

The Regular Meeting of the City Council of the City of Panama City Beach, Florida, and when permitted or required by the subject matter, the Panama City Beach Community Redevelopment Agency, held on May 12, 2016.

ROLL

MAYOR MIKE THOMAS

COUNCILORS:
JOHN REICHARD
PHIL CHESTER
JOSIE STRANGE
HECTOR SOLIS

CITY MANAGER:
MARIO GISBERT
CITY CLERK:
DIANE FOWLER
ASSISTANT CITY ATTORNEY:
AMY MYERS

Mayor Thomas called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. with all of the Council, the City Manager, City Clerk and Assistant City Attorney present.

Police Chaplain John Woodrow gave the invocation and Mayor Thomas led the pledge of allegiance.

The Mayor asked if there were any additions or deletions to the Agenda. He said Item 9, "*Extension of Ordinance 1276- Discussion*" was removed due to the petitioner withdrawing his request. He said Vice-Mayor Strange asked to place the "Ride of Silence Day" Proclamation and presentation on the Agenda, and it would be 2A. There were no objections. With nothing further, **the Agenda was accepted as amended.**

The Minutes of the Regular Meeting and LETF Meeting of April 28, 2016 were read and approved as written per **motion by Councilman Reichard. Second was by Councilwoman Strange.** The Mayor called for comments; there were none. **The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote recorded as follows:**

Councilman Chester	Aye
Councilwoman Strange	Aye
Councilman Solis	Aye
Councilman Reichard	Aye
Mayor Thomas	Aye

CONSENT AGENDA

ITEM 1 REVISION OF THE CITY MASTER AUDIT LIST TO REMOVE OBSOLETE ITEMS. *All Departments have been asked to update their audit lists for surplus/obsolete equipment/vehicles/etc. These items are to be removed from the Master Audit List. STAFF RECOMMENDS approval to remove these items. By approval of this matter in the Consent Agenda, the City Council makes a finding of surplus for these items and approves their removal from the Master Audit List.*

Ms. Fowler read the Consent Agenda. Mayor Thomas invited public comment. Councilman Reichard asked Chief Whitman when the auction was planned. Chief Whitman responded in June. **Councilwoman Strange made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Second was by Councilman Chester and the motion passed by unanimous roll call vote recorded as follows:**

Councilman Chester	Aye
Councilwoman Strange	Aye
Councilman Solis	Aye
Councilman Reichard	Aye
Mayor Thomas	Aye

REGULAR AGENDA

1 ITEM NO. 1 BOYS & GIRLS CLUB CIVIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD. Councilman Phil Chester introduced Mr. Peyton Allen and presented him with the Civic Achievement Award for exemplary service to the Beach Boys and Girls Club. He then congratulated Peyton. Ms. Stacey Schubert presented Peyton with a gift card donated by a local business. The audience responded with applause.

2 ITEM NO. 2 “PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL DAY” AND “NATIONAL POLICE WEEK” PROCLAMATION AND PRESENTATION. Councilman Chester invited Chief Whitman to the podium as he read portions of the Proclamation declaring May 15, 2016 as “Peace Officers Memorial Day” and May 15-21, 2016 as “National Police Week”. Councilman Chester also read that the flags would be half-staff on Sunday, May 15th, in honor of Peace Officers Memorial Day. Chief Whitman thanked Councilman Chester and explained about National Police Week.

2A ADD-ON “RIDE OF SILENCE DAY” PROCLAMATION AND PRESENTATION. Vice-Mayor Strange invited Ride Coordinator Joseph Fritz to the podium as she read portions of the Proclamation declaring May 19, 2016 as “Ride of Silence Day”. Mr. Fritz thanked the Vice-Mayor and explained that the ride would be held at Frank Brown Park and Gayle’s Trails beginning at 6:15 P.M. and invited everyone to join the Ride. The audience responded with applause.

