

**MINUTES
CITY OF FORT MEADE
SPECIAL CITY COMMISSION MEETING
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2021**

A Special Meeting of the Fort Meade City Commission was held on Thursday, February 25, 2021, at 6:00 P.M. at City Commission Chambers, 8 West Broadway Street, Fort Meade, Florida, and via Zoom Virtual Meeting.

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The Meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Mayor Berrien.

2. ROLL CALL:

Mayor	Samuel Berrien	Present
Vice Mayor	Robert Elliott	Present
Commissioner	Richard Cochrane	Present
Commissioner	Petrina McCutchen	Present
Commissioner	James Watts	Present

Staff Present

City Manager	Danielle Judd	Absent
City Attorney	Tom Cloud	Present
Deputy City Clerk	Melissa Cannon	Present
Finance Director	Breanna Smith	Present
Public Works Director	Jackie Cannon	Present
Library Director	Jacqueline Rose	Present
HR Director	Beisy Hernandez	Present
Water/Sewer Supervisor	Tommy King	Present
Community Center	Tory Dewdney	Present
Fire Chief	Roc Eiland	Present

Also, present PCSO Sgt. Warren Burgess.

3. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

Associate Pastor Bill Whitener, Cornerstone Church of God led the invocation. Mayor Berrien led the pledge to the flag.

4. PUBLIC FORUM: Citizen comments for items not on the agenda (3-minute maximum length) All comments will be directed to the Mayor and not individual members of either the City Commission or Staff. This offers the opportunity for citizens to express their concerns but does not guarantee a response at this time.

None.

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. Overview of the progression of the City Manager Executive Search – *Beisy Hernandez*

Ms. Hernandez gave an overview of the applicant process so far. Ms. Hernandez requested a list of the top 5-7 candidates from each commissioner for further review to narrow the list down to begin interviews.

The consensus of the commission was for the candidate to have prior city government experience or the same set of skills that can be transferred to city government.

Ms. Hernandez discussed a timeline stating that the search should be complete within 90-120 days.

B. Appointment of Interim City Manager – *Beisy Hernandez*

After some discussion, Motion Commissioner McCutchen, second Vice Mayor Elliott to appoint HR Director, Beisy Hernandez as Interim City Manager for 90 – 120 days on a month-to-month basis.

Motion to appoint HR Director, Beisy Hernandez as Interim City Manager for 90 – 120 days on a month-to-month basis passed by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

Mayor Berrien stated that he talked to Ms. Judd and she has agreed to assist the interim city manager part-time through March 4th.

Motion Commissioner Cochrane, second Commissioner Watts to set the rate of pay for the Interim City Manager as the base rate for city manager in the amount of \$80,809 to be paid in monthly increments with a month-to-month term of 90-120.

Motion to set the rate of pay for the Interim City Manager as the base rate for city manager in the amount of \$80,809 to be paid in monthly increments with a month-to-month term of 90-120 passed by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

The consensus of the commission was to set the next Special City Commission Meeting on March 4, 2021 at 6:00 pm.

6. **COMMENTS**

The Commission congratulated Ms. Hernandez on her appointment.

Vice Mayor Elliott thanked the commission for coming together and making progress.

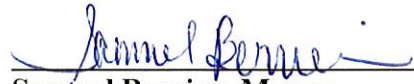
Mayor Berrien thanked Ms. Hernandez for stepping up.

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to conduct, Motion Vice Mayor Elliott, second Commissioner Watts to adjourn the Special Commission Meeting of February 25, 2021 at 7:05 PM.

Motion to adjourn passed by unanimous vote of 5-0.

ATTEST:



Samuel Berrien, Mayor



Melissa Cannon, Deputy City Clerk

