

CITY COMMISSION MEETING

MINUTES

JULY 22, 2014

6:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION

PRESENT:

Maria Lowe, Mayor
Melinda Pletcher, Vice Mayor
Terri Finnerty, Commissioner
Rick Falkenstein, Commissioner
Gregory Premer, Commissioner

ALSO PRESENT:

Elaine Edmunds, Interim City Manager
Susan Churuti, City Attorney
Rebecca C. Haynes, City Clerk
Jennifer McMahon, Recreation Director
Steve Hallock, Public Services Director
Ian Wade, Projects Manager

1. Presentations

a. Gulf Beaches Elementary School

Mr. Robert Kalach, Principal of Gulf Beaches Elementary School, introduced himself and staff members from the new school. Mr. Kalach noted that the K-5 school year will begin on Monday, August 18th, and the school day will begin at 8:35 a.m. and end at 2:35 p.m. Principal Kalach thanked Commissioner Finnerty for inviting him to attend the meeting.

2. Changes to the Agenda

Commissioner Finnerty requested to add discussion of an email from Mr. Ken Weiss and discussion of the selection process for legal services.

Mayor Lowe requested to add discussion of dogs on the beach, update on signs, beach re-nourishment and a proposed Wounded Warrior event.

3. Audience Comments

Penny Fox, Lido Drive, discussed the deeded access at 4506 Gulf Boulevard and agreed to meet with Commissioner Premier to discuss further.

Deborah Schechner, Boca Ciega Isle Drive, commented on the personnel level at the Pass-a-Grille Fire Station, the Corey Avenue couplet and Gulf Boulevard maintenance and proposed cruise ship routes in Tampa Bay.

Maureen Ahern, Pinellas County School Board candidate, introduced herself and thanked the Commission for the opportunity to speak at the meeting.

Joanne Lentino, Boca Ciega Drive, spoke about the 'Taste of the Beaches' event in Horan Park that was hosted by the Tampa Bay Beaches Chamber of Commerce.

4. Consent

- a. Approval of minutes for the June 24, 2014 Regular City Commission Meeting.
- b. Authorization for street closures for 4 craft shows and to hang banners over 75th Avenue at Boca Ciega Drive and over Pinellas Bayway at Granada Avenue for the following Corey Area Business Association 2015 events: Corey Art & Craft Show January 10-11, 2015, Corey Ave Sidewalk Sale March 11-14, 2015, Corey Art & Craft Show April 18-19, 2015, Corey Art and Craft Show June 6-7, 2015, Corey Ave Sidewalk Sale November 11-14, 2015 and Corey Art and Craft Show December 5-6, 2015.
- c. Authorization for street closures on Sundays from Oct 5, 2014 –May 31, 2015 and Oct 4, 2015-May 29, 2016 of the 200-400 blocks of Corey Ave for the Corey Area Business Association Sunday Market.

Commissioner Premier moved to approve the Consent Items (a), (b) and (c) as presented. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Pletcher.

Mayor Lowe called for audience comments.

Jerry Arden, Corey Avenue vendor, spoke about the Corey Avenue events, liability insurance and the permit process.

There being no further comments, Mayor Lowe called for the vote.

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

5. Action Items

a. Authorization for the Interim City Manager to grant permission to Lessee Merry Pier Partners LLC to complete site improvements as presented, waive the related local site improvement permit fees and to proceed with the preparation of lease amendment document(s) extending the term of the existing lease agreement five years as requested by the Lessee as provided for in the existing lease agreement upon mutual agreement of the parties.

Interim City Manager Edmunds explained that the current tenants are seeking authorization to restore and improve the arbor and deck and are requesting the waiver of all associated fees. The lessee is also requesting a five year extension to the existing lease which would extend their tenancy to January 31, 2021.

Nancy Davidek, Managing Member of Merry Pier Partners, LLC, presented photographs depicting the proposed improvements and updated the Commission on the charter boats and fresh seafood services the company now provides.

Commissioner Premier moved to approve Item 5(a), authorizing the Interim City Manager to grant permission to Lessee Merry Pier Partners LLC to complete site improvements as presented, waive the related local site improvement permit fees and proceed with the preparation of lease agreement/amendment document(s) extending the term of the existing lease agreement five years. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Pletcher.

Mayor Lowe called for audience comments.

Harry Metz, Pass-a-Grille Way, noted that previous Commissions allowed for an offset of rent expenses when there was a decline in the economy.

There being no further comments, Mayor Lowe called for the vote.

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

b. Authorization to approve special event application and street closure for the 6th Annual VW Beach Bash scheduled for August 30, 2014. Closures would be 15th and 16th Avenues from 7am – 4pm.

