

City of Dunnellon
City Council Workshop

<https://dunnellon.zoom.us/j/99258404108?pwd=ZUFORUhlU2pLU2hqOENqS1BhMIYwZz09>

Webinar ID: 992 5840 4108

Date: May 5, 2021
Time: 5:30 p.m.
Place: City Hall
20750 River Dr., Dunnellon, FL34431

Public Comment

Anyone who wishes to provide public comment will be able to do so by participating in the City Council meeting in person, or via the Zoom "AUDIO ONLY" platform and/or telephone, by speaking during public comment portions of the meeting when recognized per the instructions below or by submitting written comments, evidence and/or written testimony in advance of the meeting via email to the City Clerk at mroberts@dunnellon.org

Members of the public who would like to participate were encouraged to register in advance by Noon on Wednesday, May 5th.

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance:

Mayor White called the meeting to order at approximately 5:35 p.m. and led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance. He asked if any invitee or volunteer was present to open with prayer. Annette Stutzman provided the invocation.

Roll Call

The following members answered present at roll call:

Bill White, Mayor, Seat 1
Louise Kenny, Councilwoman, Seat 2
Anita Williams, Councilwoman, Seat 3
Valerie Hanchar, Vice-Mayor, Seat 4
Jan Cubbage, Councilwoman, Seat 5

Staff Present

Mandy Roberts, City Clerk
Jan Smith, Finance Department
Teresa Malmberg, Community Development
Chief Mike McQuaig, Police Department
Troy Slattery, Public Works Department
Julie Danowski, Clerk's Department
Michelle Leonard, Assistant City Clerk
Lieutenant Shane Yox, Police Department

Legal Counsel

Andrew Hand,
Shepard, Smith, Kohlmyer & Hand, P.A.

Proof of Publication

Ms. Roberts announced for the record the agenda for this meeting was posted on the City's website and City Hall bulletin board on Wednesday, April 28, 2021.

Welcome from Mayor White and housekeeping announcements.

Agenda Item Number 1 – Public Comments

Keith Caton, 19065 SW 91st Lane, said the parking lot paving has blocked the ingress/egress to his property on Short Tower Way. He requested the City give up 2 parking spaces so that his potential buyers for the property would be able to construct a driveway. He said he feels unable to sell the property without the City's cooperation.

A lengthy discussion followed regarding the potential buyer's intentions, the 20' electric gate and how much space he actually needed. They talked about the reasons why Mr. Caton was not notified of the plan to pave, where trash is currently being picked up and why the request wasn't made before now. Mayor White said the parking spaces in question cost approximately \$5,000 each, and this could cause a possibility of an ingress/egress into Blue Cove. He said those residents are against another access point into the area. Mayor White asked for the issue to be presented to the Planning Commission for recommendations. Mrs. Malmberg offered to research the proximity issue and follow up with Attorney Hand.

Wally Dunn, 11386 SW Hendrix Dr., spoke about the Dunnellon Little League Park. He offered praise to the volunteers who have been maintaining it; however, he said the roadway needs paving, restrooms need attending and fencing is needed to keep the kids safe. Mr. Dunn asked if there was a way the City of Dunnellon could help and said he would like to see this added to the coming budget review. He also spoke about the need for a restroom facility at Blue Run Park.

Dr. Burt Eno, 9220 SW 193rd Circle, President of Rainbow River Conservation, said he would like to provide an update on the Nine Island Cove project. He said 26 days ago a unanimous vote was received to endorse sending a request to the Florida Forever office. Then 2 days ago the Acquisition and Restoration Council added it to the agenda for the meeting on June 6th. He said all but one of the owners have committed to selling the property as a whole and the one owner who didn't has passed away and they are still trying to locate the trustee.

Annette Stutsman, 204 SW 192nd Ct., said she would like the City to start looking at Dunnellon as a whole town and should start with its' children and their sports facility. She said if the City would help its' children grow into respectable adults, it wouldn't need so much policing. She

gave praise to Public Services stating they are the “Heartbeat” of the town due to the number of issues they take care of.

Allen Heine, 20051 SW 5th Pl, supported Mr. Caton’s comments by saying when you have a change of venue, you need to notify the residents. He said Marion County 911 would not have issued a change of address to him on Short Tower Way if it didn’t have one.

