

CITY OF BRADENTON

**SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES
August 19, 2020
9:00 A.M.**

The City of Bradenton City Council met in the City Hall Council Chamber, 101 Old Main Street, Bradenton, Florida, at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, August 19, 2020.

Present: Mayor Wayne Poston; and Vice Mayor/Councilman Ward I Gene Gallo; Councilwoman Ward II Marianne Barnebey; Councilman Ward III Patrick Roff; Councilman Ward IV Bill Sanders; and Councilman Ward V Harold Byrd, Jr.

City Officials: Carl Callahan, City Administrator/Economic Development Director; Sharon Beauchamp, City Clerk & Treasurer; Jim McLellan, Public Works & Utilities Director; Melanie Bevan, Police Chief; Charles Edwards, Fire Chief; and Scott Rudacille, City Attorney.

CITIZEN COMMENT:

Glen Gibellina, 710 28th Street East, voiced his public safety concerns regarding a vacant property located at 402 10th Avenue Drive West.

Sharon Beauchamp, City Clerk & Treasurer explained the City Clerk's Office did not receive any citizen comments via voicemail or email prior to the meeting.

Palma Sola Causeway Discussion

Vice Mayor Gallo said recently he received calls and emails regarding the increased horseback riding activity at Palma Sola Causeway. Vice Mayor Gallo reiterated the Florida Department of Transportation considers horses a conveyance and the City does not have authority to police the right-of-way.

Residents were invited to speak to Council regarding their experiences regarding horseback riding along the Causeway.

Robert Lombardo, 316 81st Street West. As a resident on Palma Sola Bay, Mr. Lombardo voiced his concerns regarding the potential environmental damage, should the practice of allowing horses to enter into the Bay continue. Mr. Lombardo requested City staff to reach out to the Department of Environmental Protection regarding potential damage to the environment.

Clifton Gaus, 310 81st Street West approached the podium to also voice his concerns and shared his negative experiences with the after effects of horseback riding along the Causeway.

Jim McLellan, Public Works & Utilities Director presented time lapsed aerial photographs of Palma Sola Bay to demonstrate the changes in sea grass growth over time.

A discussion ensued regarding working with other governmental agencies and appropriate steps to address environmental impacts caused by horses in Palma Sola Bay.

MOTION TO DIRECT ATTORNEY RUDACILLE TO EXPLORE POTENTIAL AVENUES TO SOLVE THE ISSUE OF PROBLEMS POSED BY HORSES ON THE PALMA SOLA CAUSEWAY was made by Vice Mayor Gallo and seconded by Councilman Byrd. Motion passed 5-0.

Budget Discussion

Carl Callahan, City Administrator provided an overview of the 2020-21 Proposed Budget. Because of the pandemic, he explained, he was conservative in estimating revenues. State revenues are predicted to be down 15-20% and fuel tax down 20% which has a \$500,000 impact on the budget. Also interest revenues are down 25% which equates to approximately \$600,000.

He provided some departmental expense highlights:

IT Department: No significant changes except increased number of licenses for Microsoft Office.

Economic Development: Salary for an Economic Development Director and funds for two fireworks shows were added to the budget.

Administration: The Administrator salary is completely within the Administration budget. Also, Code Red costs were moved to the Administration budget and funds for an appreciation gathering for volunteer board members were added.

Police Department: Sixteen vehicles is consistent with the capital plan. There is a \$600,000 budget increase to accommodate salary, medical insurance and pension costs.

Fire Department: A decrease in budget is indicated due to the completion of the kitchen improvements at Station #1.

Capital Improvement: The fees associated with the construction of Fire Station 3 were added.

Legislative: Need to cover increased METV expenses along with the addition of closed captioning costs associated with posting meeting video to YouTube.

Personnel: Salary increases of 3% for AFSCME and non-union personnel in addition to public safety increases per contracts.

Streets: Paving in the general fund has been reduced due to the reduction of fuel tax revenues; this may be supplemented by sales tax revenue.

Medical Costs: Increase in expenses will necessitate an additional city contribution of \$1,000 per full-time position. Annual actuarial studies are done to monitor the medical fund expenses and reserves.

Mr. Callahan reviewed the potential uses of the projected half-cent sales tax revenue. A discussion ensued regarding improvements at the Shuffleboard Court and LECOM Park.

Mr. Callahan discussed ad valorem revenue. The City anticipates \$1.6 million in additional collections, \$400,000 of which will go to the Community Redevelopment Agencies.

Mr. Callahan concluded that the total budget for fiscal year 2020-2021 is \$123,544,287 which includes the reduction of actual expenditures with increased costs.

COPS Hiring Program Grant Acceptance (Tabled from 8/12/2020)

MOTION TO UNTABLE THE COPS HIRING PROGRAM GRANT was made by Councilman Byrd and seconded by Councilwoman Barnebey. Motion passed 5-0.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE COPS HIRING PROGRAM GRANT was approved by Vice Mayor Gallo and seconded by Councilman Byrd. Motion passed 5-0.

