

# Town of Melbourne Beach

## REGULAR TOWN COMMISSION MEETING December 20, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. COMMUNITY CENTER - 509 OCEAN AVENUE

### MINUTES

#### Commission Members:

Mayor Alison Dennington  
Commissioner Sherri Quarrie  
Commissioner Corey Runte  
Commissioner Marivi Walker  
Commissioner Adam Meyer

#### Staff Members:

Town Manager Elizabeth Mascaro  
Town Clerk Amber Brown

#### 1. Call to Order

Mayor Alison Dennington called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

#### 2. Roll Call

Town Clerk Amber Brown conducted a roll call

#### Commission Members Present

Mayor Alison Dennington  
Commissioner Sherri Quarrie  
Commissioner Corey Runte  
Commissioner Marivi Walker  
Commissioner Adam Meyer

#### Staff Members Present

Town Manager Elizabeth Mascaro  
Finance Manager Jennifer Kerr  
Building Official Robert Bitgood  
Fire Chief Gavin Brown  
Public Works Director Tom Davis  
Town Clerk Amber Brown

#### 3. Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence

Mayor Alison Dennington led the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### 4. Meeting Agenda – Additions/Deletions/Changes

Commissioner Sherri Quarrie spoke about changing the meeting agenda section 12 new business items d, e, f, g, h and put them on a workshop.

Mayor Alison Dennington spoke about wanting to do the proclamation, parks board, and each item for public comment but have the department heads do a very brief summary to get to the items that people came here for. Move the following items: proposal for the audiovisual, the reappointment of Jim Simmons, and proposals for legal services to the end.

Commissioner Corey Runte disagreed with Mayor Alison Dennington's proposal. A lot of the items need to be discussed during workshops.

Commissioner Marivi Walker spoke about continuing the meeting by following the agenda.

Mayor Alison Dennington spoke about the department reports taking a while and people are here to discuss items that are at the end.

**Commissioner Corey Runte made a motion to move items D through H of new business to a workshop for greater discussion; Commissioner Sherri Quarrie seconded; Motion carried 3-2 with Mayor Alison Dennington and Commissioner Adam Meyer dissenting.**

## **5. Consent Agenda**

- A. Approval of the Regular Town Commission Meeting Minutes November 15, 2023
- B. Reappointment of Board Members
  - 1. Reappointment of Haley Conrad to the Parks Board
  - 2. Reappointment of Danika Warren to the Parks Board
- C. Appointment of Board Members
  - 1. Appointment of Sabrina Cornelius to the Parks Board
  - 2. Appointment of Judy Lukeman to the Ryckman House Historical Preservation and Awareness Board
- D. Appointment of Non-Voting Members to Town Boards
  - 1. Appointment of Rebecca Stevens to the Parks Board
  - 2. Appointment of Julianne Samuel to the Parks Board

**Commissioner Sherri Quarrie made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda; Commissioner Marivi Walker seconded; Motion carried 5-0.**

## **6. Proclamations/Presentations/Awards**

- A. Presentation of a proclamation commemorating 37 years of dedicated volunteer service to the Town of Melbourne Beach provided by Retired Fire Chief David Micka

Mayor Alison Dennington presented a proclamation commemorating 37 years of dedicated volunteer service to the Town of Melbourne Beach by Retired Fire Chief David Micka.

Retired Fire Chief David Micka spoke about joining the department as a stress relief from his work and encouraged everyone in the community to volunteer.

Brief Reception at 6:19 pm.

Town Clerk Amber Brown conducted a roll call

**Commission Members Present**

Mayor Alison Dennington  
Commissioner Sherri Quarrie  
Commissioner Corey Runte  
Commissioner Marivi Walker  
Commissioner Adam Meyer

**Staff Members Present**

Town Manager Elizabeth Mascaro  
Finance Manager Jennifer Kerr  
Building Official Robert Bitgood  
Fire Chief Gavin Brown  
Public Works Director Tom Davis  
Town Clerk Amber Brown

**7. Finance/Budget Report**

**Commissioner Sherri Quarrie made a motion to approve the finance/budget report as presented; Commissioner Marivi Walker seconded; Motion carried 5-0.**

**8. Department and Board/Committee Reports**

**A. Public Works Department**

Public Works Director Tom Davis commended his crew for locating a sinkhole, identifying it was a collapsed corrugated pipe, and being able to solve the problem in-house. The estimated cost saving was about five to eight thousand dollars.

