

**City of Dunnellon
City Council Meeting**

Date: February 17, 2020

Time: 5:30 p.m.

Place: City Hall

20750 River Dr., Dunnellon, FL 34431

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Burns called the meeting to order at approximately 5:30 p.m. and led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Burns asked if a citizen would volunteer to open with prayer. Katherine Burns provided the invocation.

Roll Call

The following members answered present at roll call:

Dale Burns, Mayor, Seat 1

Bill White, Councilman, Seat 2

Anita Williams, Councilwoman, Seat 3

Valerie Hanchar, Vice-Mayor, Seat 4

Linda Fernandez, Councilwoman, Seat 5 (absent from meeting; attended by telephone)

Staff Present

Dawn Bowne, City Administrator

Mandy Roberts, City Clerk

Chief Mike McQuaig, Police Department

Troy Slattery, Public Works Manager

Loretta Barton,

Legal Counsel

Patrick Brackins,

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 Thursday, February 13, 2020.

Council's Comments Regarding Agenda

Mayor Burns announced Councilwoman Fernandez is in the hospital. She is requesting to attend the meeting by telephone.

Vice-Mayor Hanchar made motion to allow Councilwoman Fernandez to attend the meeting by phone. Councilwoman Williams seconded the motion. The vote was taken and all members were in favor. The vote was 4-0.

Councilwoman Fernandez attended meeting by phone.

Councilman White asked for clarification on the motion for consent agenda Item #4. Troy Slattery explained. He then asked for clarification regarding Item #7, Impact fees and the

phases. Mrs. Bowne explained the police department would be in phase one (1) and phase two (2) would include parks.

Councilman White stated, for clarification, he asked to have the Nine Island Cove property placed on the agenda only for the purpose of having it placed on the Florida Forever "A" list, not for acquisition.

Mayor Burns called for public comments on non-agenda items.

Art Jones, provided an update on "One Rake at a Time." He announced a clean-up at the city beach is scheduled for this Friday at 8:00 a.m. He said he would like to provide a PowerPoint presentation on the program at a later date.

Consent Agenda

Mayor Burns called for public comments on the consent agenda. There were none.

- 1. City Council Minutes
December 4, 2019 City Council Workshop**
- 2. Authorize Mayor to Sign Agreement #AGR2020-05, Rainbow Springs Art, Inc.**
- 3. Authorize Mayor to Sign Agreement #AGR2020-04, Voluntary Cooperation/Operational Assistance Agreement for 2019-2020 with Sheriff of Marion County**
- 4. Authorize Staff to Proceed With Redesign of Short Tower Way Parking Plan as Presented at the February 12th Workshop and Proceed with Proposal of 35' X 70' Property Acquisition From Roberts Funeral Home as Depicted**
- 5. Authorize Mayor to Sign Letter of Appreciation to Dunnellon Chamber & Business Association**
- 6. Authorize Staff to Proceed With Submission of COPS Grant Application as Presented**
- 7. Authorize City Attorney to Draft Police Impact Fee Ordinance**
- 8. Ratify Proclamation #PRO2020-01, Martin Luther King Jr. Day**
- 9. Ratify Proclamation #PRO2020-02, Four Chaplains Sunday**

Consent Agenda Approval

Vice-Mayor Hanchar moved the consent agenda be approved as presented. Councilwoman Williams seconded the motion. The vote was taken and all members were in favor. The vote was 5-0.

Regular Agenda

Agenda Item No. 10 – Marion County Fire Rescue Status Report Update – Chief Banta
Chief Banta provided an overview of the first quarter of the fiscal year 2019/2020.

Vice-Mayor Hanchar asked Chief Banta questions regarding their response times. Chief Banta said he did not have response times available tonight, but will provide by the end of the week. He will send to Mrs. Bowne to forward to Council.

Councilman White asked what would happen if the one cent tax proposal is defeated. Chief Banta said unfortunately it would be very tough considering that approximately 30% or more of the sales tax is derived from non-residents in Marion County that are utilizing their services.

Councilman White asked questions regarding Chief Banta's handout he provided to Council regarding "Responses Year-To-Data Comparison." Chief Banta answered his questions.

