

City Commission Meeting

December 7, 2021

6:00 p.m.

ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT:

Alan Johnson, Mayor

Ward Friszolowski, Vice Mayor, Commissioner, District 3

Chris Graus, Commissioner, District 1

Mark Grill, Commissioner, District 2

Melinda Pletcher, Commissioner, District 4

STAFF PRESENT:

Alex Rey, City Manager

Andrew Dickman, City Attorney

Amber LaRowe, City Clerk

Jennifer McMahon, Chief Operating Officer

Vince Tenaglia, Assistant City Manager

Mike Clarke, Public Works Director

Mayor Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. PRESENTATIONS

- Dawn Wright, Central West District Director for the Florida Association of City Clerks and the City Clerk for the City of Eagle Lake presented Mrs. Amber LaRowe, City Clerk, with her Master Municipal Clerk Certification.
- Jennifer McMahon presented a donation check to the Veterans of South Pinellas in the amount of \$3,800.00 from the recent ticket sales of the Chowder Challenge

2. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

Commissioner Grill requested item 4.c. of the Consent Agenda be removed and added to Action Items as item d.

3. AUDIENCE COMMENTS

Betty Rzewnicki, resident, discussed the Don CeSar variance request that is coming to the Board of Adjustment next week. She stated that her and many residents of Don CeSar neighborhood are opposed to the variance approval and she cited various reasons as to why.

4. CONSENT

- a. November 10th City Commission Minutes: 2:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m.
- b. Pump Station 3 Improvements Design Task Order
- c. ~~Gulf Winds Drive Reconstruction Design Task Order~~ moved to item 5.d.

Motion: Vice Mayor Friszolowski moved, Commissioner Pletcher seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to approve the December 7, 2021 Consent Agenda as presented by the City Manager with the removal of item 4.c.

5. ACTION ITEMS

a. **Amendment to the City Clerk Contract**

The Commissioners discussed Mrs. LaRowe's obtainment of the Master Municipal Clerk (MMC) Certification and being only the second clerk in City's history to receive it. They all acknowledged her hard work and agreed that an increase in salary for receiving her MMC was deserved and appropriate.

Motion: Mayor Johnson moved, Vice Mayor Friszolowski seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to approve the amendment to the City Clerk's contract with an adjustment in salary to \$80,000.00, to be retroactive to the date of her certification, October 27, 2021.

b. **Agreement with Florida Blue for Group Medical Insurance**

Vince Tenaglia, Assistant City Manager, discussed the process that he and staff have undergone to identify the best possible rate and carrier for health insurance for the employees. The current provider is Florida Blue, and, after discussions, they have agreed upon a 14.79 percent renewal rate. The City Manager is also recommending that the City continue funding the single employee coverage at the mid-tier plan; the net effect of the renewal rate and the continuation of current funding tiers is an increase of 15.4 percent. This increase is within the budgeted estimate of 20 percent.

Motion: Commissioner Pletcher moved, Commissioner Graus seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to authorize the City Manager to enter into an agreement with Florida Blue for renewed group medical insurance.

c. **Agreement with MetLife for Group Dental Insurance**

Mr. Tenaglia stated that the current dental insurance provider, Guardian Insurance, quoted an 11.7 percent premium increase. Staff conducted research and recommends that the City change dental carriers to MetLife Insurance. In so doing, the City will see a 15.2 percent decrease. The single employee rate for the low tier plan will increase slightly and the City's total cost will decrease by approximately 1.3 percent. Costs for all other plans will decrease, meaning employees with dependent coverage and those who purchase the higher tier plan will experience the proposed savings.

Motion: Commissioner Grill moved, Commissioner Graus seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to authorize the City Manager to enter into an agreement with MetLife for group dental insurance.

d. **Gulf Winds Drive Reconstruction Design Task Order (moved from Consent)**

Commissioner Grill explained that he has received questions and concerns from residents regarding this project. The inquiries were pertaining to the task order suggesting that the flashing light will be removed at 64th Avenue and as to the schedule and timeline.

City Manager Rey addressed the removal of the flashing light as stated on the task order, 5th bullet point. The word "remove" will be stricken and "evaluate" inserted. The statement will now read "Evaluate the overhead flasher at 64th Avenue".

Mike Clarke, Public Works Director, stated that this is not a fixed design and there will be many opportunities for public input via community meetings and discussions. He discussed his expectations and the reasons for the improvements to this area. Mr. Clarke explained that the laterals will be replaced beginning in January and will

take approximately 2 months. The paving contractor will then come through to repave towards the end of the completion of the lateral replacements and that should be completed by end of April.

In regard to the timeline for design, Mr. Clarke expects a pre-design meeting will occur within a week of signing the agreement with a 6 to 8-month timeline for the design to be completed. He reiterated that there will be community meetings along the way.

6. RESOLUTIONS

a. **Resolution 2021-17: Authorization to Dispose Surplus City-Owned Assets**

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF ST. PETE BEACH, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING THE DISPOSAL OF SURPLUS CITY-OWNED ASSETS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Mr. Tenaglia reminded the Commission that the Code requires that the City Commission authorize the disposal of fixed assets. Appendix A to the Resolution lists five vehicles to be surplus, with four of the five having been fully depreciated. The 2015 Ford F-150 has a remaining book value of \$4,603 and will be written off; there is significant rust deterioration throughout the entire frame and the estimated cost to repair is \$15,000.00. Staff will sell these assets via auction.

Mr. Tenaglia addressed questions in regard to lot capital assets and the determination of disposal. He stated that there is some discretion and often it depends on materiality. There are various classes identified for group assets, as well as general practicing standards.

Motion: Commissioner Graus moved, Vice Mayor Friszolowski seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to adopt Resolution 2021-17.

7. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

No discussion.

8. CITY CLERK, CITY MANAGER, CITY ATTORNEY AND CITY COMMISSION REPORTS

Mrs. LaRowe, City Clerk—thanked the Commission for allowing the presentation for her MMC tonight and the kind words for her accomplishment.

Attorney Dickman, City Attorney—discussed Don CeSar Blocks M&N. He stated that at the December 14th meeting there will be a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City and Don CeSar Property Owners Corporation (DCPOC) on the agenda. This MOU has been drafted to define the relationship between both parties and to codify an understanding between them regarding their relationship concerning beach parcels.

Commissioner Pletcher—commented on the Christmas decorating going on throughout her District.

She highlighted events going on to include Gulf Beaches Historical Museum Christmas Carol at the theater, Sip and Shop on 8th Avenue, beach bonfire, and the boat parade.

Vice Mayor Friszolowski—complimented the boat parade that went on last weekend.

He reminded everyone of the Santa and Sirens Parade on December 15th that will begin at Belle Vista and travel

north. The next day the Parade will be in Pass-A-Grille.

Commissioner Grill—echoed Vice Mayor Friszolowski’s reminder of the Santa and Sirens Parade that will be traveling through all the main residential areas.

He provided updates on legislation to include tax holidays in April for water/energy saving appliances and in August for back-to-school supplies.

Commissioner Graus—complimented the past weekend events and thanked City staff for their hard work at putting on the tree lighting and coordinating the boat parade.

Mayor Johnson—commended Mrs. McMahon and her staff on a great job for all the events that go off successfully. He also appreciates all the residential engagement and community meetings that staff coordinates for the projects and plans in the City.

Mayor Johnson adjourned the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVED: January 11, 2022



AMBER LAROWE
CITY CLERK



ALAN JOHNSON
MAYOR