



city council minutes

September 13, 2016 * 6:00 p.m.
Special Called Session

The Belle Isle City Council met in a special called session on September 13, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. in the Belle Isle City Hall Council Chambers.

Present was:

Mayor Lydia Pisano
Vice Mayor/Commissioner Harvey Readey
Commissioner Gold
Commissioner Katy McGinnis
Commissioner Jeremy Weinsier
Commissioner Bobby Lance
Commissioner Lenny Mosse
Commissioner Sue Nielsen

Absent was:

NA

Also present was Attorney Kruppenbacher, Chief Houston and City Clerk Yolanda Quiceno.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pisano opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m. and Comm Gold gave the invocation and led the pledge to the flag.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

- Anita Sacco residing at 4913 Jinou Avenue, Belle Isle, FL provided for the record two copies of surveys dated October 3, 2000 and March 12, 2014 which show the storm water line in an easement which runs through the lake lot property at Lake Conway Estates for City use and future reference.

There being no further comments, Mayor Pisano closed the public comment section.

Mayor Pisano opened the meeting and said, as we begin the emergency meeting to rank the candidates and to authorize the City Attorney to perform an extensive background check on the candidates who have been selected to move forward. Many people of the public have reached out to many of us today, including myself, and said they think this process is extremely too fast. She noted that she tends to agree with them and believes a second interview of the candidates should be scheduled for the city manager position.

Comm Nielsen motioned the following to place on the record,

“This meeting was scheduled on an emergency basis for two reasons:

1. Pressing needs in the City of Belle Isle that require the attention of a full-time city manager as soon as possible due to serious deterioration of infrastructure which must be addressed before further deterioration occurs.
2. The city manager candidates whom Council is considering are continuing to seek positions in other cities. It is of critical importance to let them know that we continue to be interested in them so that we do not lose them to the competition.

Comm McGinnis seconded the motion, and gave a timeline of the meetings to date which led to this emergency meeting. She noted for the record on July 1 she stated that she wanted to get this process done and received agreement from Commissioners Nielsen, Weinsier, and Lance.

Comm Gold inquired for the record if any other commissioner thought the emergency meeting was necessary. He further added that he does not see any urgency in his district and would like it to be noted in the record.

Comm Mosse said, to add to the timeline given by Comm McGinnis, the City has not had a city manager for eight months and would like to get this done. He further noted if we hire a city manager today we will still not have a city manager before January due to the fact that we would have to agree on a contract, relocate their family and perform a background check. Mayor Pisano stated that no one is arguing the point; however, for the record we have had an interim City Manager until June and now an acting city manager.

Vice Mayor Readey said it is about time that we move forward and select a fine candidate.

Comm Lance said at the Florida League of Cities he was advised that it was illegal to have the City Attorney hold both positions which is why he would like to move forward.

Comm Weinsier said he received an email from a resident alleging that Council did not allow all candidates to present in the same manner. He wanted to confirm that the City gave all the candidates the same option to present in person. He was assured that they had been.

With no further discussion, Comm Nielsen's motion was approved unanimously.

Mayor Pisano opened for Council discussion on the City Manager ranking.

After Council discussion, a point of order was called by Comm Lance and Comm McGinnis. Attorney Kruppenbacher said if a Commissioner raises a point of order, it may be used at any time, and the Chair responds by asking the individual to state their point.

Mayor Pisano recognized Comm Lance to state his point. Comm Lance asked the City Attorney for the ranking to be done on a signed piece of paper and have the City Attorney read aloud the candidate ranking of each commissioner. Attorney Kruppenbacher explained that the Sunshine Law states that there should no secret vote or coded vote and Council will have to place their name on the paper that will be read out loud.

Mayor Pisano recognized Comm McGinnis to state her point. Comm McGinnis stated that she was under the impression that this meeting was for ranking the candidates only and not to have discussion.

Council members provided their ranking to the City Attorney as follows,

	Kennedy	Francis	Reynolds
Comm Gold	3	2	1
Comm McGinnis	2	3	1
Comm Weinsier	1	2	3
Comm Lance	3	1	2
Vice Mayor Readey	1	2	3
Comm Mosse	2	1	3
Comm Nielsen	1	2	3

**Comm Nielsen motioned to move forward and interview Patrick Kennedy and Robert Francis.
Comm McGinnis seconded the motion.**

Comm Nielsen asked if there was a reason why the City cannot perform a thorough background check on all three candidates and allow Council to speak to each candidate one-on-one. Attorney Kruppenbacher said it would entail that he go to Oregon.

Comm Weinsier moved to nullify the entire vote based on the results and proposed that Council find a different system to proceed.

After Council discussion on the candidate's qualifications and selection process, there was consensus to select two of the candidates for a second interview and continue with the background checks while waiting for the next interview to be scheduled. Comm Gold stated that he is opposed to this plan.

**Comm Mosse motioned to move forward and interview Robert Francis and Patrick Kennedy.
Comm Nielsen seconded the motion.**

Mayor Pisano opened for discussion.

Comm Gold stated that he would like to motion Robert Francis and James Reynolds based on the concern of having a candidate with such close ties with the community can be a problem as we have seen before.

Comm Nielsen said she disagrees with Comm Gold. She believes having someone who loves Belle Isle and have strong ethics will be willing to stay. Discussion ensued.

Comm McGinnis was in consensus with the motion posed by Comm Nielsen.

Motioned passed 6:1 with Comm Gold, nay.

Attorney Kruppenbacher stated that the City will contact Robert Francis and Patrick Kennedy for immediate dates for a second interview, in person, and commence on the background checks on both. In order to avoid any allegations and maintain a level of trust please defer from speaking with the candidates.

Comm Weinsier said he received an email from a resident requesting a meeting to discuss the city manager process and stated that he does not want to have it as a public record. He was not sure on how to respond and asked for direction. Attorney Kruppenbacher recommended and stated if anyone would like to speak with a Council member on city business, it is not a position to be in because you cannot guarantee what you are going to hear. He stated that Council members should not speak in confidence to anyone on any city business.

Mayor Pisano called for a motion to adjourn, unanimously approved at 7:45pm.

Yolanda Quiceno
CMC-City Clerk