**B. Building Department**

Commissioner Adam Meyer asked for the report to include the address for new vacation rentals.

Mayor Dennington asked to include a list of all registered vacation rentals as part of the Building Department report, if there is a list of owner-occupied rentals, and spoke about those homeowners who could live in the house part-time and still rent rooms out.

Town Manager Elizabeth Mascaro spoke about the Town Code and possibly even the State Legislature allowing homesteaded properties to rent out rooms.

Commissioner Corey Runte spoke about discussing registering owner-occupied vacation rentals at a future meeting.

**C. Code Enforcement**

No additions

**D. Fire Department**

Fire Chief Gavin Brown spoke about a software issue, so he was not able to download the two reports that he normally provides.

E. Police Department

Mayor Alison Dennington asked about the Police Chief retiring, and when the RFP will go out.

Town Manager Elizabeth Mascaro spoke about the RFP will probably go out next week. The Police Chief is retiring on February 1<sup>st</sup> and is willing to be contracted until a new police chief is hired.

Commissioner Adam Meyer asked what the hiring process would be.

Town Manager Elizabeth Mascaro spoke about the applicants going in front of a review board, the review board narrows it down to 3-5 candidates, the board presents the candidates to the Town Manager, and the Town Manager brings the candidates to the Commission to interview.

F. Town Clerk

No additions

**9. Public Comment (Non-Agenda Items)**

After being acknowledged by the Mayor, members of the public should state their name and address for the record. The Commission encourages citizens to prepare their comments in advance. Each individual will have three (3) minutes to address the Commission on any topic(s) related to Town business, not on the Agenda.

***Tina Coppock - 505 Avenue B***

*Tina Coppock spoke about last month the Mayor spoke about wanting to move forward, but there are 2 agenda items to directly put digs on the Mayor's opponent. Don't use your public office to make digs at people you are in opposition to. Where can the public find out how much the Mayor is costing the Town in lawsuits? The Mayor is not interested in dropping any of the lawsuits? Not in good faith going to bury the hatchet.*

Mayor Dennington spoke about it is not that black and white because the Town Attorney would bill the Town when it shouldn't be billed to the Town. There is a resolution that says the Commission cannot contact the Town Attorney directly they are supposed to contact the Manager to get permission. I cannot answer your question. Why not ask the Town Manager why the Commission has been allowed to contact the Town Attorney directly?

***Bruce Larson - 1507 Pine St***

*Bruce Larson asked what are the agenda items that were deferred. Thinks those topics do need more discussion and should be at a workshop, so that is the right thing to do. Encouraged more participation at workshops. There is a great need to further discuss those items. There is an agenda problem. Maybe create a citizen board to create and prioritize the agenda.*

Commissioner Corey Runte spoke about what each item is that was removed from the agenda to be placed on a workshop.

Mayor Dennington spoke about those items are all the ones she put on the agenda. Spoke about there being a huge backlog of public records requests which is why she put on the agenda discussion on a deputy clerk. There are records that only the Clerk has access to and if she is gone for a week then you cannot see those records. Even Melbourne Village has a deputy clerk. Would like to take immediate action to start the repeal process on the second kitchen ordinance. Spoke about wanting to get a constitutional amendment regarding vacation rentals.

***Jim Simmons - 409 Avenue B***

*Jim Simmons spoke about the Mayor's job other than having one vote is to manage the meeting, follow the agenda, and stay on topic. He spoke about the process for calling point of order. If the answer to a question is short then you can answer a question, however, if it is not then it should be directed to the Town Manager to follow up on.*

***Steve Walters - 416 Sixth Avenue***

*Steve Walters spoke about point of order, but Commissioner Runte has interrupted 6 times. They are going to obstruct the Mayor every chance they can.*

Mayor Alison Dennington spoke about scheduling Mayor meetings to address items including vacation rentals and stop signs.

