

City Commission Meeting

January 24, 2023

6:00 p.m.

ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT:

Alan Johnson, Mayor

Chris Graus, Vice Mayor, Commissioner, District 1

Mark Grill, Commissioner, District 2

Ward Friszolowski, Commissioner, District 3

Melinda Pletcher, Commissioner, District 4

STAFF PRESENT:

Alex Rey, City Manager

Matthew McConnell, Assistant City Attorney

Amber LaRowe, City Clerk

Jennifer McMahon, Chief Operating Officer

Vince Tenaglia, Assistant City Manager

Michelle Gonzalez, Community Development Director

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

1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion: Commissioner Friszolowski moved, Commissioner Pletcher seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to approve the January 24, 2023 City Commission Agenda.

2. AUDIENCE COMMENTS

Resident Deborah Schechner commented on the absence of Holiday decorations at the hotels during Christmas season. She opined that if the hotels are trying to be good neighbors with the City, then they should help with lighting up the City for the holidays. She also expressed her concerns with traffic as the hotels develop and expand.

3. CONSENT

- a. **January 10, 2023 City Commission Meeting Minutes**
- b. **Authorization of Expenditures in the amount of \$89,496.36 to Tyler Technologies for Financial Software**
- c. **Authorization of Expenditures in the estimated amount of \$117,437 to Wright National Flood Insurance Company to renew Flood Insurance Policies**

Motion: Commissioner Pletcher moved, Commissioner Grill seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to approve the January 24, 2023 Consent Agenda as presented by the City Manager.

4. ACTION ITEMS

- a. **Amendment to Parking Sensor Agreement with ParkSmart (Conure Telecom Services, LLC.)**

City Manager Rey reminded the Commission of the approval of the expansion of parking sensors along 15th Avenue, 16th Avenue, and Corey Avenue as part of the FY2023 budget. This program collects data regarding parking utilization, duration of parking sessions, and more.

Discussion followed with the Commission encouraging more public notification to residents that 15th Avenue and 16th Avenue are for resident parking only. Ms. Gonzalez clarified that the sensors are City property and are not

leased from the vendor. If, after the data is collected, the City decides not to go with this program or that all the sensors are not necessary, the sensors can be moved to other locations. She stated that the parking sensors along Corey Avenue will be subsurface so that they will not be tripping hazards and allow for continued walkability.

Commissioner Pletcher commented on the parking signs that say “4R”. She said that many residents incorrectly assume that it means four-hour parking and not the zone for parking. Staff will review the signs and see how else they can be written for better clarification.

Commissioner Grill questioned if this is the most cost-efficient and necessary way to collect the data for parking along Corey Avenue. Ms. Gonzalez opined that having these in place will provide the City with clear data for the specific fields in which they need the information.

Discussion ensued on the financial piece of this Agreement. Commissioner Grill questioned why the original agreement that was signed in January 2021, effective March 2021, was not brought forward for approval. He understands the Ordinance that allows the City Manager to sign agreements that are \$25,000 or less; however, the Ordinance also states this is a cumulative amount. This agreement is to expire in 2024, so the amount is over \$25,000 in total. He also questioned the procurement policy.

Discussion continued with Mr. Tenaglia discussing the current budget approval and the amounts on the Agenda Memorandum related to the costs over the life of the Agreement. Commissioner Pletcher requested a workshop on the procurement process in the City.

Resident Deborah Schechner thanked Commissioner Grill for recognizing the cost of the Agreement and opined that this does not match the Code. She expressed her displeasure with the lack of transparency in the contracts that are signed in the City.

Motion: Commissioner Friszolowski moved, Commissioner Pletcher seconded, and the motion carried 4-1 to authorize the expenditures to Conure Telecom Services in the amount of \$102,563 for the ParkSmart Parking Sensor Program. Commissioner Grill voted no.

5. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

No discussion items.

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

Amber LaRowe, City Clerk—reminded the Commission that the next Commission meeting is on Monday, February 13th.

The Florida League of Women Voters (League) will be holding a Mayoral Candidate Forum night on Monday, February 6, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. in the City Commission Chambers. A flyer was prepared and posted and distributed by several means so that the public has the email address to submit questions to the League by February 1st. The event on the 6th will be televised just as any other public meeting is done and archived on the City’s website after the meeting has concluded.

Representatives from the Supervisor of Elections will be at the City Library on Thursday January 26th from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. and on February 7th from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.. This event is to answer questions and assist current voters who need to update their information. The Library will coordinate publishing this even on their calendar for public notification.

The District 2 Town Hall will be in Chambers tomorrow night at 5:30 p.m.

Alex Rey, City Manager—at last week's meeting it was discussed bringing more awareness of safe walking and crossing on City roadways and providing information to the businesses along Gulf Boulevard where people could be informed and shown where the crosswalks are. Three residents met with he and Mrs. McMahon to create a plan to work in unison with the City and with volunteers to get the word out.

Residents Carolyn James, Nancy Castellano, and Michael Moses spoke to the Commission about their involvement in creating a volunteer group that will help get information out and work together on initiatives for safe walking and crossing along City roadways. If anyone is interested in volunteering, please reach out to Mr. Moses at 727.258.2001.

Jennifer McMahon presented a new concept for the reimagining of Egan Park. A copy of the concept is made a part of the record. After a brief discussion, the Commission would like staff to head in the direction of revitalizing Egan Park; Mr. Rey stated they will hold meetings with the community and the Parks and Recreation Board before any decisions are made.

Mr. Rey mentioned the Code that speaks to the approval of lot assemblies. Currently, lot assembly requests are approved or denied by the City Manager. He will be working with the Planning Board to set up guidelines for lot assemblies so that he is better equipped to approve or deny these requests.

Attorney McConnell, Assistant City Attorney—mentioned that the Dickman Law Firm retainer has not been updated since 2021; he plans to bring that forward for discussion at the first meeting in February.

Commissioner Pletcher—mentioned the internal audit process. She would like to have a workshop on procurement to be educated and transparent.

Commissioner Friszolowski—was grateful to see residents coming together to work with the City and bring awareness to safe walking and crossing along the City roads.

He mentioned the 70th Anniversary celebration at the Bon Aire on Sunday; it was a beautiful and well-attended event.

Commissioner Grill—echoed the comments of Commissioner Friszolowski on the Sunday event at Bon Aire.

He mentioned District 2 businesses that are great locations to watch the sunset along the beach.

He mentioned the District 2 Town Hall tomorrow night at 5:30 p.m.

Mr. Grill stated that the undergrounding is moving south along Gulf Boulevard into District 2 soon.

He talked with the City Manager recently regarding large utility cuts in the City; the City is working on a schedule to get those repaired.

Commissioner Grill complimented Code Enforcement on taking action at the northwest end of District 2 regarding noise complaints.

Vice Mayor Graus—stated that undergrounding is moving along in the residential areas of District 1.

Mayor Johnson—complimented the proclamation for Bon Aire.

He stated that some of the issues that have been discussed this month with the City will be discussed at tomorrow's BIG-C meeting.

Mayor Johnson adjourned the meeting at 7:36 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVED: FEBRUARY 13, 2023



AMBER LAROWE
CITY CLERK



ALAN JOHNSON
MAYOR