

**City Commission Meeting
March 12, 2024 - 6:00 p.m.
City Hall Commission Chambers**

ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT:

Adrian Petrilă, Mayor
Karen Marriott, Commissioner, District 1
Nick Filtz, Commissioner, District 2
Betty Rzewnicki, Commissioner, District 3 – via ZOOM
Rich Lorenzen, Vice Mayor, Commissioner, District 4

STAFF PRESENT:

Andrew Dickman, City Attorney
Wayne Saunders, City Manager
Ginny Bodkin, Deputy City Clerk
Matthew McConnell, Assistant City Attorney
Mike Clarke, Public Works Director

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

1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Vice Mayor Lorenzen proposed moving the Boat Ramp Item. 4a, to another meeting or Town Hall based upon community comments received. Item 4a., Don CeSar Boat Ramp Alternatives Analysis, was moved to Discussion Item 5b.

Motion: Commissioner Marriott moved, Commissioner Filtz seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to approve the March 12, 2024 City Commission Agenda as amended.

3. AUDIENCE COMMENTS

Theresa Schefstad of Pass-A-Grille offered a suggestion to add a column for property rights to the Conditional Use application summary page; she provided a handout, which is part of the meeting record.

John Kurzman of Bahia Honda Way commented regarding exceptions to ordinances and conditional use.

Debra Schechner of Boca Ciega Isle Drive commented on beach parking places and McPherson Bayou.

4. CONSENT

- a. Purchase of an F250 vehicle for the Facilities Department

Motion: Commissioner Filtz moved, Vice Mayor Lorenzen seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to approve the February 13, 2024 City Commission Consent Agenda as presented.

5. ACTION ITEMS

- a. ~~**Don CeSar Boat Ramp Alternatives Analysis**~~

Moved to discussion item 4b.

- b. **Boca Ciega Drive Reconstruction Award**

Public Works Director Mike Clarke provided a history of the project, which as a complete streets project, which modifies the road network to incorporate accommodations for motorists, pedestrians, cyclists, landscaping, stormwater utilities – a neighborhood approach. Two public hearings took place in 2021 and 2022, where residents voiced concerns over school children drop-off, pick up and the street being used as a speedway. Multiple solutions were discussed; the plan that was chosen was designed to calm traffic.

- A \$1.5 million FDOT grant has been secured; the City will draw against the grant as project progresses
- The permitting and approvals are all complete - Commission approval is required for construction
- The project was presented for public comment in June of 2021 and again last year in City Chambers
- The design was posted on city's website, and has been there for the past year

At Commissioner Marriott's request, Mr. Clarke showed plans of the proposed road, lanes, sidewalks, landscaping and stormwater system, and gave a verbal description of the project and added that:

- There is no requirement for the City Commission to approve the design. The previous Commission all attended the community meeting, where community input was given
- There was no consensus within community; this is a middle of the road plan
- The benefits of 10-foot sidewalks were discussed and had been discussed in the community meetings
- A Florida registered landscape artist chose the trees and materials for the project
- Cost in 2021 was approximately \$3.5million – there has been cost escalation post-Covid
- There was not much disparity in bids received
- Special needs residents have been considered

Mayor Petrila voiced his objections and concerns on costs, resident properties to be negatively affected, and resident dislike of the plan. Stormwater and roadway width were discussed. The FDOT grant was for the fiscal year it was appropriated for; if changes are going to be considered, FDOT would need to be informed if further engineering is requested and whether additional design costs and an extension would be considered.

Public Comment

John Kurzman of Bahia Honda Way commented on e-bikes, sharrows/bike lanes, and vision zero.

Deborah Schechner commented on bike lanes, Safe Streets Pinellas, and Forward Pinellas and spoke in favor of reengineering this project.

Discussion ensued on providing staff direction for reengineering

- Sidewalk width; sidewalk replacement
- Safe bicycle lane
- Traffic calming
- Avoid encroaching farther into resident properties than the existing sidewalk
- Use Roadway width for its purpose

By consensus, the Commission recommended returning the plan back to staff for redesign. City Manager Wayne Saunders acknowledged the issues discussed; staff can prepare concepts to meet those goals. Commissioner Rzewnicki requested that any feedback residents had given previously be included with those concepts.

c. 4th, 6th & 7th Avenue Dune Walkover Replacements

Mr. Clarke detailed the substantial damage sustained from Hurricane Idalia. The damaged walkovers needed to be removed due to public safety hazards. The FEMA inspection team came to assess, and the City is approved to replace the walkovers; Mr. Clarke described the design. The project is a 75%/25% FEMA/City match. Mr. Clarke went on to explain the Pinellas County job order contract process.

Public Comment

John Kurzman of Bahia Honda Way commented as a Beach Stewardship Committee member regarding handicap access. He also commented as a resident regarding erosion.

Motion: Commissioner Marriott moved, Commissioner Filtz seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to approve the price proposals under the Pinellas County Job Order Contracting Contract with Caladesi Construction Company in the amount of \$183,501.00 for 4th, 6th, and 7th Avenue Dune Walkover Replacements.

d. 29th Avenue Seawall Award

Mr. Clarke described the significant cap damage, erosion behind the seawall, and failed front panels, which call for replacement. This has been driven at the request of the residents on Pass-A-Grille Way; the wall has been overtopped in three storms and contributes to flooding there.