Interim City Manager Edmunds reported the 6th Annual Beach Bash is requesting co-sponsorship from the City in the amount of \$3,415.00, which would pay for the Sheriff patrol that is required because of the sale of alcoholic beverages.

Amanda Trail, South Pasadena, applicant and organizer of the event, noted the activities include a car show, local craft vendors, food trucks, beer trucks and paddleboard demonstrations.

Commissioner Finnerty moved to approve Item 5(b), to authorize the 6th Annual VW Beach Bash event application and street closures for August 30, 2014, but did not advise for City co-sponsorship due to lack of appropriated funds. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Falkenstein.

Mayor Lowe called for audience comments.

Joanne Lentino, Boca Ciega Drive, commended staff on matching events with city funds and requesting appropriate documentation.

Deborah Schechner, Boca Ciega Isle Drive, spoke in support of the VW Event.

There being no further audience comments, Mayor Lowe called for the vote.

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

c. Authorization to approve special event application and street closure for the 2nd Annual Hot Summer Night Run scheduled for Thursday, October 2, 2014. Closures would be Gulf Boulevard and Pass-a-Grille Way from 16th Avenue to 1st Avenue.

Interim City Manager Edmunds reviewed the application and request for street closures, route for runners, permit fees, traffic control, ambulance and barricades. The event is not included in the budget.

Chris Lauber, Race Director, and Valarie Klaus, radio host, explained the 10K and 5K races, the 'music zones' to motivate runners and the post-race party. They requested City co-sponsorship to cover the waiver of fees, traffic control including deputy coverage and traffic cones, standby ambulance and barricades for a beer consumption zone.

It was the consensus of the Commission to table the request until a more suitable route for runners could be established.

d. Authorize the Interim City Manager to accept a proposal from Land & Water Engineering Science (LWES) in the amount of \$43,741 to finalize the design engineering for the Egan Park Improvement Project.

Interim City Manager Edmunds explained this version of the project was scaled back and did not include relocation of the dock. This portion of the phased-in design included the minimum requirements in order to retain the stormwater improvement grant from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

Public Works Director Steve Hallock stated the two options presented allow for future playground equipment and possible future relocation of the boat ramp. The proposal meets the stormwater requirements and the grant requirements for the purchase of the property.

Dikran Kalaydjian, Engineer with Land & Water Engineering Science, explained the two maps presented show a one-way and a two-way traffic pattern, both of which also meet the grant requirements.

Mayor Lowe requested to separate the item into two parts: the first section is approval/denial of the agenda item and the second section is to receive public comments regarding the park improvements.

Commissioner Premier moved to approve Item 5(d), to accept a proposal from Land & Water Engineering Science (LWES) in the amount of \$43,741 to finalize the design engineering for the Egan Park Improvement Project with the two-way traffic pattern. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Finnerty.

Mayor Lowe called for audience comments.

Al Halpern, Blind Pass Road, spoke in favor of relocating the boat ramp and addressing the water run-off drainage system.

Name not provided, discussed the boat ramp passageway.

Name inaudible, Captiva Circle, commented that he could provide an approximate number of people who use the boat launch and spoke against the kayak storage unit.

Michael Lehman, 80th Avenue, discussed options to interchanging some of the amenities offered between McKenney Park and Egan Park.

DJ Everett, Captiva Circle, discussed safety issues and spoke in favor of taking additional time to make any decisions.

Deborah Schechner, Boca Ciega Isle Drive, spoke in favor of moving forward this evening by approving the proposal.

Darrell Denkins, Captiva Circle, spoke in opposition to the two-lane option and in favor of one-way traffic with a wider left lane.

Marty (last name inaudible), Captiva Circle, spoke against the two-way traffic pattern in terms of safety issues.

Commissioner Premier modified the motion to read:

Commissioner Premier moved to approve Item 5(d), to accept a proposal from Land & Water Engineering Science (LWES) in the amount of \$43,741 to finalize the design engineering for the Egan Park Improvement Project with the understanding the traffic flow remains a one-way traffic flow. The amended motion was seconded by Commissioner Finnerty.

There being no further audience comments, Mayor Lowe called for the vote.

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

Michael Lehman, 80th Avenue, further discussed alternatives to the activities in Egan Park and McKenney Park.

DJ Everett, Captiva Circle, spoke in support of lessening the stormwater runoff and stated the City is incorrectly handling the issue.

6. Ordinances

There were no ordinances for this agenda.

7. Resolutions

a. Resolution 2014-07, a resolution of the City of St. Pete Beach establishing the tentative millage rate for Truth in Millage (TRIM) notices.

Interim City Manager Edmunds explained that the rate established this evening is the maximum millage rate that can be set for FY 2015. The Commission can adopt a lower rate but cannot set a higher rate.

