

CITY COMMISSION MEETING

MINUTES

MAY 10, 2016

6:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Lowe called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION

A moment of silence was observed in remembrance of Laurie Vallett - friend, resident and former Board of Adjustment member.

PRESENT:

Maria Lowe, Mayor
Rick Falkenstein, Vice Mayor
Terri Finnerty, Commissioner
Ward Friszolowski, Commissioner
Melinda Pletcher, Commissioner

ALSO PRESENT:

Wayne Saunders, City Manager
Andrew Dickman, City Attorney
Rebecca C. Haynes, City Clerk
Jennifer Bryla, Community Development Director
Mike Clarke, Public Services Director
Jennifer McMahon, Recreation Services Director

1. Presentations

- a. Sheriff's Office Update - Captain Michael Leiner
Introduction of Community Services Officer – Deputy Syeeta Robinson

Deputy Syeeta Robinson, Community Services Officer, provided a brief overview of her experience and accomplishments, and noted that she was pleased to join the St. Pete Beach team.

Captain Leiner provided an updated crime report.

2. Changes to the Agenda

City Attorney Dickman requested to pull Item 4(a) and act upon the item as 5(a).

Mayor Lowe requested to add, as an action item, a discussion and approval of a Robotic Festival contract to permit the City to serve as the 2017 host and to provide funding for the event, and an action item to discuss and approve a logo mural on the side of the Coastal Glass building.

Commissioner Pletcher requested to add a discussion in regard to bus traffic in Pass-A-Grille.

3. Audience Comments

John Michael, Bay Street, commented on the parking lot utilized by the former police department and on information on social media sites.

Kris Self, Pass-A-Grille Way, commented on construction traffic along Pass-A-Grille Way and requested a limit on the amount of vehicles; the length of vehicles; and the frequency of busses, delivery trucks and 18-wheeler construction trucks.

Ben Hill, Esq., Bryant, Miller and Olive, spoke about lawsuits and settlement agreements.

Carolyn Ritaka, Pass-A-Grille Way, commented on the 18-wheeler construction trucks traversing Pass-A-Grille Way during the reconstruction project.

Marilyn Polasko, 30th Avenue, also commented on the 18-wheeler construction trucks.

4. Consent

- a. ~~Approval to retain special counsel – Dickinson & Gibbons, P.A. – for professional malpractice action against the law firm of Bryant Miller & Olive, P.A.~~ **Moved to Item 5(a)**
- b. Authorize the City Manager to approve a change order to the purchase agreement with Ajax Paving Industries of Florida, LLC for the FY2015 Scope of Street Rehabilitation in the amount of \$17,213
- c. Authorize the City Manager to enter into a unit price purchasing agreement with Ajax Paving Industries of Florida, LLC for Street Rehabilitation FY2016 and to allow the Public Services Director to issue Purchase Order(s) totaling an amount not to exceed the City's annual budget of \$600,000 for FY2016 (less any approved Change Orders from FY15)

City Manager Wayne Saunders reviewed the items and recommended approval.

Commissioner Friszolowski moved to approve Items 4(a) and 4(b) as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Finnerty.

Hearing no audience comments, Mayor Lowe called for the vote.

The motion was unanimously approved by an individual roll call vote.

5. Action Items

4(a). Approval to retain special counsel - Dickinson & Gibbons, P.A. - for professional malpractice action against the law firm of Bryant, Miller & Olive, P.A. (Prior approval to move as an action item)

City Attorney Andrew Dickman reviewed the background in regard to a potential malpractice suit against the City's former legal firm of Bryant, Miller and Olive.

James Rolfes, Dickinson & Gibbons, P.A., provided his qualifications to serve as the special counsel in regard to a potential malpractice suit and answered questions posed by the City Commission.

Vice Mayor Falkenstein moved to approve Item 4(a), to authorize the City Manager to execute the contingency fee agreement to retain Dickinson & Gibbons, P.A. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pletcher.

Mayor Lowe called for audience comments.

Deborah Schechner, Boca Ciega Isle Drive, spoke in support of retaining special counsel.

John Michael, Bay Street, spoke in regard to the cost of a lawsuit.

Ben Hill, Bryant, Miller and Olive, spoke on behalf of the legal firm of Bryant, Miller and Olive and expressed appreciation for the courtesy extended to him by City representatives.

