

**MINUTES  
CITY OF FORT MEADE  
SPECIAL CITY COMMISSION MEETING  
THURSDAY, MARCH 4, 2021**

A Special Meeting of the Fort Meade City Commission was held on Thursday, March 4, 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**

Interim City Manager	Beisy P. Hernandez	Present
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
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/Musician Justin Penatzer, Living Faith Christian Center led the invocation. Mayor Berrien led the pledge to the flag.

**4. NEW BUSINESS**

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

Ms. Hernandez gave an overview of the city manager candidates that have been reviewed so far.

After discussion, the list was narrowed down to the top five to advance to the next level of the selection process. The candidates will undergo the pre-screening phase and answer the list of questions presented to the commission.

- B.** Approval of contract for Interim City Manager, Beisy Hernandez – *Thomas Cloud*

**Motion Vice Mayor Elliott, second Commissioner Watts to approve the contract for Interim City Manager, Beisy Hernandez.**

**Motion to approve the contract for Interim City Manager, Beisy Hernandez passed by a unanimous vote of 5-0.**

- C.** Consider Agreement with Hartman Consultants, LLC. – *Thomas Cloud*

Attorney Cloud requested the Commission consider the agreement with Gerry Hartman as an expert witness on call if needed in the case against the PRWC.

Attorney Cloud explained that the agreement is strictly on an as needed basis at the set hourly rate.

**Motion Commissioner Cochrane, second Vice Mayor Elliott to approve the agreement with Hartman Consultants, LLC.**

**Motion to approve the agreement with Hartman Consultants, LLC. passed by a unanimous vote of 5-0.**

## **5. COMMENTS**

Attorney Cloud stated that the Rule Challenge case is set to begin on March 29, 2021.

Attorney Cloud stated that the PRWC is proposing to build a water plant South of Fort Meade in the city's service area which could be detrimental to the city's water allocation. Attorney Cloud recommends that the city put PRWC on notice for a sit down to defend our service area.

**Motion Vice Mayor Elliott, second Commissioner Watts to authorize Attorney Cloud to send a letter to put PRWC on notice regarding the city's service area.**

**Motion to authorize Attorney Cloud to send a letter to put PRWC on notice regarding the city's service area passed by a unanimous vote of 5-0.**

Interim City Manager Hernandez thanked the commission for the opportunity to serve.

Interim City Manager Hernandez stated that the electric department was losing about 50% of its employees. Ms. Hernandez stated these are entry level positions.

Mayor Berrien stated that he toured the Fort Meade wetlands with Public Works Director, Jackie Cannon and Water/Sewer Supervisor, Tommy King stating it was very interesting and thanked them for the opportunity.

Mayor Berrien thanked the Commission for their leadership.

6. **ADJOURNMENT**

**There being no further business to conduct, Motion Commissioner Watts, second Vice Mayor Elliott to adjourn the Special Commission meeting of March 4, 2021 at 6:42 PM.**

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

ATTEST:

  
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Samuel Berrien, Mayor

  
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Melissa Cannon, Deputy City Clerk