Ms. Edmunds reported that the Commission must set the date and time for the budget hearing, which is set for September 10, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. By law, the City cannot hold budget hearings on the same date(s) as either the County or School Board holds their respective budget hearings in order to allow for maximum resident participation.

Ms. Edmunds noted that there was a 6.7% increase in property tax values. She prepared the FY 2015 budget based upon 3.0 mills which amounts to an annual increase of \$34.41 per \$100,000 taxable value.

Commissioner Finnerty moved to approve Item 7(a), Resolution 2014-07, a resolution of the City of St. Pete Beach, Pinellas County, Florida, establishing the tentative millage rate for TRIM Notices to be 3.2 mills. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Premer.

Mayor Lowe called for audience comments.

Deborah Schechner, Boca Ciega Isle Drive, noted the Commission has the opportunity to concentrate on the needs of the City and complete overdue projects.

There being no additional audience comments, Mayor Lowe called for the vote.

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

8. Items for Discussion

a. E-mail correspondence received from Mr. Ken Weiss – added by Commissioner Finnerty

Commissioner Finnerty read the correspondence requesting to hold a workshop to discuss pending issues related to the Comprehensive Plan.

City Attorney Churuti advised that David Healey, Community Development Department consultant, brief the Commissioners on the current plan and how it compares with other municipal comprehensive plans.

It was the consensus of the Commission to meet with Mr. Healey once the budget process is complete.

b. Process to review and select legal services – added by Commissioner Finnerty

A special meeting will be scheduled to review the Requests for Qualifications, pare down to three applicants and hold an additional meeting to conduct interviews prior to the next Commission meeting.

c. Email correspondence re: Dogs on the Beach – added by Mayor Lowe

Mayor Lowe explained that she received correspondence regarding dogs on the beach in Pass-a-Grille on the Intracoastal water way and noted it may be a code enforcement issue.

d. Beach Access Signs – added by Mayor Lowe

Mayor Lowe forwarded correspondence to Commissioner Premier regarding beach access signs. Director Hallock stated that his department is scheduling the replacement of the signs which will be completed within the next several weeks.

e. Beach Re-Nourishment – added by Mayor Lowe

Mayor Lowe discussed several perpetual easement issues including liability, maintenance and assignability. Ms. Lowe stated that there currently is no written plan to install a boardwalk and a public discussion at a Commission meeting has never taken place regarding approving the boardwalk.

f. Wounded Warrior Event – added by Mayor Lowe

Mayor Lowe discussed a proposal to allow the Wounded Warriors Project to sell parking permit hang tags from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Ms. Edmunds responded that staff can arrange this directly with the organizer of the event.

9. Audience Comments

Mark Landry, Gulf Boulevard, discussed park improvements at Egan Park.

10. City Manager, City Attorney and City Commission Reports

Interim City Manager Edmunds reminded the Commissioners they will meet with the executive search firm for the city manager vacancy on Wednesday. Ms. Edmunds suggested adding agenda items prior to the actual Commission meeting to provide advanced notification for all concerned.

City Attorney Churuti reported that she will attend the Florida City Attorneys Association conference for continuing legal education.

Commissioner Finnerty thanked Mr. Hallock for removing a dead palm tree. Ms. Finnerty reported that she visited the Gulf Beaches Elementary School, received a request for a speed bump at Boca Ciega and 78th Avenue, noted that the new Sherwin-Williams Paint Store will open soon and reported the Sloppy Pelican has changed its name to Shark Tale. Commissioner Finnerty thanked St. Anthony's Hospital for the items donated to SPB Support Our Troops and provided an update on the bus shelters at Hotel Zamora and Sirata Beach Resort.

Commissioner Falkenstein reported he will resume his 'walk-n-talk' on the first Saturday in August to receive input regarding the FY 2015 budget, reported on Library events and noted two new businesses on Gulf Boulevard.

Commissioner Premier complimented the Chamber representatives on the 'Taste of the Beaches' event, reported that the Tradewinds is sponsoring a Rays viewing event, discussed on-street vehicle parking around the Hotel Zamora area, and discussed the Plaza Beach Resort redevelopment.

Vice Mayor Pletcher thanked the Commission for moving forward with Pass-a-Grille design review standards and discussed Pass-a-Grille Way construction.

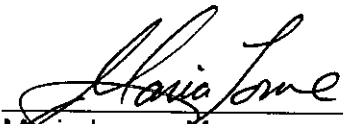
Mayor Lowe reported on design review standards, spoke about the Florida League of Cities annual conference, commented on the Youth Council and reported the positive feedback she has been receiving from the community.

11. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 11:44 p.m.

Attest:


Rebecca C. Haynes, City Clerk


Maria Lowe, Mayor

Minutes approved on: 8/22/2014