***Frank Thomas – 606 Atlantic St***

*Frank Thomas spoke about being on the Commission for 6 years. This is the wildest crowd he has ever seen. Tomorrow is the winter solstice. The 39<sup>th</sup> New Year's Day history walk that he started will be on New Year's Day at 10 am.*

***Roger Newell - 506 Colony***

*Roger Newell spoke about how he has recently attempted to locate all of the vacation rentals, but websites have gotten smart and do not post the addresses. Why is the Town not auditing the Town Attorney bills?*

***Mike Krajic – 2103 Neptune Dr***

*Mike Krajic spoke about being Santa at the tree lighting and it was great, and read a prayer.*

***Mark McBride – 310 Second Ave***

*Mark McBride spoke about attending for the same thing for the last two months. There are three Airbnbs around his house. He wants solutions and asked when the workshops will be.*

Mayor Alison Dennington spoke about her plan to have multiple joint workshops. Every week from here on out she will have a meeting to cover various topics such as Airbnb's. Wants to do a constitutional amendment regarding Airbnb's.

Commissioner Corey Runte spoke about the workshop is on January 3<sup>rd</sup> which is in two weeks from today. To make any ordinance changes we need a Town Attorney which the Town does not currently have.

***Jim Turi – 204 Dogwood***

*Jim Turi spoke about having 8 Airbnbs in a two-block radius. Is it possible to limit the amount of Airbnbs in an area, or could his entire block be Airbnb's?*

Mayor Alison Dennington spoke about how every house could be an Airbnb, but a possibility would be to create a homeowners association by street. Believes doing a constitutional amendment is the best way.

***Haley Conrad - 2011 Oak St***

*Haley Conrad spoke about how the Town can install stop signs on Riverside, but just because something is legal does not mean it is the right thing. Reviewed what FDOTs criteria is for determining if a traffic control device is a good solution.*

***Paula Panton – 809 Riverside Dr***

*Paula Panton asked if there is a process to remove stop signs. There were no problems before, and it is more dangerous now. There are a lot of people that are against the stop signs. Riverside used to be a speed trap and we need to get back to that.*

Commissioner Corey Runte spoke about getting a traffic engineer report for Riverside. Should get a professional's opinion on the stop signs to see what the best route is. There are a lot of people that are for the stop signs.

Commissioner Adam Meyer spoke about the stop signs can be removed by the Commission directing the Town Manager to remove them through a vote.

Mayor Alison Dennington spoke about a process to put in stop signs. Does not think the formal process happened. Remove the stop signs if the process was not followed then follow the process if they are replaced. Has not heard a single person that likes the stop signs. If people are speeding then the police department needs to write tickets.

***John Hart - 407 Surf Rd***

*John Hart asked if there was a traffic study done to install the stop signs if not remove them. What is the liability of removing the stop signs, doing the study, and following the proper procedure?*

Commissioner Corey Runte spoke about there not being an engineering study done before.

Commissioner Adam Meyer read a public comment that was emailed to him from Chuck Cain. The email spoke about the lawsuits between Mayor Alison Dennington and the Town and the amount it is costing the Town.

Mayor Alison Dennington spoke about one of them being an appeal for the shed case. The Town does not have a zoning placement permit. Thinks the Town Attorney was overbilling the Town because he would communicate directly with Commissioners, and is being sued as part of one of the lawsuits.

Town Manager Elizabeth Mascaro spoke about the Town does not agree with the statement about overbilling.

Building Official Robert Bitgood spoke about being listed in the election lawsuit, so he should be able to contact the Town Attorney without permission because the Town Attorney is representing him in the case.

### ***Gabor Kishegyi - 221 Surf Rd***

Gabor Kishegyi spoke about from a law enforcement standpoint the best way to enforce speeding is when people do not know when or where directed traffic enforcement is being done.

Mayor Alison Dennington read a public comment that was emailed to her from Kate and Dan Wilborn. The email spoke about limiting parking at the Sixth Ave boat ramp to Melbourne Beach residents.