Agenda Item Number 2 – Dunnellon Chamber & Business Association Report

Julie Mancini, Director, announced two new members in the association. She said Boomtown was successful even if a little smaller than usual and she still has some masks and t-shirts left for sale. She said the Historical Society had a dinner the night before Boomtown and it went well. She said on May 21st there will be another dinner and Keith Caton Blues Band will be performing. She said May 11th at 6:00 p.m. is the next Chamber board meeting, and May 26th at 11:00 a.m. will be the ribbon cutting for Airport Limo Service. Ms. Mancini said the Florida Wildlife Corridor will host an expedition starting in Dunnellon and ending in Homosassa July 21st through 24th. She announced the Kentucky Derby winner was owned by a graduate of Dunnellon High School.

Agenda Item Number 3 – Board Reports

Ms. D’Arville, 1161 Camp Dr., said the Planning Commission will work on the City mission statement at the next meeting. She said tomorrow the Planning and Historic Boards are having a joint session with Ken Metcalf. She brought up the Community Development Manager vacancy and said without this person they don’t have the support needed. Discussion followed between Mayor White, Ms. Roberts and Brenda D’Arville regarding the advertisements for the position vacancy.

Agenda Item Number 4 – Presentation, Florida Wildlife Corridor Youth Expedition – Jason Lauritsen, Executive Director

Nicole Brand introduced the FWC team. She shared the history of the corridor, how they got started and the checkups they have performed since. She said the goal is to introduce Florida to the rest of the world and to let everyone know we are more than just Disney; we are farmers and ranchers too. She said the corridor expeditions are trekked by today’s youth and the journey provides a positive lifetime impact on them. Ms. Brand invited anyone interested to reach out to her directly at nicole@floridawildlife.org.

Jason Lauritsen said he came here by invitation to have a conversation with the community. He said the identity that comes through for our area is of the Nature Coast embracing eco-tourism and he could see a partnership. He said being a corridor town there are going to be opportunities to promote things beneficial to the Council and the community. He provided a PowerPoint presentation showing a map of the corridor flowing through various locations around the state, as well as wildlife images. He said all the wild areas are connected but not necessarily protected and he shared ways to protect wildlife including underpasses for them. He displayed a map of

the next expedition footprint traveling past City Hall. Once the expeditions are complete they will produce a film including Dunnellon.

Council Comments:

Councilwoman Cabbage asked about the timeframe. Ms. Brand said July 21 – 24 and they are currently finding places for track cameras while teaching kids what they are for regarding conservation. Ms. Brand said they would also like to host events in Dunnellon leading up to the expedition.

Vice-Mayor Hanchar said she had a native young lady in mind for them. She said she thinks it is fantastic they are using the City's local school to help with the filming and suggested Julie Mancini as a contact to help them get to know more of the kids. Vice-Mayor Hanchar said the Corridor group would like to have their film screening on the pavilion behind City Hall when they are ready. Discussion concluded it should only take a permit to allow it.

Mayor White said it appears the corridors are bringing the trail system side by side and is something Dunnellon is excited about. He said Blue Run Park and Nine Island Cove will be connected as well. He asked to be kept informed of their activities.

Walk On -

Chief McQuaig said there had been a child reported missing for over 2.5 hours. A grid search system was performed and a helicopter was deployed. Troy Slattery from Public Services was called to assist and he arrived immediately with his staff to join a search party. Chief McQuaig said it was the Public Services department who found the missing child and he presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Troy Slattery, Logan Aloof and Matt Pudlo.

Agenda Item Number 8 – Construction of a Shade Pavilion at City Beach – Troy Slattery, Public Works Manager (consensus was received to change agenda order).

Mr. Slattery said he found a local contractor who provided an estimate including the engineered drawing for \$9,954 for one pavilion at the city beach. He said the other park designer's prices came in over \$20,000. He said the quote is for wood rather than steel because wood matches the other projects within the City. Upon Council approval, Mr. Slattery will contact the contractor on Monday to begin the final design. Discussion followed including an explanation by Mayor White to the public as to what is already there and what other parks have. The Council agreed to add this to the consent agenda.