3 ITEM NO. 3 APPOINTMENT TO BAY COUNTY LEAGUE OF CITIES BOARD. Councilwoman Strange made the motion to appoint Councilman Reichard to the Board. Second was by Councilman Solis and the motion passed by unanimous roll call vote recorded as follows:

Councilman Chester	Aye
Councilwoman Strange	Aye
Councilman Solis	Aye
Councilman Reichard	Aye
Mayor Thomas	Aye

4 ITEM NO. 4 APPOINTMENT TO WEST FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL (WFRPC). Mayor Thomas explained that the WFRPC was the State arm of the TPO. Councilman Reichard said that an important function of this Board was the ranking of transportation projects. Councilwoman Strange made the motion to appoint Councilman Solis to the WFRPC since he was already on the TPO. Second was by Councilman Reichard and the motion passed by unanimous roll call vote recorded as follows:

Councilman Chester	Aye
Councilwoman Strange	Aye
Councilman Solis	Aye
Councilman Reichard	Aye
Mayor Thomas	Aye

5 ITEM NO. 5 APPOINTMENT TO AIRPORT AUTHORITY BOARD. Prior to the voting, Mayor Thomas asked the other Council members to vote via voice as opposed to paper ballots. By general consent, the other Council members agreed not to use the paper ballots. Councilman Chester commented that a large portion of his business was from the airport and he wanted that information on record. Councilman Reichard made the motion to appoint Mr. Richard Jackson to the Airport Authority Board. Mayor Thomas passed the gavel to Vice-Mayor Strange and seconded that motion. The motion failed by majority roll call vote recorded as follows:

Councilman Chester	Nay
Councilwoman Strange	Nay
Councilman Solis	Nay
Councilman Reichard	Aye
Mayor Thomas	Aye

Councilwoman Strange made the motion to appoint Mr. Ken Nelson to the Airport Authority Board. Second was by Councilman Solis and the motion passed by majority roll call vote recorded as follows:

Councilman Chester	Aye
Councilwoman Strange	Aye
Councilman Solis	Aye
Councilman Reichard	Nay
Mayor Thomas	Nay

6 ITEM NO. 6 SET LAMAR SIGN VARIANCE HEARING DATE. Mr. Leonard explained that the sign regulations required Variance requests for off-premise signs be heard by the Council rather than the Planning Board. He said one of Lamar's old signs did not meet regulations for the distance from a residential area plus they would like a taller sign, both of which were not allowed under the sign regulations. He suggested June 9th at 4:30 P.M., right before the 6 P.M. Council meeting which would meet the advertising requirements.

Councilman Reichard said he thought the Planning Board assumed all of the duties of the Board of Adjustment when it was abolished. Ms. Myers replied that it did in most cases but the Sign Code was written such that the City Council heard sign height variances, and it would seem appropriate for the Council to hear both. Councilwoman Strange asked if Staff had a recommendation. Mr. Leonard responded that they had a draft report but it had not yet been finalized. Once a date was set, Staff would advertise, put the sign on the property and get the report to Council for review.

Councilman Solis said he and Councilman Chester had FL League of Cities training scheduled for Orlando at 8 A.M. on Friday morning, and he had planned to ask later in the meeting about moving the 6 P.M. Council meeting to earlier in the day. He asked if the Council would consider moving the regular meeting to Wednesday or Thursday morning.

Councilman Reichard suggested moving the meeting to 9 A.M. on Thursday morning. Mr. Gisbert mentioned the Council Chambers were already reserved for a City Pension Board meeting at 10 A.M. Thursday. Regarding the Hearing, the Mayor recommended delaying the Hearing until the next Regular meeting on June 23rd starting at 1 P.M. There were no objections.