## **10. Public Hearings/Special Orders**

### **11. Unfinished Business**

#### **A. Consideration of the proposals for audio-visual equipment in the community center**

Town Clerk Amber Brown spoke about the issues with the current sound system including not being able to add more microphones so some people have to share, residents having a hard time hearing, microphones being corded and there are only two places that are in the floor to plug them into so the cords are run along the floor to be plugged in, the current system does not record so there is an external recorder with wired microphone discs sitting around to record the audio so more wires and they only cover part of the area. Part of the quotes is to add a visual component to live stream the meetings. Previously presented five quotes, then the Commission narrowed it down to two quotes and asked for a side-by-side comparison. The AVI-SPL quote is for \$84,450.16 and the BIS Digital quote is for \$70,930.24.

Commissioner Corey Runte spoke about the equipment not fitting the needs of the Town, so at least the audio portion needs to be done. However, the visual component would increase transparency and allow residents who are out of Town to watch it live.

Commissioner Adam Meyer asked if other municipalities in the area use either company and asked about the storage of the videos.

Town Clerk Amber Brown spoke about some of the other municipalities in the area using IM Solutions, which we got a quote for and it was significantly higher so the Commission wanted quotes from other businesses. Spoke about the videos being stored on YouTube.

Mayor Alison Dennington spoke about being completely against this. She does not have any problems with the equipment. She is worried about replacing equipment that works for something new. The cost of this equipment might cover a full-time deputy clerk. Spoke about potential hidden costs with future licenses, and video storage for meetings that are 4 hours long.

Town Clerk Amber Brown spoke about other municipalities that use IM Solutions because they are located right in Melbourne and they have an employee from the company attend every meeting to operate the equipment. Regarding video storage, for the Town of Melbourne Beach our official record of the meetings is the minutes, so the retention period for the videos is not going to be permanent.

Mayor Alison Dennington spoke about money not growing on trees; if the money was coming from a grant, or if it was donated, and if the current equipment was broken. A lot of things are great that you don't do because of the cost. It seems like a platform for people to be on TV.

Commissioner Adam Meyer asked what fees are annual.

Town Clerk Amber Brown spoke about the annual support and maintenance are the only annual fees.

Mayor Alison Dennington asked about the warranty period, the cost, what is covered, and support.

Town Clerk Amber Brown spoke about the warranty details are in the proposals.

***Tina Coppock – 505 Avenue B***

*Tina Coppock spoke with a resident in Town who has a medical issue that prevents them from attending the meetings but would like to watch it live. Spoke about the cost of the audio-visual equipment is about as much as the lawsuits with the Mayor.*

***Jim Simmons – 409 Avenue B***

*Jim Simmons asked if it would be ADA compliant.*

Town Clerk Amber Brown spoke about YouTube doing the closed captioning to be ADA compliant, and other municipalities using YouTube to stream meetings.



**Julie Samuels – 2320 S River Rd**

*Julie Samuels asked about the price difference between livestreaming and posting a recording of the meeting. Likes the idea of having a video, but does it need to be live?*

**Bruce Larson – 1507 Pine St**

*Bruce Larson asked if we are ADA compliant today because he cannot hear half of what is said in the back. There are far cheaper options with delayed recording. If people cannot interact do they need it live-streamed? Are there less expensive options?*

Commissioner Corey Runte spoke about issues including the audio recordings on Sound Cloud do not allow you to fast forward, so you have to listen to the entire recording, being able to watch the meeting would be better than listening to a less-than-average recording. The minutes are abbreviated, and it would provide better transparency and public record.

Mayor Alison Dennington spoke about not wanting to waste taxpayer's money; there are other more critical items to spend money on.

Commissioner Corey Runte spoke about not being able to fix the current equipment to provide what is needed.

**Jeff Fisher – 509 Harland**

Jeff Fisher spoke about having a requirement definition of what you are looking for. He has experience with procurement and would be happy to help the Town.

**Ann Marie McBride - 310 Second**

Ann Marie McBride asked what percent of the Town budget this is, and if it was budgeted.

Commissioner Corey Runte spoke about it being a budgeted item, and it is less than 2 percent of the Town Budget.