Hearing no further audience comments, Mayor Lowe called for the vote.

The motion was unanimously approved by an individual roll call vote.

- a. Authorization to approve 60th Anniversary celebration plan as presented by the Recreation Advisory Committee

Jennifer McMahon, Recreation Director, provided an overview of the initial ideas for the year-long event as submitted by the Recreation Advisory Committee members.

Commissioner Pletcher moved to approve Item 5(a), the 60th Anniversary celebration plan as presented by the Recreation Advisory Committee. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Finnerty.

Deborah Schechner, Boca Ciega Isle Drive, spoke in support of including a parade in the event series.

Hearing no further audience comments, Mayor Lowe called for the vote.

The motion was unanimously approved by an individual roll call vote.

- b. Approval to serve as host for the 2017 Robotics Festival with funding **(added)**

Mayor Lowe introduced the request to discuss and approve the City of St. Pete Beach serving as the host city for the 2017 Robotics Festival and approve initial funding in the amount of \$3,000.00 from the Contingency Fund.

Commissioner Friszolowski moved to approve Item 5(b), to authorize the Mayor to sign the agreement for the 2017 Robotics Festival and allocate \$3,000.00 from the Contingency Fund. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pletcher.

Hearing no audience comments, Mayor Lowe called for the vote.

The motion was unanimously approved by an individual roll call vote.

- c. City Logo on side of Coastal Glass building **(added)**

Mayor Lowe presented the idea of signage on the Coastal Glass building on a conceptual basis.

Commissioner Pletcher moved to go forward with the design of a logo on the Coastal Glass building and allocating \$2,000.00. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Falkenstein.

Hearing no audience comments, Mayor Lowe called for the vote.

The motion was unanimously approved by an individual roll call vote.

6. Ordinances

There were no ordinances submitted.

7. Resolutions

There were no resolutions submitted.

8. Items for Discussion

a. PSTA Bus Traffic (***added***)

Commissioner Pletcher requested alternatives to the PSTA busses traversing 8th Avenue, and large vehicle traffic in the Pass-A-Grille Way area during the Pass-A-Grille Way reconstruction project.

Mr. Saunders responded that he will look into the bus ridership and service south of the Don Cesar Hotel and research options to improve the flow of traffic during the construction.

9. Audience Comments 2

Kris Self, Pass-A-Grille Way, discussed viable detour options for the numerous large trucks, including the 18-wheeler trucks.

An unidentified speaker commented on astrological events.

10. City Clerk, City Manager, City Attorney and City Commission Reports

City Clerk Haynes had no report.

City Manager Saunders had no report.

City Attorney Dickman reported on the following item:

- Meet with Commissioners on a regular basis.

Commissioner Pletcher reported on the following items:

- "Lights on 8th Avenue" celebration
- Award for "Best Beach" from the Visit St. Pete – Clearwater organization

Commissioner Finnerty reported on the following items:

- Academy of Performance Arts is taking applications for classes
- Grand Opening for Mastery's Brewery on July 12, 2016
- Beach clean-up and environmental issues
- Cultural arts district
- Status of the former Beach Theatre

Commissioner Friszolowski reported on the following item:

- Belle Vista Civic Association will hold a Yard Sale and picnic on May 14, 2016

Vice Mayor Falkenstein reported on the following items:

- Vacancy on the Board of Adjustment
- Gulf Boulevard access meeting and parking ideas

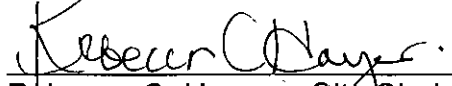
Mayor Lowe reported on the following items:

- National Commodity Exchange Convention
- Clean the Corner campaign
- Eckerd College Internship Programs
- West Point graduate, Carol Barkalow, published a book entitled, "In the Men's House"

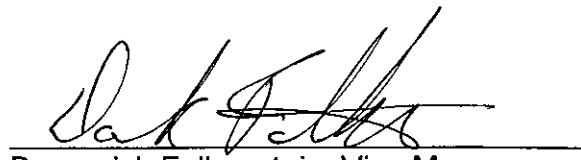
11. **Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

Attest:



Rebecca C. Haynes, City Clerk



Domonick Falkenstein, Vice Mayor

Minutes approved on: 7-12-2016