MINUTES
City of Cocoa
Special City Council Meeting

August 14, 2020

A Special City Council meeting was held on Friday, August 14, 2020, in Cocoa City Hall, in City Council Chambers, located at 65 Stone Street, in Cocoa, Florida, 32922, as publicly noticed.

I. **Opening Matters:**

Mayor Williams called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

The Assistant City Clerk took the roll.

PRESENT:	Jake Williams, Jr.	Mayor
	James Goins	Deputy Mayor
	Don Boisvert	Councilmember
	Lorraine Koss	Councilmember
	Brenda Warner	Councilmember
	Anthony Garganese	City Attorney
	Matt Fuhrer	Interim City Manager
	Monica Arsenault	Assistant City Clerk

OTHER STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Michael Cantaloupe, Chief of Police; Jack Walsh, Utilities Director; Bryant Smith, Public Works Director; Tammy Gemmati, Administrative Services Director; Rebecca Bowman, Finance Director; Nancy Bunt, Community Services Director; Samantha Senger, Assistant to the City Manager/PR Specialist; and Mitchell Lawyer, Tech Services Supervisor.

II. **New Business**

1. Selection of City Manager

Mr. Oliver Cole, Delannoy Ave., Cocoa, asked to speak about Mr. Stockton Whitten, and pointed out that he has known Mr. Whitten for quite some time and

feels he would be an asset to the City. He elaborated that he could not speak enough of Mr. Whitten and would recommend him for City Manager.

Councilmember Warner doesn't feel there is a bad choice, just the best choice. She feels that the City would be blessed to have any of the three candidates and feels the opportunity today to speak with them and spend time with them gave her a better perspective of their personalities. She thanked Ms. Higginbotham for the process and for what they were able to accomplish here today.

Councilmember Koss thanked Ms. Higginbotham as well and hoped that given the fact the City is going into an election the Council will be able to empower the new City Manager with a unanimous vote. She spoke about each candidate and touched on the various things she was able to learn about each of them. She noted it was a tough decision and she didn't have any negatives to say about any of the candidates.

Councilmember Boisvert thanked Ms. Higginbotham for presenting three great candidates to the Council. He added there were two great days of interviews and he was happy with the process.

Deputy Mayor Goins stated that no one can say this process was not transparent. It may have been difficult at times but it was certainly transparent. He added that he is happy with the process and was happy that the City included citizen input in the decision. He appreciated staff and Ms. Higginbotham as well as Council.

Mayor Williams stated he felt all of the candidates were great and he is looking at the future of the City and where the City is trying to go. He received input from the citizens and he is ready to make a decision in order to move the City forward.

Councilmember Warner mentioned that she was asked by various people what her personal process was for this and she wanted to say that she did reach out to the communities in which each of the candidates came from to try and get an impression of each candidate. She added that she wanted to make it clear that she did not speak to the candidates privately. Additionally, she wanted to thank each of the candidates for coming forward and doing their best.

Ms. Higginbotham provided ranking sheets to each member of Council and a vote was taken. It was determined that there was a 2-2 tie between Mr. Keith Moffett and Mr. Stockton Whitten, with one vote for Ms. Gardner-Young. A re-vote was taken and it was determined that there was a 3-2 vote for Mr. Stockton Whitten.

* **MOTION by Councilmember Warner; Seconded by Councilmember Koss, to select Stockton Whitten as the new City Manager for the City of Cocoa and to authorize the City Attorney and Interim City Manager to move forward with a contract and to authorize a final background check.**

AYES: Williams, Goins, Boisvert, Koss, Warner

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (5-0)

Mayor Williams welcomed Mr. Whitten and offered him the opportunity to speak.

In response, Mr. Whitten thanked staff and Council for the opportunity and added that he looked forward to working with everyone.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

* **MOTION by Councilmember Boisvert; Seconded by Deputy Mayor Goins, to adjourn the Special meeting of August 14, 2020.**

AYES: Williams, Goins, Boisvert, Koss, Warner

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (5-0)

The meeting adjourned at 5:37 p.m.

Jake Williams, Jr., Mayor

ATTEST:

Monica Arsenault, Assistant City Clerk

CITY OF COCOA SEAL FLORIDA