**Frank LaGrassa – 412 First Ave**

*Frank LaGrassa spoke about how the Mayor is not suing the Town she is suing the Commission and protecting the Town and the residents, so what happened to her does not happen to them.*

**Commissioner Corey Runte made a motion to approve BIS Digital as presented for the audio and visual; Commissioner Marivi Walker seconded; Motion carried 4-1 with Mayor Alison Dennington dissenting.**

Mayor Alison Dennington spoke about voting against it because it is too expensive, we do not know how old the current equipment is, there are less expensive measures to get the same goal, and the current equipment still works.

**Commissioner Corey Runte made a motion for a short break.**

Break at 9:05 pm.

Town Clerk Amber Brown conducted a roll call

**Commission Members Present**

Mayor Alison Dennington  
Commissioner Sherri Quarrie  
Commissioner Corey Runte  
Commission Marivi Walker  
Commissioner Adam Meyer

**Staff Members Present**

Town Manager Elizabeth Mascaro  
Building Official Robert Bitgood  
Town Clerk Amber Brown

**B. Appointment of the Vice Mayor**

**Commissioner Sherri Quarrie made a motion to nominate herself; Commissioner Corey Runte seconded; Motion carried 4-0 with Commissioner Sherri Quarrie abstaining.**

***Steve Walters - 416 Sixth Ave***

*Steve Walters spoke about Commissioner Sherri Quarrie does not need to recuse herself because there is no benefit to being Vice Mayor.*

**Commissioner Corey Runte made a motion to nominate Commissioner Quarrie as the Vice Mayor; Commissioner Adam Meyer seconded; Motion carried 4-0 with Commissioner Sherri Quarrie abstaining.**

Vice Mayor Sherri Quarrie spoke about abstaining from the vote due to a possible conflict of voting for herself.

**C. Reappointment of Board Member James Simmons to the Board of Adjustment**

Commissioner Adam Meyer spoke about the Town receiving other applications that will be presented at the January workshop, so he would like to wait on this one until then to compare all of them at the same time.

Mayor Alison Dennington spoke about agreeing with Commissioner Meyer to look at all of the applications together.

Commissioner Corey Runte spoke about how this was tabled, so there is a full Commission, he has been on the Board, and out of all of the applications he is the most qualified.

Mayor Alison Dennington spoke about not agreeing with Commissioner Runte, seems there is a favorite, so rather than do it fairly all at once you want to piecemeal it.

Vice Mayor Sherri Quarrie asked what positions are available.

Town Clerk Amber Brown spoke about the open positions are one board member and two alternates.

Vice Mayor Sherri Quarrie spoke about being in favor of Jim Simmons because the board member position needs to be filled as soon as possible, he has the most experience, and that would allow people without as much experience to fill the alternate positions to get familiar with the position and that Board. Asked for the other candidates to be at the January workshop to be interviewed by the Commission.

Town Clerk Amber Brown spoke about the reason this agenda item is at this meeting is because of the motion that was made when it was tabled, the other candidates have been encouraged to attend the January workshop so the Commission can interview them.

Mayor Alison Dennington spoke about how it seems some of the Commission has a relationship with Mr. Simmons, and wants to push him through rather than giving all three the same opportunity.

***Tina Coppock - 505 Avenue B***

*Tina Coppock spoke about how it seems the Mayor has a vendetta against Jim Simmons. If he is the most qualified then he should be voted in and then work on filling the alternate positions, so those individuals can get up to speed.*

***Tim Flint – 1706 Atlantic St, Unit 3A***

*Tim Flint spoke about being one of the applicants and would like to be involved, and after listening to the Commission he thinks being an alternate would be a good step for him.*

***Frank LaGrassa – 412 First Ave***

*Frank LaGrassa asked when you interview people how important is the person's view on growth, or if knowledge of zoning is a big factor. When you get on the Board it is pretty easy to get caught up.*

Vice Mayor Sherri Quarrie spoke about the person needing to know the codes. Everyone needs to know the rules and follow them and if they do not then the Board of Adjustment needs to make a ruling. You do not make a decision based on feelings. The Board of Adjustment is a quasi-judicial board. If someone has a bias they shouldn't be on the Board.

Mayor Alison Dennington asked if there are rules on what can be asked, or if it is a specific list of questions.

