

CITY OF COCOA BEACH
SPECIAL MEETING
MINUTES
May 20, 2025

A. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 7:00 P.M.

Commission Members Present:

City Commissioner - Mayor Keith Capizzi
City Commissioner - Joshua Jackson
City Commissioner - Vice-Mayor Skip Williams
City Commissioner - Jeremy Hutcherson
City Commissioner - Tim Tumulty

Administrative Members Present:

City Attorney - Becky Vose
Assistant to the City Clerk – Michael Bryan
Deputy Development Services Director - Brian Palmer
Development Services - Dave Dickey
Finance Director – Hana Juman
Deputy Finance Director - Devan Taly
Project Manager - Scott Maxim
Public Works Director - Brad Kalsow
Police Chief - Wes Mullins
Leisure Services Director - Andrea Segarra
Finance Director - Hana Juman
Systems Analyst- Tristan Takacs
Stormwater Utility Manager - Morgan Zuhlke
Fire Chief- Justin Grimes

B. NEW BUSINESS

1. Discuss City Manager retirement and paths forward

Vice Mayor Skip Williams announced that City Manager Wayne Carragino retired on May 16, 2025. Mayor Capizzi opened the floor for discussion, and Vice Mayor Williams moved to have Mr. Baenziger begin the search for a new City Manager. Both Vice Mayor Williams and Mayor Capizzi advised against hiring internally, with Mayor Capizzi stating that it could create future issues and added that, according to the city charter, Police Chief Wes Mullins is serving as the interim City Manager. Mayor Capizzi stated he was comfortable with Mr. Mullins handling both roles for now. However, Vice Mayor Williams mentioned that Mr. Mullins had expressed disinterest in the permanent role. Mr. Mullins stated he is willing to serve in whatever capacity the commission decides, emphasizing the strength of the city staff and his commitment to the team. Commissioner Jeremy Hutcherson highlighted the importance of maintaining tight budget control with the deadline approaching. Mayor Capizzi noted that Hana Juman, Finance Director, is managing her budget well and praised

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the team built by Mr. Carragino, reinforcing the idea that Mr. Mullins can effectively serve as interim thanks to that strong team foundation.

Vice Mayor Williams introduced A.J. Hutson as a potential interim City Manager candidate. Ms. Janice Scott raised a point of order, requesting the commission disclose who was being discussed. Vice Mayor Williams shared notes on Mr. Hutson and noted that he is only interested in serving as interim. Commissioner Tim Tumulty suggested all nominations be presented together. Commissioner Joshua Jackson discussed the scope of a City Manager's role, mentioning Melissa Byron and the option of considering internal directors. He questioned whether appointing someone as interim could limit the pool of future applicants and proposed setting restrictions. Vice Mayor Williams reiterated that Mr. Hutson wanted only the interim role. Commissioner Hutcherson nominated Melissa Byron for the position. Mayor Capizzi expressed openness to public input and emphasized the importance of finding someone he could work with. Vice Mayor Williams favored a candidate with prior city experience, highlighting Ms. Byron's background.

Ms. Byron publicly endorsed Mr. Hutson, calling him the best choice. Mr. Hutson shared his experience with the city and shared his willingness to step in as interim until a permanent City Manager is found. Commissioner Tumulty supported Mr. Hutson, citing their history and Mr. Hutson's city involvement. Mayor Capizzi also expressed interest in Mr. Hutson. Mr. Hutson stated that if appointed, he would hold one-on-one meetings with each commissioner, the City Attorney, and department heads, and acknowledged the urgency of the upcoming budget process. Commissioner Jackson saw Ms. Byron's endorsement as significant and considered her a strong backup to keep staff stability. Commissioner Hutcherson suggested Mr. Mullins as a strong candidate, and Mayor Capizzi reiterated Ms. Byron's endorsement of Mr. Hutson.

Ms. Scott and Ms. Margaret Schneider both spoke in support of Mr. Hutson. Commissioner Hutcherson asked if Mr. Hutson had a hard time limit, to which Mr. Hutson replied he was flexible beyond four months. Mr. Baenziger stated that a 4 or 5 month timeframe is typical, with about 90 days typically needed to find candidates. Commissioner Tumulty asked whether the City Manager pay would affect Mr. Hutson's pension. Vice Mayor Williams clarified that Mr. Hutson would receive no additional benefits and must work 40 hours weekly. Ms. Becky Vose, City Attorney, confirmed with Mr. Hutson that he was okay with not receiving additional benefits.

MOTION BY WILLIAMS/HUTCHERSON

I MOVE TO DISCUSS THE CITY MANAGER RETIREMENT AND PATHS FORWARD.
VOICE VOTE ON THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. Appointment of Acting City Manager

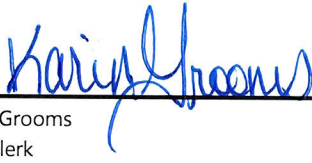
MOTION BY WILLIAMS/TUMULTY

I MOVE TO APPOINT AJ HUTSON AS ACTING CITY MANAGER
VOICE VOTE ON THE MOTION CARRIED
UNANIMOUSLY

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C. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:34 P.M.

X 
Karin Grooms
City Clerk

X 
Keith Capizzi
Mayor