



**CITY OF DELAND**  
**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CITY COMMISSION**  
**MARCH 30, 2026 AT 7:00 PM**  
**CITY HALL, COMMISSION CHAMBERS**  
**120 SOUTH FLORIDA AVENUE**

**MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Cloudman at 7:00 P.M.

**Present:** Richard Paiva, Commissioner, Jessica Davis, Vice Mayor-Commissioner; Dan Reed, Commissioner; Kevin Reid, Commissioner, Christopher M. Cloudman, Mayor-Commissioner

**ALSO PRESENT:** Michael Pleus, City Manager; Darren J. Elkind, City Attorney; Dale Arrington, Interim City Clerk-Auditor, Jeremy Wiggins, Human Resources Director and Community Information Manager, Sarah Lux.

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. Consideration of Applicants for City Clerk-Auditor Position

The Mayor asked the Commission for any additional thoughts before proceeding with the vote. Vice Mayor Davis then thanked the Commission and Commissioner Paiva for the extra time to think over all the information received from the five interviews. She mentioned speaking with Julie Hennessy as a character reference. She wanted to advise that Julie Hennessy offered to help with the on-boarding process for the new clerk. She went on to state how happy she is to have two very qualified candidates. Dan Reed also stated being very thankful for the process, especially noting how organized it was and echoed Vice Mayor Davis's sentiment of being so lucky to have two great candidates. Kevin Reid expressed his approval of the interview process, praising the amount of information that was delivered through the package, noting the inbox exercise as being especially helpful. Commissioner Paiva expressed his thanks to Jeremy Wiggins for the extremely thorough process. Mayor Cloudman then thanked Jeremy Wiggins for the outstanding process.

Vice Mayor Davis stated that she had changed her thought process since last Saturday and that she believes that the City requires a fully experienced and certified Clerk. She further expressed that although she felt Mrs. Moses could obtain certification and experience over several years, this was not something that the City could wait on especially since the Deputy City Clerk, who was also certified, left DeLand's employment. Vice Mayor Davis stated that this thought led her to now favor Mr. Gowan. Several other commissioners expressed comments about how the choice was a close call.

Jeremy Wiggins suggested voting and then discussing the hiring package.

Each Commissioner cast a ballot indicating their selection. Commissioner Dan Reed and

Commissioner Paiva chose Kieu Moses. Vice Mayor Davis, Commissioner Kevin Reid and Mayor Cloudman selected Christian Gowan. (Ballots are attached and incorporated into these minutes). Commissioner Dan Reed moved to appoint Christian Gowan as the next City Clerk-Auditor dependent upon successful contract negotiation; with Kieu Moses being the alternate should contract negotiations not be successful. Commissioner Kevin Reid seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Jeremy Wiggins recommended the negotiation with Christian Gowan include a salary range with incentives for obtaining his Auditor and MMC certificates. City Manager Michael Pleus suggested that the package mirror that of the standard Department Head in terms of retirement plan, performance, raises and benefits. A severance package has to be drawn up and included in the contract. Vice Mayor Davis asked about the duration of the contract and Michael Pleus recommended it be open-ended while having a probationary period.

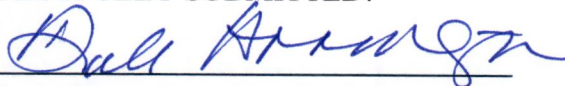
Vice Mayor Davis requested that the new Clerk be required to advise Council of their work schedule to include time off, out of office, working from home, at a conference, etc. and that the Clerk be required to report on activities/accomplishments on a routine basis.

Mr. Wiggins stated that he had enough information to proceed. Mr. Elkind will draft the contract. The negotiation team will include Mayor Cloudman and Jeremy Wiggins.

#### ADJOURNMENT

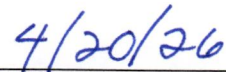
There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:43 P.M.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:



Dale Arrington, Interim City Clerk-Auditor

APPROVED ON:



Date