

MALABAR TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

JULY 26, 2021

7:30 PM

This meeting of the Malabar Town Council was held at Town Hall at 2725 Malabar Road.

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Council Chair, Mayor Patrick T. Reilly called meeting to order at 7:30 pm. CM Acquaviva led P&P.

2. ROLL CALL:

CHAIR:

MAYOR PATRICK T. REILLY

VICE CHAIR:

STEVE RIVET

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

MARISA ACQUAVIVA

BRIAN VAIL

DAVID SCARDINO

DANNY WHITE, excused

TOWN MANAGER: (ITM)

LISA MORRELL

TOWN ATTORNEY:

KARL BOHNE, excused

TOWN CLERK/TREASURER:

DEBBY FRANKLIN

3. ACTION ITEMS:

3.a. Set date for First PH on Millage and Budget – Tuesday 9/14/2021 @7:30pm

Franklin described error – previous date read into record stated a date that conflicted with the PH for Brevard Cty. Revised agenda report but Council nor Clerk read the correct date into the record on RTCM of 7/19/2021. That is why this needs to be corrected at this meeting. The first PH listed on the TRIM notice cannot be the same date as the PH for either School or Cty.

MOTION: CM Rivet / CM Vail to direct staff to set the first PH for millage and budget for Tuesday, Sept 14, 2021, at 7:30 here at Town Hall. The proposed maximum millage was already voted on to be 2.4999.

VOTE: All Ayes.

3.b. Discussion of Management Level Staff that report to Council (CM Vail)

Mayor asked CM Vail to start.

CM Vail said Council has a lot of important issues to deal with in the next couple months. He has spoken with TM Matt and learned that his orders to serve could push his time out to February 2022. TM Matt has a feeling he may be back sooner but still would like to take time off before resuming job. CM Vail would like Council to discuss continuing a relationship with the ITM. We have a current ITM position ending on 9/30 and a TC/T stating an intention to retire in Nov and the TM that may not be back until Feb 2022. Who is going to take the helm? We need to create a new position as a consultant.

CM Vail has spoken with TC/T and it could be funded within current budget. He proposes a compensation package of 92K based on a combination of 66K in payments and 26K in benefits for two years. Spell it out in the contract.

CM Acquaviva asked how he came up with this number. CM Vail said he had talked to TM, ITM and TC/T and came up with that number through staff. This new position would be primarily a 30,000 ft view of level of services needs for management/consultant oversight. There are CE violations in process, NPDES reporting, ARPA funds in the amount of 1.3 mil in future requiring verification and support of expenditures and subsequent reporting. The current staff is overloaded beyond our existing needs and the staff is overwhelmed. Some contractual tasks could include Emp manual, Code and LDR updates; monitor and reporting the state and local legislation regarding upcoming ARPA and what can be charged on that.

CM Vail said TC/T may consider staying if we do something in this direction. Over and above the needs of the Town exceed what can be done by one person as TM. This consultant position could be an asset to provide input on issues that the TM doesn't have time for that. She could also act as a lobbyist acting as an advocate for issues important to the Town and inform Council of such information.

CM Rivet said this is a proposal for a top-level position. It should start when her contract is up.

CM Acquaviva said she had this conversation with staff as well. Is there some means to keep her. She also had interaction and did not get that feedback.

CM Vail said we are working in our methods to keep working forward.

CM Acquaviva said the TC/T put in writing that she is leaving. She went to the ITM and said we need to advertise for a clerk. Budget is not very big.

Mayor Reilly said he heard the PB Dir of Econ Development retired and could we have something like that. That is how the discussion started for him.

CM Rivet said the biggest change he has seen in the increase in professionalism of the Town. He has been more than pleased with the professional development with staff. He agrees with CM Acquaviva that we must watch the budget but can't be too penny wise.

CM Acquaviva is not against it – but wants to be part of the conversation. The proposed cost is exorbitant. She gets it but she wants to be judicious. She thought we had to do discussion about hiring a new Clerk tonight.

Mayor disclosed he had also asked TC/T to work on potential funding to retain Ms. Morrell for another year or two.

TC/T said she has talked to several Council Members individually but cannot act as a conduit. She has also discussed with Matt and the FD. This is not a staffing issue: It is a chance to better the entire Town by continuing to take advantage of the wealth of knowledge and experience that Ms. Morrell has brought us. She would be an added asset that could assist the Town in every way to make positive changes and accomplish things we have struggled with for decades.

CM Acquaviva said her questions were not personal. This is the only forum to ask them, and as a responsible employer, she feels the duty to ask them.

Mayor Reilly asked TC/T Franklin to explain how the ARP funds will affect this situation.

TC/T said the federal government is scheduled to send the Town approximately 1.3 million dollars. We believe that some of the consultant fees can be back charged to the ARP funds since most of what the consultant will be doing falls under the ARP guidelines. TC/T said it would be advantageous if the Town Council would continue the relationship with Ms. Morrell beyond Sept 30. I have discussed this with TM Matt and he agrees. The entire Town would benefit from retaining her services. Not to replace a position but rather enhance all the positions and see some projects through to fruition. Although I have notified you of my intent to retire, I committed to a year while Matt was out. I would make that same offer – I would be honored to stay one more year to work with Matt and Lisa and get some major projects accomplished. But the crisis right now is we have:

- a TM that may not be back till Dec
- a TC/T leaving dec 1

- a ITM separated at 9/30
- a rotating Lt acting FD Chief

and these are our commitments:

- Health ins co that quit on us
- Solid Waste that quit on us
- RFP for same on street that will need review and ranking
- Surplus land sale being completed
- New capital playground equipment being installed, and park being refreshed
- FD Union contract up for negotiations now with due date of Nov 1
- Master plan for SW projects that need to be prioritized, funded, and sent for engineering

services to be rendered include:

- complete RFP process with Solid Waste collection
- economic recovery and development projects
- ARP projects – propose and oversight
- Grants Administrator
- Lobbyist/Advocate for Malabar benefit
- Charter Review update
- Oversight of capital SW projects
- Scheduling and prioritize SW and other Capital projects
- Complete the update on Code and LDR
- Pursue finding through FIND for riverfront access.

We don't have staff that we had in 2006.

CM Rivet said we can't think cheaply.

CM Scardino said we need personnel. We don't have that human infrastructure.

MOTION: CM Scardino / CM Vail to direct staff to draft a contract for consulting services for Lisa Morrell as a Special Projects Consultant.

Discussion: Mayor wanted to throw out 100k plus benefits. CM Scardino asked if this position could help with Code Enforcement? CM Acquaviva reminds him that the Town only has reactive Code Enforcement.

ITM Morrell states she has grown to really enjoy the Town of Malabar. She would be happy to continue to assist in its growth. She would like to discuss her options with her family but is very glad to see a succession plan coming into place.

VOTE: All Ayes.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS: General Items (Speaker Card Required) None:

6. REPORTS – MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS / STAFF

CM Acquaviva: Nothing

CM Vail: Nothing

CM Rivet: Nothing

CM White: excused

CM Scardino: Nothing

Mayor: Nothing

Clerk: Franklin asked about a date for some publicity for the presentation of the SandHill Crane picture done for the Town by resident Lloyd Behrendt.

Thinking about a daytime “reveal” – The consensus was to do the reveal at a RTCM.

15. ANNOUNCEMENTS: Openings on T&G Committee.

16. ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to discuss and without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20P.M.

BY: original signed
Mayor Patrick T. Reilly, Council Chair

ATTEST:

Debby Franklin, C.M.C.
Town Clerk/Treasurer

Date Approved: 08/02/2021