Chief Banta addressed how the department is being proactive in helping to prevent malignancies/cancer within the firehouse.

Councilwoman Fernandez stated that she has been very satisfied with the fire department since the County has taken it over.

Mayor Burns called for public comments.

Dennis Novak, 20864 River Drive, asked if the increase in malignancies is only in Florida or all over the country. Chief Banta answered it is nationwide.

Janet Barrow, P.O. Box 370, Dunnellon, said she appreciates that Marion County Fire is addressing the toxin exposure element.

Agenda Item No. 11 – Presentation – Rainbow Springs State Park Restoration – Larry Steed, Park Manager

Mr. Steed addressed the Rainbow Springs Timber Harvest project. He referred all to the Florida State Park website which provides an overview of the "Sandhill Restoration Utilizing Timber Harvest as a Resource Management Tool." A list of Council's questions and the agencies responses are posted on the website.

Mr. Steed explained the importance of a "sandhill community" and its direct impact on the Florida aquifer which recharges the river and the springs.

Councilman White engaged in lengthy discussion with Mr. Steed and asked several questions to which Mr. Steed provided answers.

Mayor Burns called for comments.

John Nephew, Satekee Village, said he would like to see a picture of how they envision the area in three, five and ten years.

Mr. Steed provided several pictures and extended an invitation to take individuals out to view the project. He explained every state park has a Unit Management Plan and they are available to the public. He said every five (5) years a team completes the unit management plan. The plan comes up for renewal every ten (10) years.

Vice-Mayor Hanchar said the replanting would be a great FAA project. The kids can go out and plant new trees.

Edna Ross, 18258 SW 99th Lane, asked why it took so long for the State to do something.

Mr. Steed replied it was due to funding.

Craig Wadsworth, 9889 SW 186th Ave., asked questions regarding the sandhill restoration project and the silt and run-off exposure to the river. Mr. Steed provided answers to his questions.

Councilwoman Fernandez recommended if they are going to do this again, to please take into consideration the feelings of the residents prior to removing trees.

Janet Barrow, PO Box 87, expressed her concerns with the regard to the understory and the need to be respectful of the wildlife.

Agenda Item No. 12 – Nine Island Cove Properties – Request of Council to Consider Making Application to the State of Florida for Placement on the Florida Forever “A” List and Possible Acquisition

Jay Dugan, 20874 River Drive, discussed the statistics of Dunnellon’s residents. He discussed the financials and the impact to the residents. He said the residents consist of hardworking, retired, and veterans and they do not need taxes raised. He urged Council to vote no because this would be the first step of the City financing the project if it gets approved.

Wally Dunn, 11386 Hendrix Drive, said he agreed with Mr. Dugan, that it would be money coming out of the City. He commented if a developer buys the property there would be an increase of traffic on River Drive and W. Pennsylvania.

Dane Myers, 10925 SW 196th Circle, encouraged Council to look at a long term plan and reconsider the project. He recommended when considering things of this nature, to schedule workshops when working residents can attend.

Vice-Mayor Hanchar read the following email that was sent to Council and staff from Dominic Battista, a concerned citizen, addressing Nine Island Cove into the record.

The insert for this item does not meet ADA accessibility requirements for websites and is available by contacting the City Clerk at 352-465-8500.

Councilman White said he requested the Nine Island Cove item be placed on the agenda. He spoke of the time and energy individuals have put into this proposed project and said it's only fair to let them know where the City stands on this issue. Councilman White referred to the study, "Distinctly Dunnellon Economic Development Strategy" which was provided by Kimley-Horn, emphasized Dunnellon's ecotourism is a life-line to its future.

Councilman White made motion to direct staff to submit the application to the Florida Forever Grant. Mayor Burns called for a second. There was no second. The motion died.

Agenda Item No. 13 – Planning Commission Vacancies

Mrs. Bowne recommended the motion for a newly appointed member to include the effective date of February 19, 2020. She explained this will allow time for staff to work with the applicant to acquaint them with their roles and responsibilities as a commissioner. There were no objections.

