City of North Port; seconded by Commissioner Jones. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion ensued regarding the advantages of having an alternate choice for City Manager, wherein Commissioner Yates recommended moving forward with the negotiation phase with Mr. Lewis and then discussed an alternative method to choosing a second candidate. She voiced concern that the Commission has to have a discussion concerning qualifying points or characteristics for a City Manager in order to identify the right match for the community. Thereafter, public comment was held.

Commissioner Treubert moved to hold a straw poll of the two remaining candidates, pick an alternate choice for a Plan B, and require every one to vote; seconded by Commissioner Jones. Motion carried on a four-to-one (4 - 1) vote. Commissioner Yates dissented on the grounds that of the two remaining candidates, she did not have a second choice as a fit for North Port.

Mr. Baezinger announced the ballot results: (1) Alan Cohen received three votes from Commissioners Blucher, Garofalo, and Treubert; and (2) Mark Kutney received two votes from Commissioners Jones and Yates.

Commissioner Yates voiced concern regarding the difference in philosophies between her and the rest of the Commission pertaining to what may constitute a Plan B, and that the International Criminal Background check for Mr. Cohen had not been received. It was noted that Mr. Cohen has worked in the private sector since 2003.

Commissioner Garofalo moved to approve Alan Cohen as the backup candidate for City Manager; seconded by Commissioner Treubert. Motion carried on a four-to-one (4 - 1) vote with Commissioner Yates dissenting for reasons stated previously.

Discussion ensued: (1) negotiations will commence using in-house contract models; (2) a detailed discussion concerning salary would best be suited in a future Commission meeting; (3) a Step Plan was suggested concerning a severance plan; (4) Commissioner Jones recommended considering a six-month severance plan; and (5) no final contract will be signed without bringing it to the Commission for approval.

Commissioner Garofalo moved to direct Chair Blucher, City Attorney Robinson, and Mr. Baezinger to negotiate a contract with City Manager-elect Jonathan Lewis; to stay within the salary range of \$140,000 to \$190,000; and to negotiate other benefits that are appropriate; seconded by Commissioner Jones. Motion carried unanimously.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

There was no public comment.

3. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Chair Blucher adjourned the North Port City Commission Special Meeting at 6:25 p.m.

CITY OF NORTH PORT, FLORIDA

ATTEST:

BY: 
JIM BLUCHER, COMMISSION
CHAIR


HELEN M. RAIMBEAU, MMC
CITY CLERK

Minutes approved at the Commission Regular Meeting
this 28th Day of March 2011.