

MINUTES OF VIRTUAL SPECIAL MEETING
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SELECTION
DANIA BEACH COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2020 – 12:00 P.M.

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Chair Lewellen called the special meeting to order at 12:02 p.m.

Present:

Chair:	Lori Lewellen
Vice-Chair:	Lauren Odman
Board Members:	Chickie Brandimarte
	Bill Harris
	Tamara James
Interim Executive Director:	Kathleen Weekes
City Attorney:	Thomas Ansbro
CRA Secretary:	Thomas Schneider

2. Executive Director Selection

Chair Lewellen asked if anyone had any questions before the Board Members make their top selections.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the process.

Board Member Brandimarte selected Mr. Chen.

Board Member Harris selected Mr. Chen, Mr. Blatt and Mr. Hall.

Board Member James had no one to add to the list.

Vice-Chair Odman selected Mr. Blatt, Mr. Brett, and Mr. Chen.

Chair Lewellen selected Mr. Chen and Mr. Blatt.

Board Member James noted she would recommend eliminating Mr. Brett.

Vice-Chair Odman agreed to remove Mr. Brett.

Discussion ensued regarding Mr. Chen, Mr. Blatt and Mr. Hall.

Chair Lewellen felt Mr. Chen was eminently qualified and has TIF-less experience.

Board Member Harris said he would like Mr. Chen and Mr. Blatt to come into IT Parker to give a public presentation.

Vice-Chair Odman favored Mr. Chen; he lives, eats, and breathes CRA. Mr. Blatt was interesting and smart; he is very thoughtful. If Mr. Chen is offered the position and unavailable, she would want Mr. Blatt.

Board Member Brandimarte spoke in favor of Mr. Chen because of his experience and knowledge. He meets all of the qualifications.

Board Member James agreed; it is surprising to her that the Board is all on the same page. She does not want to prolong the process and Mr. Chen will not be around for long with all of his experience. She is excited and proud of the Board.

Chair Lewellen felt because everyone favors Mr. Chen, presentations are not necessary. She agreed Mr. Blatt should be selected as number two, because of his resourcefulness, if Mr. Chen was unavailable.

Linda Gonzalez, Director of Human Resources, noted Mr. Chen's minimum compensation request was \$150,000, and benefits would have to be worked out as well. She addressed the pay range for this position; the Board would have the right to adjust the pay range. With someone coming in with this much experience, it would be acceptable to pay him at the maximum of the range.

Discussion ensued regarding the pay range.

All agreed with the compensation Mr. Chen requested.

Discussion ensued regarding benefits.

Chair Lewellen felt we should look at Department Director benefits and stay consistent with sick leave and vacation accrual.

Human Resources Director Gonzalez noted former Director Williams' contract was a fair contract and negotiations with Mr. Chen could start with those benefits.

Board Member James questioned a tier approach; we could start out like we did with former Director Williams and then in a year, re-evaluate the benefits.

Further discussion ensued.

Human Resources Director Gonzalez said it is reasonable to have an annual review, including performance increases.

City Attorney Ansbro noted he needs to know the severance period the Board has in mind.

The Board agreed to 12 weeks.

Chair Lewellen asked to see the contract before it is presented to Mr. Chen.

Human Resources Director Gonzalez confirmed an offer would be put out soon in order to not jeopardize the opportunity.

Board Member James motioned to select Michael Chen as the CRA Executive Director pending a background check; seconded by Vice-Chair Odman. The motion carried unanimously.

City Attorney Ansbro confirmed the contract would be presented at the November 10, 2020 CRA Board meeting, and would be modeled after former CRA Director William's contract; negotiations would follow. An offer to Mr. Chen would be made in the meantime.

3. Adjournment

Chair Lewellen adjourned the meeting at 12:31 p.m.

ATTEST:


THOMAS SCHNEIDER, CMC
CRA SECRETARY

COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT
AGENCY


LORI LEWELLEN
CHAIR – CRA

Approved: November 10, 2020

