

**CITY OF ANNA MARIA  
CITY COMMISSION  
SPECIAL MEETING  
OCTOBER 1, 2003  
6:00 P.M.**

**CALL TO ORDER**

**PLEDGE TO THE FLAG**

**ROLL CALL:** Mayor SueLynn, Commissioner Tom Aposporos, Commission Chair John Quam, Commissioner Linda Cramer

**Absent with excuse:** Commissioner Chuck Webb, Commissioner Duke Miller

**Also present:** City Clerk Alice Baird, Deputy City Clerk Diane Percycoe

**Press:** Sun

1. **BUILDING OFFICIAL SELECTION**

Chair John Quam requested an update from Mayor SueLynn.

Mayor SueLynn reported that at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, September 29, 2003, she met with Building Official Interview Committee, where it was reported that they had unanimously recommended Larry Hilton as Building Official. She said that contrary to newspaper reports, there had been no second or alternate selection. The Mayor said she then verified Mr. Hilton's qualifications and references, and on Tuesday contacted him, but he informed her that he did not wish to accept the position. She said that, based upon the discussion regarding the other two finalist candidates at the meeting on September 29<sup>th</sup>, and her own observations, she would not choose to offer the position to either of them. Mayor SueLynn said that she then personally reviewed the applications from the sixteen people who were not offered the opportunity for an interview. She said that from these, she selected five, and further narrowed it down to Mr. Santos, the resume of whom was distributed to the Commissioners in preparation for this evening's meeting. The Mayor noted that Mr. Santos did not have Code Enforcement qualifications on his resume, but that when she called him, he indicated that he had some experience in that area, despite not having been a Code Enforcement Officer, and that he was interested in the position. Mayor SueLynn said another consideration was that he had only just begun work at a new position. She said that she asked him if he was willing to lower his requirement for a \$60,000 per year salary to \$55,000 and he replied in the affirmative. The Mayor said that she would be interested in interviewing this candidate. She indicated that the other two people she had identified as possible candidates were from out of state, which would mean that they are not currently licensed by the State of Florida. Mayor SueLynn said that the current options available to her were to interview Mr. Santos, and to possibly re-advertise for the position. She said that she spoke briefly with Mayor Whitmore of Holmes Beach to make her aware of the situation, although they did not as of the date of this meeting have the opportunity to discuss it. The Mayor confirmed that the Holmes Beach Commission's decision had been that they did

not wish to renew the agreement currently in force with Anna Maria (ending on October 15<sup>th</sup>), as of their last regular meeting.

Commissioner Aposporos confirmed with the Mayor that Mr. Hilton's reason for not accepting the position had been that he did not want to commute the distance necessary from his residence in Arcadia. The Commissioner suggested that the Mayor contact the sixteen applicants to determine if any had changed their current employment status or would like to update their applications. He also suggested advertising an extension of the application deadline on the Building Officials' web site. He encouraged the Mayor to continue to assume personally more of the responsibilities originally delegated to the Building Official Interview Committee.

Commissioner Miller said that he thought the Mayor was on the right track, and that having personally attended all of the Building Official candidate interview, he agreed that the second choice from among these fell far short of Mr. Hilton's qualifications. He recommended that neighboring cities be requested to help due to the unusual circumstances, and agreed with Commissioner Aposporos that the Mayor was capable of handling the selection process in large part on her own. He said he appreciated the fact that the Mayor was not willing to make a hasty decision from among the rejected original applicants. He said that code enforcement should not be a major criterion for selection, as training for performing those functions could be accomplished with little additional time and effort.

Chair Quam agreed that it was best not to make a hasty decision, and recommended enlisting the help of Bradenton Beach, since they had been cooperative in the past, in case Holmes Beach proves unhelpful.

City Clerk Alice Baird confirmed that the ad for Building Official would be put on the Building Officials' web site free of charge, and received confirmation from the Mayor that in addition, advertisements would be placed in the Sarasota paper, as well as The Bradenton Herald.

Relative to advertising for the position, Deputy City Clerk Diane Percycoc confirmed that reference to salary had been "DOQ" (depending on qualifications) in previous advertisements, and asked how to proceed. She confirmed with the Commissioners that the ads should state "salary range from \$45,000 to \$55,000 based on qualifications".

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

A resident said he agreed with the approach the City is taking toward hiring a Building official. Another resident agreed with the previous speaker, but also expressed concern regarding the value and correctness of some of the City counsel's recent advice relative to the Building Official Interview Committee.

**PRESS COMMENT**

None offered.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION: Commissioner Linda Cramer moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Duke Miller.**

**Vote: All Ayes. Motion carried.**

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alice Baird  
City Clerk

10-23-03  
Date