Regarding the Pension Board meeting, the Mayor suggested moving it to the new Police Department media room. **Councilwoman Strange made the motion to move the Thursday June 9th 6 P.M. meeting to 9 A.M. Second was by Councilman Solis and the motion passed by unanimous roll call vote recorded as follows:**

Councilman Chester	Aye
Councilwoman Strange	Aye
Councilman Solis	Aye
Councilman Reichard	Aye
Mayor Thomas	Aye

7 ITEM NO. 7 TAX COLLECTOR BUILDING LEASE-DISCUSSION. Mr. Gisbert said the lease for the Tax Collector's office expired last month and had not been updated for a while. He said typically, there would be an escalator built into the lease and he proposed adding a single 3% escalator. He continued that the City currently paid the power, water and sewer for the building and he recommended having the Tax Collector pay for the electric utilities. He said this would make the lease more as a fair market value. Mr. Gisbert explained the lease was currently a flat Three Thousand Dollars (\$3,000) monthly and the City paid their power bill for approximately One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000) per month, and water/sewer bill approximately Three to Four Hundred Dollars (\$300-\$400) per month and reminded that the bills varied monthly. With the new lease, the changes would be that the lease would be Three Thousand Ninety Dollars (\$3,090) monthly plus they would pay the power directly.

Councilwoman Strange asked if the Tax Collector wanted to remain at that location. Mr. Gisbert replied they did not want to stay at that location because of the parking issues and their outgrowing the space. He said he also proposed a year-to-year lease so that when the City rebuilt this building and the balance of the parking, they could be relocated without dealing with a longterm lease. Councilwoman Strange said she thought it was a wonderful convenience for the residents to have the Tax Collector at that location. Mr. Gisbert said the Tax Collector was proposing closing this office, moving east, and comments were made about the Publix Shopping Center on Hutchison.

Councilwoman Strange said she had heard from some of their employees about a potential design taking away more of their parking. Mr. Gisbert explained about the future perpendicular Police Department parking which would lose some of the existing parking spaces. However, once the full buildout of this phase was completed, there would be more parking than in the past.

Councilwoman Strange asked if the proposed lease had been discussed with Ms. Brannon. Mr. Gisbert said yes and had been reviewed by legal. Ms. Myers said it had not yet been approved by the County but the terms were substantially agreed upon.

Ms. Myers offered a draft Resolution approving the generic form of the lease. She then read Resolution 16-81 by title. **Councilwoman Strange made the motion to approve Resolution 16-81. Second was by Councilman Reichard. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote recorded as follows:**

Councilman Chester	Aye
Councilwoman Strange	Aye
Councilman Solis	Aye
Councilman Reichard	Aye
Mayor Thomas	Aye

8 ITEM NO. 8 LOW SPEED VEHICLE REGULATIONS- DISCUSSION.

Mr. Leonard said the purpose of this item was to ascertain if the Council members had thoughts of parameters for rental LSVs or if additional time was needed to speak with Mr. Gisbert. He said Staff then could create a draft for Council consideration.

Councilwoman Strange said she thought Front Beach Road was an amusement itself so she had no problem with golf carts on Front Beach Road. She said Front Beach Road was the Tourist Corridor and suggested a 15 mph speed limit on the road.

Councilman Solis said he believed everyone originally had the same thoughts about scooters, that there would not be an issue with only about a hundred scooters. Problems arose when there were eighteen hundred scooters. He said it was good for the Council to be proactive rather than reactive years down the road. He asked Mr. Gisbert the number of vehicles. Mr. Gisbert replied last year at this time, there were 93 and now there were 194. Councilman Solis said this was a perfect time to discuss the LSVs and determine some good numbers before the volume got out of control. Councilwoman Strange asked if he thought of limiting the numbers and Councilman Solis said yes to let people know what the standards would be ahead of time.

Chief Whitman said this would not be golf carts but rather low speed vehicles that were tagged and had VIN numbers. The issue was that many families were confused coming out of Pier Park and getting onto the Parkway and LSVs were not allowed on the Parkway or Middle Beach Road. Councilwoman Strange said there was no way to stop that except by policing those actions. Chief Whitman replied that was correct but there was someone new renting those types of vehicles every day. Councilwoman Strange said limiting the number was a valid solution. Councilman Solis said he thought this was a good move now to prevent harming companies in the future. Chief Whitman said currently there were six companies that rented the LSVs.

Mayor Thomas asked Ms. Myers if this discussion about limiting the numbers actually placed a moratorium on them. Ms. Myers said there was a pending Ordinance doctrine but she did not know if the discussion was far enough along or enough information to create the moratorium. She said the Council was close and could direct her to bring an Ordinance to the next meeting which would establish a moratorium. She said she did not believe this discussion was enough to establish a moratorium.

