CITY COMMISSION MEETING

MINUTES

JULY 23, 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 C. Haynes, City Clerk
Elaine Edmunds, Administrative Services Director
Steve Hallock, Public Services Director
Jennifer McMahon, Recreation Director
George Kinney, Community Development Director
Dan Graves, Fire Chief
Renee Cooper, CIP Manager
Mandy Edmunds, Recreation Program Coordinator

1. Changes to the Agenda

There were no changes to the agenda.

2. Presentations

a. Good Citizen Awards

Recreation Director McMahon noted that July is "National Recreation Month" and encouraged residents to stop by the Community Center and parks to join the fun.

Ms. McMahon and Mandy Edmunds then presented "All Star Team" awards to six children who participated in the summer program and showed excellent, helpful behavior.

Travis Miller: positive attitude, always helpful, brightens the day with his smile

Elyce Mairn: always friendly and helpful, makes others smile

Nolan Fitzpatrick: demonstrates kindness and helpfulness to others

Tyler Smith: brightens everybody's day, friends with everyone in camp

Bianca Hurst: positive attitude and a good example to other campers

Toby Hobson: gets along with everyone, makes new campers feel welcome

The children stood smiling during a round of applause and then high-fived the City Commissioners and City Staff.

b. Capital Improvement Project Close-Out

CIP Manager Cooper presented the project close-out list that includes the subaqueous line cover ($28,950), the generator housing/tank replacement ($83,052), the Force Main #2 replacement ($399,143) and repairs to Merry Pier ($95,150).

3. Audience Comments

Rosemary Manning, First Avenue, supported moving ahead with the Comprehensive Plan and complete projects to update the City. Ms. Manning recommended having Code Enforcement personnel work an occasional weekend to issue tickets to violators.

Joanne Lentino, Boca Ciega Drive, reported a homeless person sleeping in the park at the end of 70th Avenue and requested assistance from City staff in the interest of public safety.

Deborah Martohue, Gulf Boulevard, spoke about the beautification of Blind Pass Road and Gulf Boulevard, installation/condition of bus shelters and using street furniture to identify Corey Avenue.

Dody Matthias, Blind Pass Road, spoke in support of the library expansion and listed several benefits of including the library improvements in the upcoming budgeted Capital Improvements Projects list.

Carol Walker, Gulf Boulevard, presented photographs of various bicycle stands to install along Corey Avenue to give the area a more whimsical, yet functional, appearance.

Reverend Bob Matthias, Blind Pass Road, spoke in support of the St. Pete Beach Library and using their services when defining a mission for the city.

Deborah Schechner, Boca Ciega Isle Drive, spoke in support of recognizing the children in the Recreation Department's "Good Citizen Awards" and in support of public art for the City.

Bruno Falkenstein, Pass-a-Grille Way, discussed burglar alarms, an after-hour telephone number for water leaks, lighting changes that reflect on the beach in relation to beach re-nourishment, and beautification along Pinellas Bayway. Mr. Falkenstein then complimented the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office.

John Michael, Bay Street, supported additional public parking areas and designating a portion of Upham Beach as a dog beach.

City Manager Bonfield stated that the City will apply for a $500,000 state construction grant and, at the same time, the Friends of the Library will hold their fund-raising campaign. These two events will provide a better understanding of the funding requirements for library improvements.

4. Consent

a. Approval of June 25, 2013 regular meeting minutes and the July 9, 2013 regular meeting and shade meeting minutes.

b. Authorize the City Manager to enter into a purchasing agreement in the amount of $88,186.58 with Southeastern Surfaces & Equipment, Inc. to replace the gym floor.

c. Authorize the City Manager to sign modification #2 for the FDOT District Seven Highway Beautification Maintenance Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for the City of St. Pete Beach to construct and maintain new aesthetic landscape median up-lighting on the SR 699 right-of-way.

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

5. Action Items

a. Authorization to approve special event application and street closure for the 5th Annual VW Beach Bash scheduled for September 1, 2013.

City Manager Bonfield explained the car show and street closure, with a portion of the profits donated to Wounded Warriors program.

Commissioner Parent moved to approve Item 5(a), the 5th Annual VW Beach Bash event application and street closures for September 1, 2013. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Huhn and unanimously approved by an individual roll call vote.

b. Amendment to the City Attorney Retainer Agreement

City Attorney Churuti noted the emerging case law allows for municipal attorneys to charge litigants a fair market value rate instead of paying a discounted rate when defending a city in a lawsuit. The Appellate Court requires a municipality to establish an amount in writing.

Vice Mayor Huhn moved to approve Item 5(b), amendment to the City Attorney Retainer Agreement. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Shavlan and unanimously approved by an individual roll call vote.

c. Authorize the City Manager to sign a proposal from CPWG in the amount of $104,400 to perform preliminary engineering for Pass-a-Grille Way.

Public Services Director Hallock explained the preliminary engineering is basically data collection. Mr. Hallock noted that additional public meetings will take place, prior to any work, with the general public, neighborhood associations, etc.

