

CITY COMMISSION MEETING

MINUTES

JUNE 25, 2013

6:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION

PRESENT:

Steve McFarlin, Mayor
Lorraine Huhn, Vice Mayor
Jim Parent, Commissioner
Marvin Shavlan, Commissioner
Melinda Pletcher, Commissioner

ALSO PRESENT:

Mike Bonfield, City Manager
Susan Churuti, City Attorney
Rebecca Haynes, City Clerk
Elaine Edmunds, Administrative Services Director
Steve Hallock, Public Services Director
Jennifer McMahon, Recreation Director
Phyllis Ruscella, Library Administrator
Renee Cooper, CIP Manager

1. Changes to the Agenda

Mayor McFarlin requested to add a discussion regarding rebranding and marketing the Boca Ciega Room at the St. Pete Beach Community Center. It was added under Items for Discussion.

2. Presentations

a. Presentation by the City's engineering firm, Michael Baker, Inc., regarding the status of design engineering for the Blind Pass Road Reconstruction Project.

City Manager Bonfield noted the project was presented several years ago and covers the City owned portion of Blind Pass Road from Gulf Boulevard to 73rd Avenue.

Public Services Director Hallock introduced and presented a power point presentation showing the progress that has been made on the street design since the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) removed itself from the project in 2012.

Jerry Dabkowski, PE, representing Michael Baker, Inc., described the plan to narrow Blind Pass Road from Gulf Boulevard to 73rd Avenue, and to include new sidewalks, non-vehicular mobility and bicycle-vehicle share lanes. Mr. Dabkowski also reported on the construction schedule, costs, and traffic detour plans. He assured the audience there would be access for residents and businesses during construction.

Mayor McFarlin asked for questions relating to the presentation from the audience.

3. Audience Comments

John Michael, Bay Street, spoke in opposition to narrowing the street in the Blind Pass Road Project.

Lisa Robinson, Boca Ciega Drive, suggested that, by narrowing Blind Pass Road, the traffic would increase on Boca Ciega Drive.

Douglas Neibaum, 70th Avenue, requested the City consider the drainage problems in the areas around 70th Avenue and Boca Ciega Drive when working on the Blind Pass Road project.

Debra Edney, 73rd Avenue, asked that everyone remember her nephew, Joey Turner.

Deborah Schechner, Boca Ciega Isle Drive, spoke in opposition to the downtown couplet as well as opposing bicycles and vehicles sharing lanes as outlined in the repaving project.

Joanne Lentino, Boca Ciega Drive, requested to allow additional space for riding bikes in consideration of the bicyclists.

Janice Hunter, Boca Ciega Drive, requested more consideration for bicyclist and pet walkers on the Blind Pass Road Project. She suggested possibly constructing a sidewalk on one side and bicycle path on the other instead of two sidewalks.

Staff will explore additional alternatives and report back to the Commission.

4. Consent

a. Authorize the City Manager to accept a proposal from Kimley-Horn and Associates in the amount of \$78,400 to provide general engineering services for the replacement of two pumps at the Master Pump Station.

b. Authorize the City Manager to hang Taste of the Beaches banners over 75th Avenue at Boca Ciega Drive and over the Pinellas Bayway at Granada Avenue for Tampa Bay Beaches Chamber of Commerce.

Commissioner Shavlan moved to approve the Consent Agenda, Items (a) and (b), as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Parent and unanimously approved by an individual roll call vote.

5. Action Items

a. Designation of voting delegate for the 87th Annual Florida League of Cities Conference.

Commissioner Parent commented that he has been the designated voting delegate for the past three years and volunteered to serve again this year, since he is attending the conference in Orlando.

Vice Mayor Huhn moved to nominate Commissioner Jim Parent to be the St. Pete Beach voting delegate at the 87th Annual Florida League of Cities Conference. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Shavlan and unanimously approved by an individual roll call vote.

6. Ordinances

a. Ordinance 2013-15, First Reading and Public Hearing, excluding pets from all baseball and softball fields.

City Manager Bonfield explained that an ordinance must be adopted in order to enforce the long-standing policy of not allowing dogs to run loose in the fields.

Commissioner Shavlan moved to approve Item 6(a), Ordinance 2013-15, an ordinance of the City of St. Pete Beach, Florida; amending Chapter 58 – Parks and Recreation, Article II – City Parks and Facilities, Section 58-25 – Domestic Animals to exclude pets from all baseball and softball fields; providing for severability; providing for repeal of ordinances or parts of ordinances, in conflict herewith, to the extent of such conflict; and providing for an effective date. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Parent.

Mayor McFarlin called for audience comments.

John Michaels, Bay Street, supports allowing dogs on the ball fields.

Mayor McFarlin called for the vote.

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

b. Ordinance 2013-16, First Reading and Public Hearing, an ordinance of the City of St. Pete Beach, Florida providing a supplemental appropriation to the general fund and additional revenue for the capital project fund for fiscal year ending September 30, 2013; providing for funding; providing for an effective date.

