

CITY COMMISSION MEETING - SPECIAL

MINUTES

JUNE 04, 2015

3:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION

PRESENT:

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

ABSENT:

Melinda Pletcher, Commissioner (excused)

ALSO PRESENT:

Wayne Saunders, City Manager
Andrew Dickman, City Attorney (present via telephone)
Rebecca C. Haynes, City Clerk

1. Decision Regarding Location or Cancellation of 4th of July Fireworks

City Manager Saunders explained that the 4th of July fireworks show was originally scheduled to take place at Upham Beach but was moved to the County Park beach area at the Commission's direction.

The issue of Skimmer bird nests in the area arose and subsequent consideration in regard to relocation or cancellation took place. Options include:

- Obtain a barge
- Move to Upham Beach
- Keep at County Park beach area
- Cancel the fireworks

City Attorney Andrew Dickman relayed the particulars of the cancellation policy.

Elizabeth Forsys, Professor at Eckerd College, spoke in support of either relocating the fireworks or reserving a barge.

Robin Sollie, CEO with Tampa Bay Beaches Chamber of Commerce, spoke in opposition of obtaining a barge due to lateness in scheduling, the increased costs and the possible inclement weather factors.

Mayor Lowe moved to approve relocating the 2015 fireworks show from the County Park to a barge; in the event a barge cannot be located or the City cannot afford the barge, the fireworks show will be located at Upham Beach. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Falkenstein.

Mayor Lowe called for audience comments.

Lisa Doran, St. Pete Beach, spoke in support of relocating the fireworks show.

Robin Sollie, Chamber of Commerce, requested clarification on the motion and reiterated that she was not able to locate a barge during her research earlier in the day.

Helen Simon, The Gabber Newspaper, requested information on the current cost of the fireworks display and the additional cost of a barge.

Harry Metz, Pass-A-Grille Way, spoke in support of locating a barge.

Tom DeYampert, St. Pete Beach, asked if there was a history of complaints associated with conducting the fireworks show at Upham Beach.

Nancy Waters, Treasure Island, spoke in opposition of fireworks in the County Park area.

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

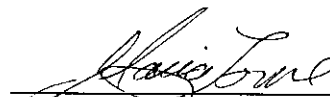
The motion was unanimously approved by an individual roll call vote.

2. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 3:51 p.m.

Attest:


Rebecca C. Haynes, City Clerk


Maria Lowe, Mayor

Minutes approved on: 7-14-2015