

Town of Melbourne Beach

SPECIAL TOWN COMMISSION MEETING

January 9, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.

COMMUNITY CENTER – 509 OCEAN AVENUE

MINUTES

Commission Members:

Mayor Alison Dennington
Vice Mayor Terry Cronin
Commissioner Anna Butler
Commissioner Tim Reed
Commissioner Sherri Quarrie

Staff Members:

Interim Town Manager Lisa Frazier
Town Clerk Amber Brown

1. Call to Order

Mayor Alison Dennington called the meeting to order at 9:03 am.

2. Roll Call

Deputy Town Clerk Cyd Cardwell conducted roll call.

Commission Members Present

Mayor Alison Dennington
Vice Mayor Terry Cronin
Commissioner Anna Butler
Commissioner Tim Reed
Commissioner Sherri Quarrie

Staff Members Present

Town Attorney Ryan Knight
Deputy Clerk Cyd Cardwell

3. Pledge of Allegiance, Moment of Silence, and Civility Pledge

Mayor Alison Dennington led the Pledge of Allegiance and read the Civility Pledge.

4. Public Comments

5. New Business

A. Interviews and decision on the Town Manager applicants

09:00 am – 10:00 am – Interview with David W. Bridle

10:00 am – 11:00 am – Interview with Lisa L. Frazier

11:00 am – 12:00 pm – Interview with A. Marie Smith

12:00 pm – 01:00 pm – Lunch

01:00 pm – 02:00 pm – Interview with Tim Thomas

02:00 pm – 03:00 pm – Follow-up questions from the Town Commission

03:00 pm – 04:00 pm – Vote on permanent Town Manager

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The following questions were asked of each applicant.

1. Human Resources has three primary functions – hiring, evaluating, and terminating underperforming staff. Do you have any direct experience with these functions, and do you have experience in establishing employee performance metrics or addressing workplace issues that required correction?
2. In your experience, what have been the most common sources of tension between a Town manager and elected Commission, and can you walk us through a specific example where you faced that tension and what you did to resolve it?
3. Please describe your experience in (1) applying for grants, (2) preparing a municipal budget, and (3) infrastructure replacement.
4. The Town of Melbourne Beach is a beachside community that faces the risks of hurricanes each year. Please describe your experience in planning or implementing emergency preparedness and responses. What specific initiatives did you implement to reduce risk?
5. Describe a situation where public outrage over a safety-related decision threatened to derail implementation. How did you handle the community backlash and still achieve the safety objective?
6. Do you have any direct experience with implementing or revising municipal tax initiatives or bonds to fund infrastructure or services, i.e., fire or stormwater?
7. Describe a time when you had to manage a highly vocal or disruptive resident or group of residents during a public meeting or controversial project. How did you de-escalate the situation while still moving the agenda forward?
8. Please provide your definition of a “working manager” versus a “managing manager.” Which definition would best describe your professional experience thus far and why?
9. When residents are angry about infrastructure failures, fire-rescue response times, or public safety issues, how would you ensure your staff feels supported while still holding them accountable to the public?
10. Please give an example of how you have successfully balanced immediate repair needs with long-term capital planning when the budget was limited. How did you prioritize and obtain Commission and community approval?

Applicant David W. Bridle introduced himself.

The Commission interviewed applicant David W. Bridle for the Town Manager position.

Applicant Lisa L. Frazier introduced herself.

The Commission interviewed applicant Lisa L. Frazier for the Town Manager position.

Applicant A. Marie Smith introduced herself.

The Commission interviewed applicant A. Marie Smith for the Town Manager position.

Recessed for lunch from 11:56 am to 1:03 pm

Town Clerk Amber Brown conducted roll call.

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Commission Members Present

Mayor Alison Dennington
Vice Mayor Terry Cronin
Commissioner Anna Butler
Commissioner Tim Reed
Commissioner Sherri Quarrie

Staff Members Present

Town Attorney Ryan Knight
Town Clerk Amber Brown

Applicant Tim Thomas introduced himself.

The Commission interviewed applicant Tim Thomas for the Town Manager position.

Recessed from 1:52 pm – 1:59 pm

Town Clerk Amber Brown conducted roll call.

