

CITY COMMISSION MEETING

MINUTES

AUGUST 27, 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
Steve Hallock, Public Services Director
Connie Kest, Administrative Assistant
Deputy Chris Kohmann, PCSO

1. Presentations

- a. Connie Kest Retirement

Interim City Manager Edmunds commended Ms. Kest on her 24 years of service with the City of St. Pete Beach. Public Services Director Hallock detailed Ms. Kest's many contributions and remarked how much she will be missed.

2. Changes to the Agenda

Interim City Manager Edmunds requested to postpone Item 6(a), Ordinance 2014-07, to the September 10, 2014 meeting.

3. Audience Comments

Rosemary Manning, 1st Avenue, commented on the invaluable assistance Ms. Kest provided during her tenure. Ms. Manning discussed dogs on the beach in front of her

condominium building, requested replacement of a beach restriction sign and requested the status on median lighting on Gulf Boulevard.

Colleen Horan, St. Pete Beach, thanked the Commission and staff for honoring her sister, Connie Kest, on her retirement. Ms. Horan discussed a dangerous animal situation at her family home and requested the Commission take action against dogs that injure and/or take the life of another animal.

It was the consensus of the Commission to remedy the situation by working with code enforcement regarding fence heights and with animal control regarding aggressive dogs.

Harry Metz, Pass-A-Grille Way, commented that Connie Kest is a great asset to the City. Mr. Metz reported on dogs on the beach near 22nd Avenue and questioned the ownership of the Chamber of Commerce building on Gulf Boulevard.

Deborah Schechner, Boca Ciega Isle Drive, thanked Ms. Kest for her service to the City, expressed concern regarding dogs on the beaches and spoke in support of holding a workshop to discuss the Comprehensive Plan.

4. Consent

a. Authorization for the Interim City Manager to sign the Second Amendment to Lease Agreement by and between the City of St. Pete Beach and Merry Pier Partners, LLC.

Interim City Manager Edmunds recommended approval of the Consent Item 4(a) as presented.

**Vice Mayor Pletcher moved to approve the Consent Item 4(a) as presented.
The motion was seconded by Commissioner Premier.**

Mayor Lowe called for audience comments.

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

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

5. Action Items

a. Consideration and action on modification of Temporary Use Permit for the Parking Lot at 3855 Gulf Boulevard (Sungold, LLC/Beth Morean).

The Temporary Use Permit was revised at the August 12th meeting and is presented for approval in its final form.

Commissioner Premier moved to approve Item 5(a), to approve the modifications to the Temporary Use Permit for the Parking Lot at 3855 Gulf Boulevard (Sungold, LLC/Beth Morean) as modified. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Falkenstein.

Mayor Lowe called for audience comments.

Harry Metz, Pass-A-Grille Way, commented on restrictions to a property once a building has been demolished.

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

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

b. Authorize the Interim City Manager to enter into an agreement with the Law Office of Andrew Dickman, P.A. for city attorney services.

Interim City Manager Edmunds noted the agreement contains an hourly rate of \$180.00 per hour with no retainer fee, plus expenses for out-of-county travel time.

City Attorney Churuti explained the transition plan between Bryant, Miller, Olive and Mr. Andrew Dickman regarding litigation, records transfer, upcoming meetings, etc. Ms. Churuti noted that Mr. Dickman will begin serving as the City Attorney on September 24, 2014.

Andrew Dickman, Andrew Dickman P.A., noted his concurrence with Ms. Churuti and the transition plan presented.

Vice Mayor Pletcher moved to approve Item 5(b), to authorize the Interim City Manager to enter into an agreement for city attorney services with the Law Office of Andrew Dickman, P.A. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Falkenstein.

Mayor Lowe called for audience comments.

Rosemary Manning, 1st Avenue, requested clarification on when the contract will be effective. Ms. Manning noted that the City currently has a Comprehensive Plan in place even though it is in litigation.