Councilman Reichard said the Scooter Ordinance addressed LSVs as well and he asked how it affected these vehicles. Ms. Myers said this discussion was anticipated when drafting the Scooter Ordinance. That Council acknowledged that there would likely be other types of vehicles which would fill the gap and anticipated that something else would be required. Councilman Reichard said the Scooter Ordinance also placed a moratorium on new scooter locations and asked if this included locations for these types of vehicles. Ms. Myers responded negatively and explained that the Land Use prohibited strictly motor scooter rentals. However, the Ordinance required the LSVs to be registered, the same as scooters.

Councilwoman Strange asked about a new type of moped and Ms. Myers said it was called a commercial mega-cycle and the State Legislature just adopted new legislation which required municipalities to regulate them or prohibit them altogether. Councilwoman Strange said that was something which should also be discussed. Ms. Myers said those vehicles could also be used to fill the scooter gap. Chief Whitman said he had been contacted by two companies wanting to bring those vehicles here and he advised they were not allowed because of consuming alcohol on the State right-of-way while peddling down the street. He said basically they were a bar.

Councilman Chester said some residents were using their golf carts on Front Beach Road which was illegal. He asked about posting signs to advise that travel on those roads was illegal. Chief Whitman said he could work on that issue.

Mr. Gisbert said there were two levels involving a moratorium, the number of locations allowed to rent the LSVs and limiting the number of actual vehicles. Councilwoman Strange said she thought limiting the number was good for safety reasons. Mayor Thomas said if the number was limited, it should be tied to the location. Councilman Reichard asked Chief Whitman the number of accidents involving the LSVs. The Chief replied that the scooter accidents outnumbered the LSVs by far and the Mayor said the actual numbers of vehicles 1400 to 93 were outweighed. Councilman Reichard said this seemed to be more of a nuisance issue rather than a

safety issue. Councilman Solis said the number of LSVs were controllable now versus delaying the matter and the number getting out of control. Councilman Reichard said care should be taken due to the cost of a LSV as opposed to the cost of a scooter, Seven to Ten Thousand Dollars (\$7,000-\$10,000) as opposed to Seven to Eight Hundred Dollars (\$700-\$800) each. The Mayor said he anticipated that the owners knew what was being discussed and guessed that a large number of vehicles had been ordered within the last week. He continued that he would recommend placing a moratorium on the LSVs until the Council decided what action to take because if no action was taken, the numbers would continue to multiply.

Councilwoman Strange asked Chief Whitman if 194 vehicles were manageable. Chief Whitman responded right now but they had not expected a 100% increase over a year. He added that he did not know how many vehicles were on order. Ms. Myers said she could be directed to create an Ordinance and the City could have an immediate moratorium on the registration of any further LSVs until the Ordinance was adopted. Councilwoman Strange said that was a good idea. Councilman Solis added that if an owner could present evidence that new LSVs were ordered prior to this meeting, that could be considered and Ms. Myers said language was already in effect for the scooter moratorium. The cap would then be raised to include the ordered vehicles.

Councilman Reichard asked if an Ordinance could be drafted without numbers. Ms. Myers replied affirmatively and elaborated on the possible regulations. She added that the City did not have a Land Use category for these types of vehicles and supplemental or conditional standards could be created.

Discussion ensued concerning gas versus electric vehicles and that the moratorium and ordinance would include both kinds of vehicles. Ms. Myers said she understood that Council was directing her to draft an Ordinance for the next meeting, which would in effect establish the moratorium per the action today prohibiting the registration of any new vehicles.

Councilman Reichard asked the Mayor if he thought the County would follow the City's lead. Mayor Thomas said historically, whenever the County or the City did an Ordinance, it was shared. Ms. Myers said her office worked closely with the County Attorneys. The Mayor opened the floor for public comments.

