

TOWN OF REDINGTON SHORES
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2022 – 3:00 P.M.
MINUTES

Present upon roll call: Commissioner Blackburn, Commissioner Krouk, Commissioner Krajewski, Vice Mayor Robinson, Mayor Henderson, and Attorney Eschenfelder (via telephone).

Selection of Town Administrator

Vice Mayor Robinson stated since the last round of interviews Ronald Neibert has withdrawn his application. We now only have two candidates to discuss. Both meet the qualifications. Lisa Hendrickson is a long-term employee in Pinellas Park, and has served in various positions, not as City Manager, but Deputy City Manager since 2012. Jeff Shoobridge is now a City Manager, in Minnesota, this is his first time being a City Manager. Mr. Shoobridge was a Council member in South Florida and wants to come back to Florida. Both Candidates have strengths and weaknesses. My concern with Mr. Shoobridge is he has only been a City Manager for two years and is anxious to get back to Florida and I do not know how anxious he is to be our Town Administrator as much as he is to get to back Florida. He and I did talk about this, and his notion is these jobs are not long term. He gets good credits from those up north, as well as Lisa Hendrickson does here.

Commissioner Krouk stated she had great interviews with both, it is a tough decision and wants the best for the town.

Mayor Henderson stated Mr. Shoobridge talked to her about another opportunity he had in Mexico Beach, Fl, but was not selected as he has no Emergency Management experience at all. He has no connections here, not sure who he would call in an emergency. He also indicated he would not be here very long; he did not commit to a time frame. Mayor Henderson stated she has some concerns that he does not live in Redington Shores. Mayor Henderson spoke with Mayor Payne of Treasure Island who said it is a mandated for the City Manager to live in Treasure Island, reason being, it is another face other than an elected official to go to/approach while out in a restaurant or on the beach, etc. He said it works very well in Treasure Island.

Commissioner Krajewski, I made my choices in multiple rounds, and I still think after my interviews, references, etc. I am ready to make my decision and it will be the best decision for the town.

Vice Mayor Robinson moved to direct the Mayor to negotiate a contract for services as town administrator with Lisa Hendrickson, seconded by Mayor Henderson. Mayor Henderson asked for any discussion from the Commission or audience. Residence, Jim Parker, when reading the qualifications, I did not see that it was a qualification that they must live in Redington Shores. Mayor Henderson stated it is not a qualification, just something to consider. There being no other discussion, roll call: Commissioner Krouk, no; Commissioner Blackburn, no; Commissioner Krajewski, no; Vice Mayor Robinson, yes and Mayor Henderson, yes.

Commissioner Blackburn moved to offer the position to Jeff Shoobridge, seconded by Commissioner Krouk. Mayor Henderson asked for any discussion. Mayor Henderson asked about the candidate living in town. Commissioner Krajewski stated he thinks we can talk about that and what we want in the contract after. Mayor Henderson asked Attorney Eschenfelder, for his thoughts. Attorney Eschenfelder stated his advice would be, that we do not talk about the terms and conditions in the public as we will be negotiating those. But if the Commission wants the candidate to live in the town, they need to instruct the Mayor of that in the motion. Commissioner Blackburn stated her motion stands. Vice Mayor Robinson stated I do not know if residency in the town is an issue, but I would not want to have a town administrator traveling from Orlando or from any other area far away. Commissioner Blackburn stated that is not part of the motion made, and it was not advertised that way. Town Clerk Palmer asked Commissioner Blackburn if her motion was to direct the Mayor to negotiate a contract with. Commissioner Blackburn stated, no, my motion was to extend an offer to Jeff Shoobridge. Commissioner Krajewski stated he thinks we need to talk about what the Commission wants in the contract. Discussion ensued regarding using negotiating in the motion. After discussion Commissioner Blackburn moved to amend her motion to use the word select Jeff Shoobridge as the candidate, that we move forward in this process with, for Town Administrator, seconded by Commissioner Krouk. Mayor Henderson asked for any other discussion from the Commissioner or audience. There being none, roll call: Commissioner Blackburn, yes; Commissioner Krouk, yes; Commissioner Krajewski, yes; Vice Mayor Robinson, Vice Mayor Robinson stated before I vote, while not my first choice I believe that he is a qualified candidate and deserves the support of the Commission, so therefore I vote affirmative, Mayor Henderson, stated I agree with what Vice Mayor Robinson said, but I am voting no, I am not going to be against him, but I just don't think he is the right candidate. Vice Mayor Robinson moved to instruct the Mayor and Attorney Eschenfelder to negotiate a contract with Mr. Shoobridge for the position of Town Administrator to include residency in Redington Shores and to bring back the contract to the Commission. Vice Mayor Robinson withdrew his motion and moved to instruct the Mayor and Attorney Eschenfelder to negotiate a contract with Mr. Shoobridge for the position of Town Administrator that included residency in Pinellas County and bring back to the Commission, seconded by Commissioner Krouk. Commissioner Krajewski has a draft of items he would like to see in the contract and passed out to the commission. Some of these items on the draft came from the City of Madeira Beach. Commissioner Krajewski stated he would like to talk about this list prior to the vote on the motion and second. Commissioner Blackburn stated she feels like this is two different motions, the residency, one, and the Mayor and Attorney to negotiate the terms, which is two different things. Vice Mayor Robinson stated that is not my motion, my motion was to authorize the Mayor and Attorney Eschenfelder to negotiate a contract that included residency in Pinellas County. Commissioner Blackburn stated what she objects to is, I am not necessarily comfortable, since the Mayor and Attorney actually, were to me were almost out of bounds in the research that they did checking references on Bob Daniels, before we even interviewed him, both people showed such a marked preference for one candidate that like the deck was stacked, so I do not feel comfortable with those two approaching this candidate and negotiating because they have every incentive to let human nature take over and try to make it not work out so that their preferred candidate... Mayor Henderson interrupted at this time stating that was the homework that Attorney Eschenfelder told us to do before we interviewed. Vice Mayor Robinson stated that

I am offended on behalf of the Attorney and the Mayor to suggest that they would in some way operate nefariously and not in good faith where negotiating this contract is concerned. Vice Mayor Robinson stated going back to the items on the list, he does not have a concern with what is on the list but does not want it to be a take it or leave it, what I want to see a legitimate negotiation. After discussion, Mayor Henderson asked the audience if they have any comments. Resident, Jim Parker, asked if there can be a motion to have someone else to negotiate. Vice Mayor Robinson stated he is not changing his motion. After further discussion, roll call on the motion and second: all yes.

Commissioner Krouk asked to discuss the list from Commissioner Krajewski. The Commission discussed the items on the list. Some of the items are already set by town policy. After discussion, Mayor Henderson will send the list Attorney Eschenfelder. Attorney Eschenfelder stated the two hard and fast items are residency in Pinellas County and an initial term of two-years. Commissioner Krouk expressed she is fine to give relocation expenses. Commissioner Blackburn asked if the relocation expense is taxable. Commissioners answered, yes, it is.

Attorney Eschenfelder wants to know how the Commission will evaluate the Administrator. The Commission discussed that we already have a policy on this and should follow this policy.

Commissioner Krouk moved that we as a Commission meet prior to the Administrator starting to set priorities as a group for the Administrator, seconded by Commissioner Krajewski. The Commission discussed that a motion is not needed, this could be placed on a workshop agenda or special meeting. Mayor Henderson asked for any other comments from the Commission or audience. There being none: roll call: all yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary F. Palmer, MMC
Town Clerk