Vice-Mayor Hanchar made motion to appoint John Pierpont to serve a three-year term as a regular member of the Planning Commission effective February 19, 2020, term to expire February 19, 2023. Councilwoman Fernandez seconded the motion.

Councilman White expressed his concerns with voting for an applicant without meeting them.

Mrs. Bowne explained it has not been a standard policy to require applicants to attend the council meeting. She said if that is what Council would prefer, the appointment can be delayed. Council declined this option and moved to the vote.

The vote was taken. The vote was 3-2, with Mayor Burns and Councilman White voting no.

Agenda Item No. 14 – Property Acquisition for Police Facility

Mayor Burns called for public comments. There were none.

Vice-Mayor Hanchar moved City Council direct legal counsel to prepare a contract for purchase of parcel #3380-1359-00 in the amount of \$325,000 contingent upon the City obtaining appropriate land use/zoning, and the building passes all necessary inspections. The contract will be presented to City Council for public hearing and final approval. Councilwoman Fernandez seconded the motion.

Councilman White stated he is in support of the acquisition of the building, but has reservations in making a commitment. He expressed his concerns with not taking more time in analyzing all costs involved in the renovation.

Council engaged in discussion. Vice-Mayor Hanchar and Councilwoman Fernandez both explained if during the inspection of the property, there were substantial problems found, there would be a way out of the contract.

Mayor Burns called for a vote. The vote was taken and all were in favor. The vote was 5-0.

Agenda Item No. 15 – Resolution #RES2020-04, City Beach User Fee

Vice-Mayor Hanchar moved Resolution #RES2020-04 be read by title only. Councilwoman Fernandez seconded the motion. The vote was taken and all members were in favor. The vote was 5-0.

Mandy Roberts read the following into the record:

“Resolution #RES2020-04

A Resolution By The City Council Of The City Of Dunnellon, Florida Finding The Desirability To Amend The Non Resident Daily User Fee For The Use Of “Chaplin A. Dinkins, Iii Memorial Park,” Also Known As “City Beach”; Amending Resolution #Res2018-39 And Providing For An Effective Date.”

Mayor Burns called for public comments. There were no comments.

Councilwoman Williams moved Resolution #RES2020-04 be approved. Councilwoman Fernandez seconded the motion. The vote was taken and all members were in favor. The vote was 5-0.

Mrs. Bowne requested June Johnson, Director of Rainbow Springs Art be permitted to address Council.

June Johnson, Director of Rainbow Springs Art, provided an update of the art group’s activities and events. She noted the shops on West Pennsylvania Avenue are struggling. She would like the public to know what shops and restaurants are in the historic district. She suggested signage be installed to direct people to the area.

Councilwoman Fernandez left the meeting at 7:54 pm.

Agenda Item No. 16 – Council Liaison Reports and Comments

Vice-Mayor Hanchar reported on attending the TPO meeting in Suwanee last week. She said the next meeting will be held Wednesday, March 25th at the Ocala Hilton. She encouraged all to attend. She noted the Transportation Planning Organization will be holding a public town hall meeting at Dunnellon City Hall on April 7th from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. to provide the “Long Range Transportation Plan Update.”

Councilwoman Williams announced the Beulah Missionary Baptist Church will be presenting a Black History program on at the church on Saturday, February 29th at 6:00 p.m.

Agenda Item No. 17 – City Administrator’s Report

Mrs. Bowne announced Marion County Board of County Commissioners will holding a public hearing to discuss the one cent sales tax on Tuesday, February 18th.

Agenda Item No. 18 – City Attorney’s Report

Attorney Brackins said the City received a letter from FDOT/FDEP regarding the comprehensive plan amendment. He said there were no objections.

He also addressed Item #14, the proposed acquisition of the property for a Police Department. He said his office will prepare a draft contract.

Agenda Item No. 19 – Adjourn

At approximately 8:09 p.m. Vice-Mayor Hanchar moved the February 17, 2020 City Council meeting be adjourned. Councilwoman Williams seconded. All members voted in favor. The motion passed 4-0.

Attest:

Amanda Roberts, CMC
City Clerk

C. Dale Burns, Jr., Mayor

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Minutes approved at the June 8, 2020 Council meeting.