Town Manager Elizabeth Mascaro spoke about what the Board of Adjustment does. A board member's opinion comes into play when someone applies for a variance because you have to prove a hardship. What one member considers a hardship may not be the same for another member. The applicant will have to plead their case as to what their hardship is.

Mayor Alison Dennington asked Jim Simmons about emails that go out behind the scenes about various town issues. What is his process for documenting if someone emails him about a Board of Adjustment issue? Does the Board of Adjustment have a town email? Should the Board of Adjustment have its own email?

***Jim Simmons – 409 Avenue B***

*Jim Simmons spoke about how he follows state law. He discloses any emails that he receives before voting. He does not send out emails behind the scenes. He is a private citizen who is allowed to express his opinion on any issue before the Town except for issues that go before the Board of Adjustment. There is not a Board of Adjustment email and if people want to express their opinion they should attend the meetings. It is the same as court, you cannot email a judge or jury to influence them or vote the way you want. That would be a felony and he would not do that. The Board should not have an email because individuals need to testify in court/ before the Board. The Board of Adjustment is held to the Sunshine Law as well.*

**Commissioner Corey Runte made a motion to approve James Simmons for reappointment to the Board of Adjustment; Commissioner Marivi Walker seconded; Motion carried 3-2 with Mayor Alison Dennington and Commissioner Adam Meyer dissenting.**

Commissioner Adam Meyer spoke about voting against it because they asked for more people to apply and they did, so he would like all of the applications presented during a workshop and be able to ask questions at the same time.

Mayor Alison Dennington spoke about dissenting because it would be good to give everyone a chance.

Commissioner Marivi Walker spoke about voting yes for the person who has the most experience and would be the best choice for the Town, and allowing people to learn by being an alternate.

**12. New Business**

- A. Appointment of the Voting Delegate and Alternate Voting Delegate for the Space Coast League of Cities

**Commissioner Corey Runte made a motion to nominate Vice Mayor Sherri Quarrie as the Voting Delegate for the Space Coast League of Cities; Commissioner Adam Meyer seconded; Motion carried 4-0 with Vice Mayor Sherri Quarrie abstaining.**

**Vice Mayor Sherri Quarrie made a motion for Commissioner Corey Runte to stay as the Alternate Voting Delegate; Commissioner Marivi Walker seconded; Motion carried 3-1 with Mayor Alison Dennington dissenting and Commissioner Corey Runte abstaining.**

Mayor Dennington spoke about dissenting because Commissioner Corey Runte is on so many committees already.

## B. Consideration of a temporary hold on permitting for 2<sup>nd</sup> kitchens

Vice Mayor Sherri Quarrie spoke about submitting this agenda item because there are community concerns, so stop and look at everything again and readdress it. She included Brevard County's ordinance to show Brevard County's process to remove a second kitchen if a home is no longer homesteaded.

Commissioner Adam Meyer asked if there have been any permits pulled.

Building Official Robert Bitgood spoke about there have not been any permits issued for it. A couple of people have inquired about it, however, no one has pulled a permit for it.

Mayor Alison Dennington asked if the Building Official had seen any second kitchens when he had done vacation rental inspections and if he looked for them.

Building Official Robert Bitgood spoke about not seeing any, but he also does not know if he has the legal recourse to do anything if he did see one.

Mayor Alison Dennington asked about how the Town would know if someone installs a second kitchen, but doesn't permit it.

Commissioner Corey Runte spoke about Planning and Zoning brought this to the Commission to remove some ambiguity in the Town code because that was happening. This is for a multigenerational suite to keep families together. He does not think the Commission has the right to tell families they cannot stay together.

Mayor Alison Dennington spoke about getting both sides. One side is about keeping families together, but the other side is having Airbnbs renting to two families. Why not have it be by development order then they get filed with the county and it would be single-family only and cannot be made into multifamily and follows the land.

Building Official Robert Bitgood spoke about having new homes that have a wet bar, the new thing now is to not even have an oven and instead have a convection oven. By clarifying the definition it has forced those rooms to be titled as a kitchen.

Mayor Alison Dennington spoke about this being a good start, but that it would need to go to workshops and amend the code which could take nine to twelve months.

Town Manager Elizabeth Mascaro spoke about how the hold could be extended.