Commissioner Pletcher moved to approve Item 5(c), authorizing the City Manager to sign a proposal from CPWG in the amount of $104,400 to perform preliminary engineering for Pass-a-Grille Way. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Parent and unanimously approved by an individual roll call vote.

d. Presentation of a final report prepared by the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council (TBRPC) and related to findings and conclusions resulting from two economic development workshops that were conducted for the Corey Avenue District.

Avera Winne, Director of Planning/TBRPC, conducted a Power Point presentation summarizing input/recommendations from City staff and residents during the public workshops and an on-line survey. Mr. Winne offered demographics, general themes and steps for revitalization in the Corey Avenue area.

John Michaels, Bay Street, reiterated his preference for increased public parking.

Deborah Schechner, Boca Ciega Isle Drive, supported maintaining a quaint beach town atmosphere.

Carol Walker, Gulf Boulevard, spoke in favor of creating a family friendly destination where people can have fun and enjoy themselves.

Vice Mayor Huhn moved to accept the Corey Avenue District plan submitted by Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Parent and unanimously approved by an individual roll call vote.

6. Ordinances

a. Ordinance 2013-18, First Reading and Public Hearing, an ordinance of the City of St. Pete Beach, Florida providing for a supplemental appropriation to the Capital Project Fund for fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, providing for funding and providing for an effective date.

City Manager Bonfield noted this proposed ordinance makes the budget changes to realign the Capital Improvement Projects discussed at a previous meeting.

Commissioner Parent moved to approve Item 6(a), approving Ordinance 2013-18, an ordinance of the City of St. Pete Beach, Florida providing for a supplemental appropriation to the Capital Project Fund for Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2013; providing for funding; providing for an effective date. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Huhn.

Mayor McFarlin called for public 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 2013-11, a resolution of the City of St. Pete Beach, Florida establishing the tentative millage rate for Truth In Millage (TRIM) notices.

Mr. Bonfield stated that the Finance & Budget Review Committee recommended setting the rate at 3 mills; staff prepared the budget using the 2012 millage rate of 2.8569 mills. The rollback millage rate is 3.1588 which would produce the same amount of revenue as last year. Any higher amount would be advertised as a tax increase in the TRIM notice. The City Manager explained that the rate established for this resolution is the highest amount that can be set for budget adoption in September, but could also be set at a lower amount.

Public hearings on the FY 2014 budget adoption will be held at the City Commission meetings scheduled for first reading on September 3, 2013 and second reading on September 18, 2013.

Commissioner Parent moved to approve Item 7(a), Resolution 2013-11, a resolution of the City of St. Pete Beach, Pinellas County, Florida, establishing the tentative millage rate of 2.8569 for TRIM notices. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Shavlan and passed by a 3-2 vote, with Vice Mayor Huhn and Commissioner Pletcher voting 'no'.

b. Resolution 2013-12 authorization for the lease/purchase of a squad/pumper for the Fire Rescue Department.

City Manager Bonfield explained that the pumper truck is included in the proposed budget; if the Commission is not going to approve the budget as presented, the resolution should not be approved either. Staffing and the lead time for ordering are two key factors in ordering the pumper as soon as possible, which is funded through Penny for Pinellas.

Fire Chief Graves further explained the staffing changes that would take place if the truck is approved.

Commissioner Shavlan moved to approve Item 7(b), Resolution 2013-12, a resolution of the City of St. Pete Beach, Pinellas County, Florida approving a lease-purchase agreement between Oshkosh Capital and the City of St. Pete Beach, Florida; for financing of a fire truck in the amount not to exceed $379,131.90; and providing for an effective date. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Parent and unanimously approved by an individual roll call vote.

8. Items for Discussion

There are no Items for Discussion.

9. City Manager, City Attorney and City Commission Reports

Mr. Bonfield reviewed the August 13, 2013 agenda items.

Mayor McFarlin requested staff review the possibility of having the Code Enforcement Division work an occasional weekend to cite violators and to place a discussion on the next agenda regarding re-naming the Community Center.

City Attorney Churuti reported she is expecting a reply brief by July 29th and the briefing will be closed on the Anderson case. Ms. Churuti expected that oral arguments may be set in the next few months.

Commissioner Pletcher requested to place a discussion on the next agenda to review the design guidelines for Pass-a-Grille.

Commissioner Shavlan reported that he attended the "Taste of the Beaches" event and was very impressed with staff and the attendance. Mr. Shavlan reminded everyone of the Sunday Market at Suntan Arts Center.

Commissioner Parent reiterated that the "Taste of the Beaches" was a great event, requested the dates for the budget hearings (September 3rd and September 18th), and reminded everyone of his 'Roundtable' meeting at the Library on Wednesday evening.

Vice Mayor Huhn commended the Public Services staff on the new dog park at McKenney Park and noted that "Jazz on the Avenue" has opened on Corey Avenue. Ms. Huhn reported that North Beach Beautification Awards will be handed out at the next Commission meeting.

10. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Attest:

Rebecca C. Haynes, City Clerk

Steve McFarlin, Mayor

Minutes approved on: 8-13-2013