

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF CITY
COMMISSIONERS FOR THE CITY OF PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA, HELD AT
2775 GARRISON AVENUE, April 10, 2018, AT 12 Noon**

The following were present: Mayor Patterson, Commissioners Ashbrook, Langston, and Lowry. City Manager Jim Anderson, City Clerk Charlotte Pierce, and Attorney Clinton McCahill were also present. Commissioner Buzzett was absent.

CONSENT AGENDA

City Attorney

Commissioner Ashbrook asked Attorney McCahill if there was anything he would like to say.

Attorney McCahill responded that he was requesting due process and the presumption of innocence until proven guilty.

Commissioner Ashbrook shared he felt Mr. McCahill was innocent until proven guilty, he was held to higher moral and ethical standards as a representative of the City, and he was not prepared to dismiss him because of it being a criminal case.

Commissioner Langston stated he believed in due process, but as Commissioners, City Attorney or any public figure, you are held to higher standards. He said he did not know what to do, but there are standards to live up to.

Commissioner Lowry shared that he was prepared to ask for Mr. McCahill's resignation to which Mr. McCahill responded that he does not plan to resign. Commissioner Lowry felt that it was too early to tell what to do.

Mayor Patterson noted that the news he received was not something to hear on a Sunday morning. He feels everyone should have a second chance, and asked Attorney McCahill to resign. Attorney McCahill responded that he serves at the pleasure of the Board and it was their decision.

Commissioner Lowry noted the media frenzy had started and phone calls were being received.

Commissioner Ashbrook offered three options 1) Termination based on the contract, 2) Suspend until the outcome is known, or 3) End the contract today because of the way the City has been portrayed.

Commissioner Langston responded that the issue has been all over the news, people are calling, this has portrayed the City in a bad image, the City has been going through enough the past year or year and a half and the City's image needs to be upheld.

Mayor Patterson remarked no one wanted to make a decision. The City had put their faith and trust in Mr. McCahill when he was hired, he had dove into City issues and was doing a good job, but this gave the City a black eye. He would support option 3 if someone would make a motion.

Commissioner Ashbrook stated he supported a suspension until the results of the charges were known and he was tired of having to make these type decisions.

Mayor Patterson responded that the actions reflect on the City.

Commissioner Langston asked if Mr. McCahill would resign rather than force the Commission to go through a tough decision.

Mr. McCahill asked for a chance to leave the meeting and Mayor Patterson declared a 5 minute recess at 12:10 P.M. Mr. McCahill returned to the meeting at 12:11 P.M. and stated that the Commission would have to make a decision.

Commissioner Lowry asked Mr. McCahill what his wishes were going forward and Mr. McCahill responded that he loves his job and wants to keep it.

Mayor Patterson stated that the consensus was to terminate the contract and if he did not get a Motion he would pass the chair to make the Motion to terminate.

Commissioner Ashbrook noted it was a difficult decision, no one wanted to make a Motion, Mr. McCahill has been a friend but the City has been dishonored. Today's decision would be setting a precedent, he feels that the City Manager, City Clerk, and the attorney all represent the City, they are out front and are held to higher standards.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Ashbrook, second by Commissioner Langston, to terminate the contract with City Attorney, Clinton McCahill. All in favor; Motion carried 4-0.

Mr. McCahill thanked the Commission for the opportunity to serve the people, shook hands with each Commissioner and Staff before he left the meeting.

Mayor Patterson noted they Commission had accomplished what they came to do.

Commissioner Ashbrook stated a replacement would need to be obtained.

Commissioner Lowry responded that he did not want the Commission to make a hasty decision.

Commissioner Ashbrook asked if the old RFQ was still available and asked that Mr. Anderson check to see if any of the previous applicants were still interested.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Ashbrook, second by Commissioner Langston, to adjourn the meeting at 12:15 P.M.

Approved this 17th day of April 2018.


James "Bo" Patterson, Mayor

4/17/18
Date


Charlotte M. Pierce, City Clerk

4/17/18
Date