Ms. Colleen Swab, California Cycles, said her firm had rented electric cars for twelve years and already had regulations. She said they had thirty-seven vehicles and had no issues. She distributed a copy of their regulations. She agreed with the grandfathering.

Mr. Rick Roof, owner of California Cycles, explained about electric LSVs and that limiting locations was great. He suggested no more than twenty (20) LSVs per location because of parking restraints. He suggested holding another workshop with the industry to discuss.

Mr. Dave Aronson made comments about the joys of riding LSVs as a private owner. He recommended clearer signage preventing the LSVs from getting onto the Parkway.

Mr. Tony Horton, Bike the Beach PCB, said he was a new business that opened after the scooter ban. He also opened a second location on the beach. During his first year, he only had one accident and no issues with insurance for his 31 cars. He distributed a handout concerning the State Statutes and said limiting the number of vehicles per location would only benefit the bigger companies such as California Cycles or King of Scooters. Councilwoman Strange asked him about the number of vehicles and he said he had an additional 25 LSVs on order, as he was approved for a total of 75 vehicles.

Ms. Eva Bush, Classic Rentals, said the sheer number of LSVs were the issue. She recommended a moratorium today on the number so the industry could get together to talk about regulations and recommended limiting locations. She said the City should be proactive which would benefit everyone in the long run. She said she had about 25 LSVs per location.

Ms. Nicole Wayne, Electric Cart Company, said she was unclear as to the issue with the LSVs. The Mayor responded that the City's concern was the number of vehicles which had doubled from last year. He explained the prior problems with the number of scooters and that the Council wanted to make an informed decision. Ms. Wayne said her company had a huge rental fleet, renting to individuals, and the vehicles were registered in Walton County, not the City. She said they planned to bring the old vehicles, approximately 45, to the City for rental. The Mayor said, although her store here was in unincorporated Bay County, any vehicles delivered in the City limits should be registered.

Councilwoman Strange made the motion to direct Ms. Myers to draft a moratorium and Ordinance to limit the number of LSVs. Second was by Councilman Solis. Councilwoman Strange asked specifically about the moratorium and Ms. Myers explained it would be a moratorium for any future registration of LSVs with a safe harbor for those businesses which had already ordered new vehicles and could present credible evidence. Councilman Reichard asked about Ms. Wayne's situation. Mayor Thomas said he understood that Ms. Wayne was ordering new vehicles for Walton County and bringing the old rental vehicles for use here,

and Ms. Wayne replied that was correct. With no further comments, **the motion passed by unanimous roll call vote recorded as follows:**

Councilman Chester	Aye
Councilwoman Strange	Aye
Councilman Solis	Aye
Councilman Reichard	Aye
Mayor Thomas	Aye

ITEM NO. 9 EXTENSION OF ORDINANCE 1276- DISCUSSION.
Removed from Agenda.

9 ITEM NO. 10 NAMING OF EAST/WEST PORTION OF LOOP ROAD. Councilman Reichard asked Mr. Gisbert to restate the name suggested for the east/west portion of Loop Road. Mr. Gisbert said Bay Parkway. Councilwoman Strange suggested Veterans Parkway. Mr. Gisbert said they would have to verify the name and the Mayor said Highway 22 was Veterans Highway. Ms. Myers added a portion of Hwy 98 was designated Veterans Highway. Councilwoman Strange suggested Bay Veterans Parkway or Panama City Beach Veterans Parkway. Councilman Reichard said he liked Bay Parkway. Ms. Myers said there was a Veterans Way on the Navy Base. **Councilman Reichard made the motion to name the east/west portion of Loop Road “Bay Parkway”. The Mayor passed the gavel to Vice-Mayor Strange and seconded the motion. The motion passed by majority roll call vote recorded as follows:**

Councilman Chester	Aye
Councilwoman Strange	Nay
Councilman Solis	Nay
Councilman Reichard	Aye
Mayor Thomas	Aye

10 ITEM NO. 11 CITY BOARDS- DISCUSSION. Mayor Thomas said he thought every time a new Council was elected, the Council members should select the Board members. He said with the County, the Commissioners appointed Board members which worked well. Ms. Myers said the Examining Board members were eligible by virtue of their employment. Mayor Thomas said the Council members could still appoint someone in that trade. Councilwoman Strange said the Council already voted for the Board members. The Mayor said yes, but not regularly. Councilman Reichard asked about the current Board members. Councilman Solis said this meant starting with a fresh Board and the Mayor said yes, as some of the Board members had been serving for many years. He said the Council members had term limits and that the Board members should also have term limits.