Extension of face-covering ordinance (expiring September 15, 2020)

Ms. Beauchamp explained the current emergency face-covering ordinance expires on September 15, 2020. Should Council decide to extend the ordinance, she continued, the first reading of the ordinance should be brought forward on August 26, 2020 and the second reading and public hearing should be scheduled for September 9, 2020.

Following a brief discussion, **MOTION BRING AN EXTENSION TO THE FACE-COVERING ORDINANCE TO A FIRST READING ON AUGUST 26, 2020** was made by Councilman Sanders and seconded by Vice Mayor Gallo. Motion passed 5-0.

Planning and Community Development Director Interviews

Mr. Callahan thanked Nilsa Taylor, HR Manager and Councilman Roff for holding virtual interviews with candidates for the Planning and Community Development Director position. He explained the interviews were recorded, then distributed to Council.

Mr. Callahan explained a straw poll form was placed at each Council seat to rate the three remaining candidates. Should there be a consensus on one candidate, he continued, that person would be brought in for an in-person interview with each Councilmember.

A discussion ensued regarding the interview process. Council gave the straw polls to Mr. Callahan and he announced a general consensus for the top candidate was not met.

The votes were as follows:

Councilman Byrd did not indicate a selection.

Councilman Roff listed Mr. Kinney as his first choice, Dr. Kim as second and Ms. Gardner-Young as third.

Vice Mayor Gallo listed Ms. Gardner-Young as his first choice, Mr. Kinney as second and Dr. Kim as third.

Councilwoman Barnebey listed Ms. Gardner-Young as her first choice, Mr. Kinney as second and Dr. Kim as third.

Councilman Sanders listed Mr. Kinney as his first choice, Dr. Kim as his second and Ms. Gardner-Young as third.

Mr. Callahan said he would direct staff to schedule in-person interviews with Council for all three candidates. Vice Mayor Gallo requested not to interview any candidates in-person because he was satisfied with the recorded virtual interviews distributed to Council.

MOTION TO SHORT-LIST THREE CANDIDATES FOR THE PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR POSITION AND DIRECT HUMAN RESOURCES TO SCHEDULE INTERVIEWS WITH SAME was made by Councilman Roff and seconded by Councilman Byrd. Motion passed 5-0.

Economic Development / Community (Re)Development

Mr. Callahan presented organization scenarios for the Economic Development and Community (Re)Development Departments. He provided history of the CRAs, DDA and Economic Development Department. He explained that since the Council also became the CRA Board and staff are City

employees, general administrative costs have been reduced. He then presented two options moving forward:

- The CRAs could 'separate' from the City, having dedicated CRA staff; Council to make the decision on whom those staff should report to; or
- Keep the CRA staff as City employees working under Economic Development Department.

Mr. Callahan recommended moving the Housing and Community Development Department from the Planning Department to Community (Re)Development Department. Mr. Callahan also recommended hiring a CRA Executive Director, Program Administrator and a Research/Administrative Specialist for the CRAs.

Councilman Sanders presented an edited version of the organizational chart and a discussion ensued regarding the organizational history of the CRAs, oversight of CRA employees and whether those employees would be categorized as City employees.

Councilman Roff and Councilman Byrd recommended advertising for a CRA Executive Director with CRA certification as a requirement.

MOTION TO DIRECT HUMAN RESOURCES TO ADVERTISE FOR A CRA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR POSITION THAT LISTS CRA CERTIFICATION AS A REQUIREMENT was made by Councilman Byrd and seconded by Councilwoman Barnebey. Motion passed 5-0.

Councilman Roff said he received complaints from residents in the Village of the Arts regarding possible fines from Code Enforcement for holding small farmers' markets and other similar events. In the face of the economic downturn, he asked if there was some way to help them hold such events.

Mr. Callahan announced there are two conflicting codes for what the residents of the Village of the Arts are trying to accomplish. He said one is a potential violation with the Form Based Code which outlines special events on a continuing basis. The other, he continued, is the Village of the Arts Overlay District which will allow special events in a specific area with adequate provisions made on a temporary basis, with City Council approval.

Mr. Callahan recommended a creating a hybrid system to allow them to hold such events, for a limited duration and not in the right-of-way, terminating at City Council's discretion. The hybrid system, he continued, would consist of the residents completing a special events application so that staff would be aware of the date, time and duration of the event.

MOTION TO REQUIRE BUSINESSES IN THE VILLAGE OF THE ARTS OVERLAY TO ACQUIRE A SPECIAL USE PERMIT TO OPERATE A HYBRID EVENT, TO BE APPROVED BY COUNCIL was made by Councilman Roff and seconded by Councilwoman Barnebey. Motion passed 5-0.

Councilman Byrd offered to present traffic issues along 26th Street West and 27th Street East at the Council of Governments Meeting on September 1, 2020. It was the consensus of Council for Councilman Byrd to present those issues at the meeting.

The Special City Council meeting adjourned 12:07 p.m.

NOTE: This is not a verbatim record. An audio CD or DVD recording of the meeting is available upon request.