Commission Members Present

Mayor Alison Dennington
Vice Mayor Terry Cronin
Commissioner Anna Butler
Commissioner Tim Reed
Commissioner Sherri Quarrie

Staff Members Present

Town Attorney Ryan Knight
Town Clerk Amber Brown

Jim Dinneen, executive search firm MGT, suggested having each Commissioner rank their top two candidates. If a name does not come up, then they can be allowed to leave. Then, if you have any additional questions, you ask the remaining candidates the same few questions.

Jim Dinneen, MGT representative, read the results of the ranking.

Vice Mayor Terry Cronin:

1. Lisa L. Frazier
2. Tim Thomas

Commissioner Tim Reed:

1. A. Marie Smith
2. Lisa L. Frazier

Mayor Alison Dennington:

1. A. Marie Smith
2. Lisa L. Frazier

Commissioner Anna Butler:

1. David W. Bridle
2. A. Marie Smith

Commissioner Sherri Quarrie:

1. David Bridle
2. Tim Thomas

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Total votes:

David W. Bridle – 2 votes
Lisa L. Frazier – 3 votes
A. Marie Smith – 3 votes
Tim Thomas – 2 votes

Total votes ranked number 1:

A. Marie Smith – 2 votes
Lisa L. Frazier – 1 votes
David W. Bridle – 2 votes
Tim Thomas – 0 votes

The Commission discussed moving forward based on the total votes ranked number 1.

Commissioner Anna Butler made a motion that we go forward with the 2 candidates who were placed in the number 1 position by the most votes, which would be Smith and Bridle; Commissioner Sherri Quarrie seconded;

Mark McBride – 310 Second Ave – Spoke about being really glad with both of the picks.

Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Anna Butler made a motion to take a vote right now on our top pick for the Town Manager between Ms. Smith and Mr. Bridle; Commissioner Sherri Quarrie seconded; Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Anna Butler made a motion that we will right now vote upon deciding that if our first choice, if we are not able to execute a contract completely, that we would go to our second choice in order to execute a contract with that second choice; Commissioner Sherri Quarrie seconded; Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Tim Reed made a motion that we select Ms. Smith as our number 1 candidate; Vice Mayor Terry Cronin seconded; Motion carried 3-2 with Commissioner Anna Butler and Commissioner Sherri Quarrie dissenting.

Jim Dinneen from MGT suggested trying to get a 5-0 vote. Now that the vote is done, some places take another vote to see if the people in the minority will also pick that person.

Vice Mayor Terry Cronin made a motion that the Commission is happy with the results of this vote and that we support Ms. Smith as our new Town Manager; Commissioner Tim Reed seconded;

Vice Mayor Terry Cronin spoke about how, although there is a split vote on the choice, this motion is to provide our full support for the new manager.

Commissioner Anna Butler spoke about not having anything against her number 2 pick, but thinks her number 1 pick is a better choice. Does not want to backpaddle or minimize her support for the number 1. She fully supports the new manager.

Commissioner Sherri Quarrie spoke about everyone being a team player, but each person voted the way they voted. No matter the outcome, the person would have their full support.

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Vice Mayor Terry Cronin withdrew his motion.

Town Attorney Ryan Knight spoke about sending the proposed Town Manager contract.

Commissioner Tim Reed spoke about having a meeting to discuss the content of the contract.

Commissioner Sherri Quarrie spoke about having the same benefits as the advertisement.

Vice Mayor Terry Cronin made a motion that we have a special meeting prior to our regularly scheduled meeting to review the terms of the proposed agreement; Commissioner Anna Butler seconded;

The Commission agreed to wait on the special meeting until they have the proposed agreement. If a Commissioner has any changes, then they will call a special meeting. Otherwise, if there are no changes the Town Attorney can proceed with negotiations.

Vice Mayor Terry Cronin withdrew his motion.

The Commission agreed that the new town manager should start as soon as possible.

Recess 3:01 – 3:08 pm

Town Clerk Amber Brown conducted roll call.

Commission Members Present

Mayor Alison Dennington
Vice Mayor Terry Cronin
Commissioner Anna Butler
Commissioner Tim Reed
Commissioner Sherri Quarrie

Staff Members Present

Town Attorney Ryan Knight
Town Clerk Amber Brown

The Commission congratulated A. Marie Smith.

A. Marie Smith thanked the Commission and asked them to think about their priorities.

1. Adjournment

Commissioner Anna Butler made a motion to adjourn; Commissioner Sherri Quarrie seconded; Motion carried 5-0.

Meeting adjourned at 3:10 pm.



Alison Dennington
Mayor

ATTEST:



Amber Brown, CMC
Town Clerk

