

# Town of Melbourne Beach

## SPECIAL TOWN COMMISSION MEETING September 18, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. COMMUNITY CENTER – 509 OCEAN AVENUE

### MINUTES

#### Commission Members:

Mayor Alison Dennington  
Vice Mayor Sherri Quarrie  
Commissioner Corey Runte  
Commissioner Marivi Walker

#### Staff Members:

Town Manager Elizabeth Mascaro  
Town Attorney Ryan Knight  
Town Clerk Amber Brown

#### 1. Call to Order

Mayor Alison Dennington called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

#### 2. Roll Call

Town Clerk Amber Brown conducted roll call

#### Commission Members Present

Mayor Alison Dennington  
Vice Mayor Sherri Quarrie  
Commissioner Corey Runte  
Commissioner Marivi Walker

#### Staff Members Present

Town Manager Elizabeth Mascaro  
Town Attorney Ryan Knight  
Deputy Police Chief Matthew Smith  
Town Clerk Amber Brown

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

Mayor Alison Dennington led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **4. Public Comments – 2:15**

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.

### **5. New Business**

#### **A. Review and discuss the submissions to fill the vacant Commission seat – 2:43**

Mayor Alison Dennington spoke about the candidates being Robert Baldwin, Dawn Barlow, Robin Davis, Bruce Larson, and Katherine Wilborn to fill the Commission seat that was vacated by Commissioner Adam Meyer.

Town Manager Elizabeth Mascaro spoke about some candidates provided a resume, some provided a letter of intent, and some provided both or other documents so to be fair to everyone instead of providing one document for each candidate all of the documents that were given to the Town are now being provided. Candidate Robin Davis has withdrawn her application.

The Commission decided to hear from each candidate first.

- **Robert Baldwin – 4:37**

Robert Baldwin spoke about being a long time Melbourne Beach resident. Been to a number of Town meetings. Served on the Code Enforcement Board until the Town switched to a Special Magistrate. Ran the Melbourne Beach soccer club for about 6 years. Was here when every Town Commission meeting had TV stations broadcasting what was happening and is glad those days are behind us. Background in finance with a lot of experience in accounting then moved into executive leadership positions. Today most of his time is spent in healthcare.

- **Dawn Barlow – 9:12**

Dawn Barlow spoke about being born and raised in Melbourne Beach. Is a big fan of options and applauds everyone who applied for the position. She has a finance background, and has been described as task oriented and results driven. There are key projects identified in Town that she would like to see action on and finish them. Met with prior Commissioner Adam Meyer to discuss his efforts. Dawn Barlow took a position with the Parks Board and the Board nominated her as the chairperson. She has also met with Town staff to move projects ahead.

● ~~Robin Davis~~ Application withdrawn

● Bruce Larson – 13:49

Bruce Larson spoke about appreciating the feedback he has received from the stakeholders he has reached out to. He grew up in Melbourne Beach and after high school he joined the Navy. The most important thing is being able to move forward and make decisions. A key factor is to have managed growth for what is important. Like when residents worked to make Pine St a bike path. Secondly stewardship is important and also transparency. The key things are continuing managed growth and coming to a consensus to move forward.

● Katherine Wilborn – 18:57

Katherine Wilborn spoke about being a forty-year resident of Melbourne Beach. She has attended various Town board meetings. Is a naturalist and environmentalist and would like to restore Melbourne Beach as a bird sanctuary and the historic sign. It is important to look at responsible development. We need to address infrastructure and safety within the Town. Projects that have been pending for a long time should not get pushed in favor of other projects. This is a Town of people and we should care about our neighbors.

***Julie Samuels – 2320 S River Rd** – Spoke about being on the Parks Board, and Dawn Barlow is a pure joy to work with. She has firsthand experience working with Dawn who has great leadership skills, and does a lot of work.*

***Kim Adkinson – Surf Rd** – Spoke about Dawn Barlow having a really good knowledge of the people, and she would be really good at asking questions.*

***Michael Bove – 216 Ash Ave** – Spoke about his comments are directed at the Board as a whole not any individual person, last meeting there was a wasted opportunity to hold an election. The Commission is working for their own opinions not for the opinions of the residents. Represent the residents not yourself.*

***Anna Butler – 312 Avenue A** – Spoke about knowing Dawn Barlow from tennis and she is competitive but completely composed, and Bruce Larson has been very helpful to her as a candidate who is not a politician. She supports both Dawn Barlow and Bruce Larson.*

***Ted Funkhouser – 509 Banyan Way** – Spoke about whoever is voted in keep in mind we do not want to see this type of Town change.*

***Brian Casazza – 2009 Oak St** – Spoke about not knowing any of the candidates. He has read all of the minutes and is very impressed with the Parks Board.*

***Haley Conrad – 2011 Oak St** – Spoke about originally being concerned about the Commission not choosing to hold an election. Does not know the candidates other than Dawn who has had great leadership on the Parks Board and would be a great candidate.*

***Frank LaGrassa – 412 First Ave – Spoke about Bruce Larson has qualities that you are born with. He has seen him in action with politicians and he was very articulate and able to communicate well.***

Mayor Alison Dennington asked Robert Baldwin why he was only on the Board of Adjustment for one year and what was his attendance, and how does he handle a disagreement.

Robert Baldwin spoke about being an alternate on the Board of Adjustment and he was never called to attend a meeting. He does not fly off the handle, but it is important to have different opinions and to listen to others.

Vice Mayor Sherri Quarrie asked if he is familiar with Robert's Rules of Order, asked about his finance background, and his background on the Code Enforcement Board and Board of Adjustment, asked about his opinion on the Town budget, and Town safety.

Robert Baldwin spoke about being familiar with Robert's Rules of Order, having knowledge of the Town's Ordinances, and the Town's budget, does not think there is a crime problem thanks to the police, does think infrastructure is a big thing that always needs to be looked at and addressed.

Mayor Alison Dennington asked each candidate what one of the most important issues is.

Dawn Barlow spoke about there being three key issues that have been brought up including infrastructure, short term rentals, and protecting the environment.

Bruce Larson spoke about managed growth because everything else is a byproduct of that.

Katherine Wilborn spoke about infrastructure and related items being the environment and people.

Commissioner Corey Runte asked all of the candidates how would they help structure meetings so it does not last all night.

Robert Baldwin spoke about having very qualified Town staff, so the Commission should listen to them, trust them, and provide guidance.

Dawn Barlow spoke about everyone has the right to be heard uninterrupted for three minutes without having a reaction. You do not need to keep rehashing topics when you are heard the first time. Town employees do a great job and have expertise listen to them.

Bruce Larson spoke about having differing opinions, but being able to compromise to move forward. Listening and be prepared for the meetings.

Katherine Wilborn spoke about the Town needs to inform the residents of things that are going on. Communication, information, polling, and trust are all important.

Mayor Alison Dennington asked Robert Baldwin and Dawn Barlow how many meetings they missed when they were on a Town board.

Robert Baldwin spoke about missing one.

Dawn Barlow spoke about missing one.

Mayor Alison Dennington asked each candidate how many Regular Town Commission Meetings they have attended in the past 2 years.

Robert Baldwin spoke about 5 or 6.

Dawn Barlow spoke about not having an exact number, but would estimate around 10.

## 6. Adjournment

**Commissioner Marivi Walker moved to adjourn; Vice Mayor Sherri Quarrie seconded; Motion carried 5-0.**


Meeting adjourned at 6:02 pm.



---

Alison Dennington  
Mayor

ATTEST:



---

Amber Brown, CMC  
Town Clerk