Deborah Schechner, Boca Ciega Isle Drive, spoke in support of Mr. Dickman as the new city attorney.

Harry Metz, Pass-A-Grille Way, spoke in support of Mr. Dickman as the new city attorney.

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

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

6. Ordinances

a. Ordinance 2014-07, Final Reading and Public Hearing, an Ordinance of the City of St. Pete Beach amending subsections (a), (c), (n), (o) and (p) of Section 82-137 of Division 1 of Article III of Chapter 82, of the Code of Ordinances as it relates to stopping, standing or parking of vehicles.

This item was postponed to September 10, 2014.

7. Resolutions

There were no resolutions presented for this agenda.

8. Items for Discussion

There were no items for discussion presented for this agenda.

9. Audience Comments

There were no audience comments.

10. City Clerk, City Manager, City Attorney and City Commission Reports

City Clerk Haynes reported on the city-wide records management program and the upcoming bid openings for Stormwater Improvements and Alley Rehabilitation projects and provided an update on meeting minutes. Ms. Haynes commented that a former employee, Mary Jo Murphy, will join the staff as Deputy City Clerk on September 2, 2014.

Interim City Manager Edmunds reported that City Hall will be closed on Monday, September 1st, in observance of Labor Day and grand opening ceremonies for the Bayway Bridge will take place on October 17th. Ms. Edmunds detailed her meeting with Duke Energy regarding the subaqueous transmissions lines between the mainland and the beach and provided an updated calendar for Commission meetings, city manager recruitment procedures and the Comprehensive Plan overview.

City Attorney Churuti requested that the new city attorney be copied on all correspondence regarding legal matters and discussed a court order regarding shade meeting transcripts related to the Chmielewski public records case.

Vice Mayor Pletcher noted her email account is repaired, spoke about dogs on the beach and open trash cans on the beach, discussed forming a group comprised of residents to observe the Pass-A-Grille Way pavement project and reported on a bicycle theft.

Commissioner Premier reported on attending the Suncoast League of Cities meeting and the Candidate Forum scheduled for September 24th Pinellas Park Performing Arts Center. Mr. Premier commented on the black skimmer birds at the beach over Labor Day.

Commissioner Falkenstein discussed bed tax funding and reimbursement of FEMA funding, and reported on Duke Energy power restoration after an emergency.

Commissioner Finnerty reported on sessions she attended during the Florida League of Cities Annual Conference, which included a newly elected official course, an updated technology class and a display of LED Christmas decorations. Commissioner Finnerty provided an update on the installation of new bus shelters, a proposed crosswalk on Gulf Boulevard, a traffic light on Blind Pass Road, and signage on Boca Ciega Drive for Gulf Beaches School. She commented on a private tour of the Sundial Shopping District in St. Petersburg.

Mayor Lowe commented on items for the upcoming agenda to include a discussion on sufficient signage for "No Wake" zones. She reported on the grand opening of a new St. Pete Beach restaurant called "Shark Tails"; future undergrounding of utilities; air quality control fines on construction projects; and a digital information reporting system that enables the community to submit work orders to City staff informing them of traffic signal outages, potholes, etc.

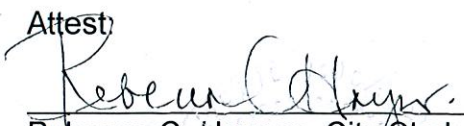
Mayor Lowe commented on an improved notification system among the Commissioners. Interim City Manager Edmunds requested that communication be forwarded to her for dissemination to the elected officials.

Mayor Lowe requested Mayor Cretokos from the City of Clearwater be invited to speak about beach improvements and the hospitality industry at a future Commission meeting. She further reported on beach re-nourishment and Silver Sands Condominiums. Mayor Lowe thanked The Gabber for their recent coverage of the Youth Council.

11. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 9:01 p.m.

Attest:


Rebecca C. Haynes, City Clerk


Maria Lowe, Mayor

Minutes approved on: 10/14/2014