Mayor Thomas said the only Board he did not think it would affect would be the Civil Service Board. He said he thought it should be a grievance board because originally it was created to ensure everyone was treated fairly. Now, by law, everyone was treated fairly and the existing Civil Service format added a long time to employ someone and cost. He said he thought that would be something to be considered at a future Council meeting.

Councilman Reichard asked if it would be possible to stagger the new appointments at this time in order to avoid having an entirely new Planning Board. The Mayor stated that he thought the City needed a new Planning Board. He continued that the City wanted to be a family-friendly beach and he explained regulations which he felt personally were not right. He added that signs have now changed due to recent Supreme Court rulings and the Planning Board would soon be considering signs again. The Mayor said everything would need to change and he thought it would be good for a new Board to make those determinations since there was essentially a new sitting Council.

Councilman Reichard said the seven members on the Planning Board were notoriously famous for bad attendance at each meeting. He suggested with only five members on the Board and if one was absent, this might penalize residents or businesses which had business at that meeting and the Board not able to make a decision. Councilwoman Strange said since the rule was created about being removed from the Board due to absences, it seemed the Board members made a concerted effort to attend the meetings.

11 ITEM NO. 12 CITY MANAGER REPORT. Mr. Gisbert mentioned Impact Fees with the last study done about eight to ten years ago, and which should be done about every five years. He asked for Council approval to release RFQs for Fire, Police, Parks and Library for the

Impact Fees as well as a RFQ to revisit the CRA financials. Ms. Myers explained that the RFQs would ask for consulting firms to do a study and analysis of existing Impact Fees and recommend whether those rates needed to be changed. Regarding the CRA, the last study was in 2002 and stale and Staff would like a consultant to give a new forecast of monies coming into the CRA.

Mr. Gisbert continued that FDOT would like the City to take over Front Beach Road and the City did not have the inhouse expertise to understand the magnitude of the costs. He said the recommendations would come back to Council with budgets as some money was already set aside. He estimated about Seventy Thousand Dollars for all of the studies.

Regarding the Fire Impact Fees, the last study was done in 2000 and now the number of condos has increased substantially. The new study may recommend another fire truck or more firefighters, and a new study would qualify the City for additional funds and a full understanding of what was needed for the extra visitors. This information will help with grants and assigning funds for future expansions.

Councilwoman Strange asked if these new fees would be passed to existing homeowners and Mr. Gisbert said these new fees would not affect existing homeowners. **Councilman Reichard made the motion to approve the new studies. Second was by Councilman Solis. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote recorded as follows:**

Councilman Chester	Aye
Councilwoman Strange	Aye
Councilman Solis	Aye
Councilman Reichard	Aye
Mayor Thomas	Aye

Mr. Gisbert also mentioned two current events, the Beach Blast with the paragliders, and the Jeepin Jam. He said the Jeep event would have a parade Saturday which would close Front Beach Road temporarily.

The Mayor opened the floor for public comments.

FLOOR ITEMS

ITEM 1 FIRST AMENDMENT. Mr. Burnie Thompson distributed copies of his grievance concerning a Facebook exchange. He spoke of comments by Councilman Solis in his capacity of a public official, and he explained the language would fall under the Florida Ethics Commission. Mr. Thompson spoke at length and petitioned Mayor Thomas to investigate the incident, and if warranted, censure Councilman Solis. He asked the Mayor if he would consider doing so, and the Mayor responded no.

ITEM 2 ANIMAL CRUELTY. Mr. Clant Seay distributed information to the Council concerning the 40% of TN. Walking horses who were disqualified at the last Gulf Coast Charity Horseshow. He created a new petition with numerous signatures and would give those records to the City. He said Panama City Beach should disassociate itself from the animal cruelty and he read portions of the petition.