Agenda Item Number 9 – Public Works Vehicle, Ford F350 1 Ton Work Truck – Troy Slattery, Public Works Manager

Mr. Slattery said an F350, 1 ton p/u truck with a utility body has been selected. He said this vehicle can be designed to accept the bucket and dump truck systems for use as a backup to the current vehicles used for those purposes. He said it also includes all the work lights needed to cover the FDOT requirements. He said \$35,000 is budgeted and the additional \$3,000 can be

obtained from the capital budget. He said it will take 5-6 months for delivery. The Council agreed to add this to the consent agenda.

Walk-On – Troy Slattery

Mr. Slattery said the City was notified of a DEO grant for \$50,000. He said this grant would pay for the Master Road Plan without matching funds from the City. He said he believes the City could have a complete inventory of roads, knowing which needs to be paved and in what order by the end of next year. He asked for approval to allow Kimley-Horn to write the grant application for a fee of \$2,500. He said May 18th is the deadline to submit. Council discussion followed regarding the odds of success and how long the study would be good for. The Council approved Mr. Slattery to move forward.

Walk-On – Chief Mike McQuaig

Chief McQuaig said beginning April 29th he put a full time officer on the river. He said they issued 3 citations for speeding, 1 citation to a bridge jumper, 4 verbal warnings for unrestrained dogs and made 20 other various stops. He said several people came to the Police Department to thank them for their work and they will continue to provide a full time officer to patrol the river. Chief McQuaig gave an interview to Channel 20 news and showed the video during the meeting. During the interview he shared the use of the duck box numbering system and said it became an amazing safety aid providing a quick way to locate a swimmer or boater in distress.

Agenda Item Number 5 – Council Meeting Video Streaming Challenges and Potential Solutions – Andrew Mathew, PC’s-N-Parts

Andy Mathew said he has been looking into the challenging audio/video issue. He reported the biggest problem is the closed captioning because of the utilization of separate microphones for each person. He explained the different platforms available, how they function and pricing. Mr. Mathew said the City will no longer qualify for reimbursement of the services it has been using once the emergency mandate is over. Because of this, he began looking into solutions and the quotes were between \$14,000 and \$25,000 annually. He said approximately 6 people were taking advantage of the current Zoom application and suggested the expense outweighs the usage. He said the alternative would be to use an after meeting captioning service who would provide a timestamped script. The savings would be about \$10 per hour, but the caveat is that it will take 3-5 days to transcribe. Council discussion followed with questions regarding how Marion County and other municipalities are handling their ADA compliance. Ms. Roberts said staff would further investigate alternatives report back.

Agenda Item Number 6 – Agreement #AGR2021-13, Demand Star – Jan Smith, Finance Officer

Mrs. Smith said the City has an opportunity to establish an account with Demand Star where contractors can obtain sealed bids and there is no cost to the city to use this service. She explained the vendors pay a membership fee to use it and it can be used in addition to the City’s other advertising. Council agreed to add this item to the consent agenda.

Agenda Item Number 7 – Agreement #AGR2021-11 with Kimley-Horn, Application for U.S. Legislative Appropriation for the Dunnellon Police Station and Community Center – Chief McQuaig and Jan Smith, Finance Officer

Mrs. Smith said she was notified on April 12th that Congress was accepting requests for funding through legislative appropriations. She said she had five days to submit an application and Kimley-Horn was asked to write it while keeping to the \$5,000 threshold. She explained it was submitted specifically for the Souls Harbor Church and she found out today the City was not awarded the grant.

Council discussion followed and included; suggestions to notify Council prior to applying in the future, grant language, the appropriateness of the \$2.7 million being requested, the City staff's directions to act in these situations, the intention for the community center portion included in the grant, questions regarding all or nothing funding, future grants being considered and the details of the vote regarding architectural costs.

Agenda Item Number 10 – Funding for Dunnellon Little League – Mayor White

Mayor White shared the City's part in helping the Little League and presented photos. He said the property is owned by the State of Florida and the City leases it from them for \$300 a year. He said the City sub-leases to the Little League for one dollar and provides mowing services. In total the City funds approximately \$5,000 per year. He complimented the volunteers for the good job they are doing maintaining the fields.