Mayor Alison Dennington asked if the Building Official goes to an address for an inspection and sees a second kitchen does that get noted?

Building Official Robert Bitgood spoke about when an inspection is scheduled the only things he can look at are what he is there to inspect. However, if during an inspection an addition is being added then that is a different situation, but he does not have the authority for possible things that may or may not be allowed.

**Commissioner Corey Runte made a motion to approve a temporary hold/moratorium on permitting for second kitchens for 6 months which can be renewed at the discretion of the Commission by vote; Commissioner Marivi Walker seconded; Motion carried 5-0.**

C. Consideration of proposals for Legal Services from RFP

Town Manager Elizabeth Mascaro spoke about these three being the law firms that responded to the Request for Proposal (RFP).

Commissioner Marivi Walker spoke about wanting to go with either of the larger firms. The fees are very reasonable.

Commissioner Corey Runte spoke about Attorney Clifford Repperger's hourly rate was \$210.00. He is potentially interested in speaking with all three. He asked the Town Manager for her thoughts on the candidates.

Town Manager Elizabeth Mascaro spoke about how all three have municipal experience, but the two bigger law firms have a deeper bench. The response time for a larger firm might be quicker because they have more experience and more people.

Commissioner Adam Meyer spoke about being interested in speaking with all three. He is interested in why Mr. Stokes spends short terms at other towns.

Mayor Alison Dennington spoke about wanting to meet with all three, and if the RFP could be open longer but start the interview process as the proposals are received.

Town Manager Elizabeth Mascaro spoke about generally you wait until the RFP is over before you start processing the proposals. There were a few other inquiries, but they did not respond to the RFP.

Mayor Alison Dennington spoke about what happens if after the interviews the Commission does not like any of the candidates.

Town Manager Elizabeth Mascaro spoke about the possibility that the candidates do not accept the position, and in either case, the Town would go out for RFP again.

Commissioner Corey Runte spoke about leaning towards one of the large firms specifically Ryan Knight's law firm, but he would like to proceed with all three firms.

***Tina Coppock - 505 Avenue B***

*Tina Coppock spoke about having a lot of government experience. It is not a good idea to cancel and reopen an RFP. It does not look good and you may not get more applicants. She is concerned about any charges for travel time with the firms over in Winter Park.*

Mayor Alison Dennington spoke about how the attorney does not attend workshops or the Mayor's meetings so typically it would be once a month.

Vice Mayor Sherri Quarrie made a motion for the Manager to set up interviews with all three in the month of January one at a time;

*Jim Fisher – 509 Harland Ave*

*Jim Fisher asked who the hiring authority is and good luck.*

The Commission answered they are.

Commissioner Marivi Walker spoke about scheduling a meeting as soon as possible to do the interviews.

Vice Mayor Sherri Quarrie amended her motion of ~~Vice Mayor Sherri Quarrie made a motion for the Manager to set up interviews with all three in the month of January one at a time;~~ to schedule a meeting as soon as possible for all of the Commission to attend together; Commissioner Corey Runte seconded; Motion carried 5-0.

~~D. Consideration to repeal Ordinance 2023-02 Second Kitchens~~

New Business Item D was tabled to a workshop.

~~E. Consideration of hiring a Deputy Town Clerk~~

New Business Item E was tabled to a workshop.

~~F. Consideration to repeal Exemption for Owner Occupied Vacation Rentals~~

New Business Item F was tabled to a workshop.

~~G. Discussion on short term rentals and state pre-emption~~

New Business Item G was tabled to a workshop.

~~H. Discussion on stop signs~~

New Business Item H was tabled to a workshop.

### **13. Administrative Reports**

A. Town Manager

No additions

### **14. Commission Reports**

### **15. Task List**

Updated:

**Options and Costs for Live Streaming** – Proposals were presented as an agenda item during this meeting. The Commission approved the BIS Digital proposal. - Closed

**16. Public Comment**

None

**17. Adjournment**

Vice Mayor Sherri Quarrie moved to adjourn; Commissioner Corey Runte seconded, Motion carried 5-0.

Meeting adjourned at 10:41 p.m.



Alison Dennington, Mayor

ATTEST:



Amber Brown, Town Clerk