City Manager Bonfield explained the proposed ordinance will allow for adjustments to the General Fund as follows:

- Savings in the amount of \$400,000 from the police department budget are being reallocated to the City Manager's budget for transfer to the Capital Projects fund.
- A copier was moved from the police department to the City Manager's Office. An adjustment of \$4,000 is necessary to reallocate the remaining cost for the lease.
- The Recreation Department received donations exceeding the amount budgeted by \$1,800. These monies will be used to purchase swim buoy lanes for the pool.
- The city received \$2,508 in grant monies to be used toward the purchase of a sound meter at a cost of \$3,455 which is utilized by the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office.
- The City received \$25,212 in FEMA reimbursements to offset the cost of the alley work and replacement of buoys from Tropical Storm Debby (\$22,567) and fencing at a park (\$2,645).

Vice Mayor Huhn made a motion to approve Item 6(b), Ordinance 2013-16, First Reading and Public Hearing, an ordinance of the City of St. Pete Beach, Florida providing a supplemental appropriation to the general fund and additional revenue for the Capital Project Fund for Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2013; providing for funding; providing for an effective date. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Shavlan.

Mayor McFarlin called for audience comments. There were none.

Mayor McFarlin called for the vote.

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

7. Resolutions

a. Resolution 2013-08, amending and restating Resolution 2009-12 which governs actions and deliberations during City Commission meetings in order to maintain decorum.

City Attorney Churuti explained the recent changes made by the Florida legislature – effective October 1 - that enhance a citizen's ability to speak at public meetings. Having an appropriate decorum resolution insulates the Commission from liability. Ms. Churuti requested changes on Page 5 keeping 'Persons' in the language and to change 'Chief

of Police' to 'Pinellas County Sheriff' and to change 'St. Pete Beach Police Department' to 'Pinellas County Sheriff's Office'.

Commissioner Pletcher moved to approve Item 7(a), Resolution 2013-08, a resolution of the City Commission of St. Pete Beach, Florida amending and restating resolution No. 2009-12, which governs actions and deliberations during City Commission meetings in order to maintain decorum; with changes made by the City Attorney; and providing for an effective date. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Huhn and unanimously approved by an individual roll call vote.

8. Items for Discussion

a. Discussion on re-naming/re-branding the Boca Ciega Room

Mayor McFarlin suggested re-naming/re-branding the Boca Ciega Room at the Community Center to better market the facility and increase the long-term advantages (with name recognition). He requested fellow Commissioners consider a variation of names to include the name of the largest private investor, Ms. Beth Morean.

The City Clerk will receive written input from the Commissioners and staff will place the item on the agenda for the next meeting.

b. Discuss future improvements/uses for public facilities in the Corey area, including library, City Hall and former Police Station

Staff was directed to return with options for all facilities, and an estimate to demolish the former police building and construct a parking lot on the property.

9. City Manager, City Attorney and City Commission Reports

City Manager Bonfield reported on the Big C Breakfast Meeting set for Wednesday at the Community Center, the Finance & Budget Review Committee meeting scheduled for July 2nd at 12:30 p.m., the Fourth of July fireworks will be held at Upham Beach and the ribbon cutting ceremony for McKenney Dog Park is scheduled for July 10th at 4:30 p.m. Mr. Bonfield noted that the Department of Economic Opportunity has received our Comp Plan transmittal letter and will formally respond by July 18, 2013. The City Manager then reviewed the upcoming agenda items.

City Attorney Churuti announced a Shade Meeting of an Attorney-Client session for Tuesday, July 9, 2013, at 5:00 p.m., in accordance with Chapter 286.011 of the Florida Statutes for the following lawsuits:

- Anderson v. City of St. Pete Beach, Case No. 11-001319-CI-08
- Anderson v. City of St. Pete Beach, Case No. 2D12-5969
- Chmielewski v. City of St. Pete Beach, Case No. 06-002925-CI-11

- Chmielewski v. City of St. Pete Beach, Case No. 09-019562-CI-11
- Chmielewski v. City of St. Pete Beach, Case No. 12-008226-CI-11
- Coconut Inn, LLC and Joseph Caruso v. City of St. Pete Beach, Case No. 11-9375-CI-07

Ms. Churuti announced those who will attend the Shade Meeting and reported that the minutes of the meeting will remain confidential until the conclusion of the lawsuits, at which time they will be available through the City Clerk of the City Commission.

Ms. Churuti advised that she was recruited by the Florida League of Cities to serve on a legislative committee during their annual conference.

Commissioner Pletcher reported that she just returned from the Charleston area and discussed the historical coastal communities she visited.

Commissioner Shavlan had no report.

Commissioner Jim Parent reported on the Big C Breakfast meeting, noted his monthly round-table at the Library on Wednesday evening, commented on writing a letter in support of a historical resource survey grant, wished everyone a safe Independence Day celebration and reminded everyone of the annual sea oat planting this coming Saturday. Mr. Parent noted that Mr. Jacobus (Police Pension Board Member) is training to climb Mount Kilimanjaro

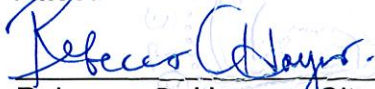
Vice Mayor Huhn reported the merchants on Corey Avenue are welcoming visitors and that Gone to the Dogs was recognized as "Retailer of the Year".

Mayor McFarlin wished everyone a happy 4th of July and thanked everyone who works towards making positive changes within the city.

10. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the commission, the meeting was adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Attest:


Rebecca C. Haynes, City Clerk


Steve McFarlin, Mayor

Minutes approved on: 7/23/2013