John Pierpont, 123 Palatka Dr., said he receives a lot of calls regarding the ball field. He said the lighting is not worth repairing as the poles below ground are rotted. He said most fields have steel poles and many have lights that can be lowered to change bulbs. He said the bathrooms are rough and out dated and the driveway and parking lot are sand creating a dusty drive and potential to get stuck. He offered to be a part of a city team to work on obtaining funding.

Council discussion followed and included the State contract renewal, funding match options and questions about the legality of the City making a financial contribution. Attorney Hand said the City can as long as it is for a public purpose.

Agenda Item Number 13 – Update on Bike Trail and Pedestrian Bridge on CR484 – Mandy Roberts, City Clerk

Ms. Roberts said on April 7th, Rob Balms sent a draft application to the City and the County for review. She said today she spoke to the County Engineer and the interlocal agreement has been sent for his review and a follow up meeting with Ms. Roberts, the TPO and Vice-Mayor Hanchar will be scheduled. She said the deadline to submit the revised application is July 1st and she is waiting for Elton Holland's response. Vice-Mayor Hanchar said when she spoke with Mr. Holland he sounded excited about it, but noted she has been unable to reach him. She said this isn't just for the City of Dunnellon, it is a gateway for Marion County.

Agenda Item Number 11 – Agreement #AGR1996-30, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission – Mayor White

Mayor White explained the agreement with the State of Florida regarding the City boat ramp and parking is for 25 years and it will automatically renew if the City does nothing. He said he feels Council needs to review the terms and decide if renewing the agreement is in the City's best interest. Attorney Hand said if Council wishes to renegotiate the terms this can be done at any time. Council discussion included terminating the agreement, who would be responsible if it was terminated and the potential for revenue dollars from tourists. Council agreed to direct staff to talk to the State about options.

Ms. Roberts took a moment to introduce her new Assistant Clerk, Michelle Leonard.

Agenda Item Number 12 – Girl Scouts of West Central Florida, 2021 Gold Award Congratulatory Letter – Mandy Roberts, City Clerk

Mayor White provided an email from the Girl Scouts of West Central Florida. He said they were seeking recognition for Hailey Constable on her Guiding Light Disaster Relief Program. Mayor White asked Ms. Roberts to reach out and invite her to the meeting on Monday.

Agenda Item Number 14 – Council Comments

Mayor White reported he attended the Marion County Commission meeting yesterday and asked the Commissioners to move forward with the restrooms and shelter at Blue Run Park. He said he advised the Commission there was a clear and present danger for the public standing exposed to the sun or thunderstorms in bathing suits and without drinking water while waiting for a shuttle. He explained the County asked for a written statement from the City confirming it still wants those two projects. Mayor White said he would like Council's permission to draft a letter to the County. He also asked for research into the statistics of medical attention required there in the past. Council agreed to add this item to the consent agenda.

Agenda Item Number 15 – City Clerk Comments

Ms. Roberts said Chief McQuaig's evaluation is past due and her evaluation will be due in June. She explained since both report to Council, she will send them the forms along with the last evaluations. She also said there is a need to look at the Code of Conduct and update the language since the City no longer has a City Administrator. Ms. Roberts said she received a resume for the community development position and she is waiting for the application to be returned. She also followed Ken Metcalf's advice and is talking to the college. She said she learned that people seeking this type of work are not looking at newspaper advertisements, but rather professional organizations' website job postings. Ms. Roberts reported the job posting is currently on the American Planning Association website as well as the Florida Chapter of the APA website.

Agenda Item Number 16 – City Attorney Comments

Attorney Hand suggested a resolution along with the letter to make an added impression on the County to show our commitment toward the restroom project. He also said he has been

following House Bill 403 which did pass and a copy was sent to Ms. Roberts. He explained if the Governor signs the bill it will become law, but the Florida League of Cities is opposed to the bill and would likely challenge it.

Agenda Item Number 17 – Public Comments

Butch Malmberg commented from Zoom and said he would donate 10 gallons of paint in any color and labor towards the ball field; just say when and where, he is ready.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:29 p.m.

Attest:

Amanda Roberts, CMC
City Clerk

William P. White, Mayor