Ms. Tina Rudisill, asked the Council to consider banning the stacks and chains as it made the horses walk unnaturally. She said they were not needed and were cruel to the horses.

Ms. Sister Blackmon-Milligan distributed handouts and said the prior comments were hogwash and the proposed Ordinance from Mr. Seay would not pass constitutional muster. She said the pads and chains did not cause pain and suffering to the horses, and mentioned the study in the handout. She spoke of the regulations for the pads and chains already in effect. She said they were legal in 1900 and did not harm horses. She said the recitals requested in the proposed Ordinance were lies.

ITEM 3 SPRING BREAK IMPACT. Mr. Jacob Lassiter said at the last meeting, the Council had seemed to be okay with the loss of Twenty Million Dollars in sales, the Two Hundred Thousand Dollars for the City. He said the loss was more like Eighty-Four Million Dollars. Councilman Solis said the Council had not scoffed at the loss but the impact was more of a 19% loss for the City. He said his opinion was that the loss was not as bad as most people had expected. He continued that the City was now 5% ahead in revenue for the same time period last year. He said the City was blessed to be in this position and anticipated it would get better. Councilman Solis said most people had conceded that there would be a 50%-70% loss in March for the beach, and for the City to be below 20% was a tremendous accomplishment. Mr. Lassiter said the City's bank account did not reflect the same as his bank account or the businesses bank accounts.

ITEM 4 CHIEF WHITMAN. Chief Whitman thanked the Council for the beautiful new Police Department building and he presented a plaque of thanks to Mr. Al Shortt for all of his hard work in helping with the building. He thanked Mr. Shortt for his going above and beyond by helping every day with the architects. The audience responded with applause.

ITEM 5 COUNCIL COMMENTS. Councilman Solis stated he wanted to set the record straight in that once elected to public office, one did not lose the First Amendment right to speak on their own behalf. He said for months, he endured attacks from Mr. Thompson and his crew, and he chose not to respond. He remained silent until last week when one of his crew spoke of alleged rapes and against law enforcement, the irony was too much to avoid stating that one of the individuals who created the videos was a sex offender. He then used his First Amendment right to respond and the information disclosed was public information, open to anyone.

Councilman Reichard cautioned Councilman Solis that Mr. Thompson or anyone could refer the matter to the Ethics Commission. He said it had happened to him and other Council members in the past.

Councilman Chester thanked the Council for changing the June 9th 6 P.M. meeting to 9 A.M.

Mayor Thomas said last week, Mr. Tommy Pate, a longtime City Employee, lost his wife Pat Horn Pate, who had been a good member of this community and who had done many good things for the City. He asked the community to keep the family in their prayers.

Mayor Thomas said Mr. Doug Sale had been the City Attorney for many years, with Ms. Myers being the Assistant City Attorney for the last few years doing a very good job. He suggested making Ms. Myers the City Attorney as she had earned it. Councilman Reichard asked if details needed to be finalized or if a new contract agreement was needed. **Councilman Reichard made the motion to appoint Ms. Myers as City Attorney at her current rate. Second was by Councilman Solis. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote recorded as follows:**

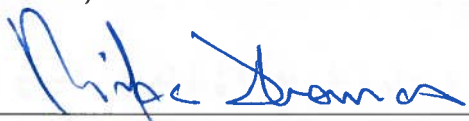
Councilman Chester	Aye
Councilwoman Strange	Aye
Councilman Solis	Aye
Councilman Reichard	Aye
Mayor Thomas	Aye

Ms. Myers thanked the Council. Mayor Thomas said she did a good job and Mr. Sale had taught her well.

With nothing further, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 P.M.

READ AND APPROVED this 26th of May, 2016.

IN THE EVENT OF A CONFLICT BETWEEN THE FOREGOING MINUTES AND A VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT OF THESE MINUTES, THE FOREGOING MINUTES SHALL CONTROL.



Mayor

ATTEST:



City Clerk