

City of Marathon
City Council Action Minutes
October 29, 2020 3:00 pm City Council Special Call Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER - A Virtual Zoom Meeting of the City Council of Marathon, Florida was held on October 29, 2020, Mayor Cook called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm.

ROLL CALL - There were present:

Councilmember John Bartus

Vice Mayor Luis Gonzalez

Councilmember Mark Senmartin

Councilmember Dr. Daniel Zieg

Mayor Steven Cook, comprising a quorum

Also in attendance were:

Chuck Lindsey, City Manager

Planning Director George Garrett

Attorney Steve Williams

City Clerk, Diane Clavier

Finance Director Jennifer Johnson

Code Compliance Director, Doug Lewis

Public Works Director, Carlos Solis

Fire Chief John Johnson

Parks and Recreation Director, Paul Davis

Marina Director, Sean Cannon

Human Resources Director, Diana Naylor

Lewis read the instructions for viewing and calling into the meeting.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Interim City Manager Discussion and Action:

Gonzalez thanked Lindsey and commented that he had been a great manager and the City was lucky to have him during Hurricane Irma and the stability he brought, as he had lived here before. Gonzalez explained that we have George Garrett who can offer continuity, expertise, local knowledge of Marathon and the county, he understands the complex relationships we have with the county, state and federal governments and he's someone we can all trust and has been here for 35 years and deserves an opportunity.

Senmartin agreed with Gonzalez, that he is on point with the experience and knowledge, it is a great idea to put Garrett in the position, because like Lindsey, he knows what to expect, and he is in favor of Garrett for City Manager.

Bartus explained what Gonzalez said is what he was going to say. Bartus reminded everyone there were two firms who specialize in hiring City Managers and in the past, we spent a lot of money and then ended up hiring the local guy, Garrett has done a good job as Planning Director and he does not want to see the avenue of Planning Director closed to Garrett if it should be decided that he wants to go back to being the Planning Director.

Zieg thanked Gonzalez for his expression of gratitude for Lindsey and agreed the City was lucky to have him. Zieg commented that the rush to put Garrett as City Manager does not pass the sniff test and smacks of a backroom deal where people only had their own self interests in mind. I thought we had moved forward out of the mud and into the sunshine. If he is half the man you say he is, Garrett would recognize this maneuver is simply that and would request the job be posted and put his resume into the mix with all the others and let the best man win.

Cook commented that this meeting was called to name an interim City Manager. If you go forward without a search, members of this council should be ashamed. Cook commented that he really likes Garrett but he has way too much on his plate to also deal with and was previously removed as deputy city manager for being too busy, and people were using him. Cook asked Garrett to put his name in the hat, but to do it the right way, by doing a transparent search.

MOTION: Gonzalez moved to hire Garrett as the next City Manager

SECOND: Senmartin

Senmartin suggested Garrett take some continuing education courses for a City Manager type program and have a six month and year review.

Cook called for speakers

City of Marathon
City Council Action Minutes
October 29, 2020 3:00 pm City Council Special Call Meeting Minutes

Diane Scott – commented that George Garrett should be the City Manager

Garrett stated he appreciated the honor given to him and the position had always been on his mind and he was committed and willing to do this. Garrett commented that Lindsey had been an amazing City Manager.

Bartus suggested amending the motion to say that we will enter into negotiations with our intent to hire Garrett and have our city attorney work on the contract and bring it forward at our next meeting. Both Gonzalez and Senmartin agreed to amend their motion and second and come back at the next meeting with a contract to ratify.

Vote of the Motion:

Yes: Gonzalez, Senmartin, Bartus
No: Zieg, Cook
Absent: None
Abstain: None

Vote on the Motion: 3 Yes, 2 No, 0 Absent, 0 Abstain

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Cook adjourned the meeting at 3:27 pm by unanimous consent.

I certify the above represents an accurate summary of the virtual Council meeting of October 29, 2020

Diane Clavier
Diane Clavier, City Clerk

NOV. 11, 2020
Date