Motion: Vice Mayor Lorenzen moved, Commissioner Filtz seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to approve the services agreement with Villa-Fuerte Construction LLC in the amount of \$61,950.00 for 29th Avenue Wall and Cap Replacement and Extension.

8. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Vice Mayor Lorenzen requested that Item 5.b. be heard before Items 5.a. since numerous residents had been waiting to comment.

Motion: Vice Mayor Lorenzen moved, and Commissioner Marriott seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to hear Item 5b. before 5a.

b. Don Cesar Boat Ramp Alternatives Analysis *(moved from Action Items)*

Mr. Clarke explained that flooding at the Don Cesar has been a challenge for years. It is an active boat ramp with very challenging topographic aspects. The Florida Boating Grant is a three-step process in consecutive years, with feasibility, a design grant request followed by a construction grant request. The City is in the feasibility phase. In scoping the feasibility with the State, the possible alternatives were to keep the current location or use the area at the turn of Cabrillo Avenue (other alternatives were to abandon the ramp, nest it next to the Bayway, or double up at Egan Park). The feasibility study was included in the meeting packet.

Costs, moving or keeping the location, and the possibility of losing grant funding were discussed.

Public Comment

Jill LaFond of 3200 Gulf Blvd. commented on how this issue developed over time.

Omer Chicoine commented on the ramp being dangerous.

Ed Chima of Don Cesar Place commented on flooding and that this can be an opportunity to do something positive for the community.

Kevin Hughes of 3211 Gulf Blvd. commented on hazards to navigation and docks, riparian rights, commercial activity, parking, and flooding.

Mark Rachal of Audubon Florida commented on bird colonies near the ramp and the Audubon's availability as a resource.

John Kurzman of Bahia Honda Way commented on cost and alternatives of the old ramp.

Ken Folsom of 3508 Casablanca commented on considering user profiles (city/county/businesses) of the ramp users and balancing resident and outside interest concerns.

The City Clerk can assist in scheduling a city-wide Town Hall at the Recreation Center.

a. Discussion and Possible Action: City Commission Meeting Dates June, July, and August 2024

Mayor Petrila mentioned that this was discussed at a previous meeting; as activity in the summer months is light, moving the meetings to two consecutive weeks could afford Commission opportunities for a break.

City Manager Saunders reminded the Commission that July is an important month in the budget process; the Property Appraiser delivers preliminary taxable values on July 1st. Budget priorities and preliminary budget are adjusted, and the Commission will tentatively receive a revised budget after the first week with budget workshops to follow at the end of the month.

Vice Mayor Lorenzen stated that he will be travelling considerably during July but intends to appear via Zoom when possible; he may miss one or two meetings, July 9th in particular. Commissioner Filtz indicated that he was available for the dates through August as presented. Commissioner Rzewnicki indicated that she was available for all of the dates except June 25th. The consensus was to leave the dates as previously scheduled.

City Attorney Dickman clarified for the Commission that voting via zoom is a possibility provided the individual has all of the meeting materials in front of them and has reviewed them. Virtual appearance is not for convenience; it should be an exception rather than the rule, and not for quasi-judicial hearings to avoid putting the City at risk in terms of due process. There must always be a physical quorum present.

Motion: Vice Mayor Lorenzen moved, Commissioner Marriott seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 for the City Clerk to assist with scheduling a date for a Town Hall for boat ramp input.

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

City Manager – mentioned the Workshop that is scheduled prior to the regular meeting on March 26th. The Search Firm for the City Manager position will be present to discuss status with the Commission. The closing date for applications was yesterday; they received approximately 75 applications, which are under review.

Mr. Saunders also spoke with the firm selected for the Comp Plan Review. They are discussing the scope, which was originally very general. He added that the scope of work will also need to be better defined for the consultant who will be fulfilling the city staff portion of the project (due to minimal staff and time constraints). He expects to have that back in the next few days.

City Attorney – received a written settlement proposal for the Red, White and Booze CUP application challenge, which he is working on with them. He would like, per FS 286.011(8), to exercise his right to formally request a private meeting to discuss that settlement with the Commission on April 9th at 5:00 PM. The City Attorney's office will prepare the agenda and notice.

Vice Chair Lorenzen – indicated he is not running in the August election but encouraged others to consider serving. The information on that election is on the City's website Clerk/General & Special Election page. Vice

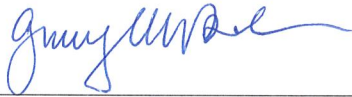
Chair Lorenzen also mentioned the Pass-A-Grille alleyway garbage pickup delay, due to waterline installation. His Meet & Greet gatherings are still taking place on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday evenings of each month at Hurley Park. meet & greet still happening. He added that the Pass-A-Grille and Vina del Mar Community Associations are a good way for him to share information.

Commissioner Filtz – reported that he had filled the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee with appointee Grant Izzi; he provided some of Mr. Izzi's background.

Mayor Petrila adjourned the meeting at 8:27 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVED: 3/26/24

GINNY KEETER-BODKIN
DEPUTY CITY CLERK



ADRIAN PETRILA
MAYOR