

MINUTES
CITY COMMISSION MEETING
OCTOBER 23, 2023
7:00 P.M.

This Commission Meeting was conducted utilizing Communications Media Technology. Some Staff members were present in the Commission Chambers while others were present via the Zoom application.

ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT IN CHAMBERS:

Shirley Groover Bryant, Mayor
Sheldon Jones, Vice- Mayor, Commissioner-at-Large 1 (absent)
Tamara Cornwell, Commissioner-at-Large 2
Sunshine Mathews, Commissioner, Ward 2 (Zoom)
Harold Smith, Commissioner, Ward 1
Brian Williams, Commissioner, Ward 3

STAFF PRESENT IN CHAMBERS:

Jim Freeman, City Clerk
Edward Johnson, Interim CRA Director
Marisa Powers, City Attorney
Mohammed Rayan, Public Works Director
Scott Tyler, Chief of Police
Penny Johnston, Executive Assistant

STAFF PRESENT ELECTRONICALLY:

Todd Williams, Information Technology (IT) Consultant

1. Mayor Bryant called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., and opened the meeting with a prayer, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

All persons intending to address the City Commission were duly sworn.

2. CITY COMMISSION AGENDA APPROVAL

MOTION: **Commissioner Williams moved, Commissioner Cornwell seconded, and the motion carried 3-0 to approve the October 23, 2023 City Commission Agenda, with the removal of item 5(b) because the Council of Governments meeting was canceled.**

3. PROCLAMATION: FARM CITY WEEK

Commissioner Williams presented the Farm City Week Proclamation to Patty Keen-Freed, Chair of Farm City Week of Manatee County. Ms. Keen-Freed listed the variety of activities planned for the 14-day "week" between November 4th – 18th.

City Commission Meeting

October 23, 2023

Page 2 of 3

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Stephen Bunce requested to purchase an 80' x 120' piece of property from the City near the Manatee County landfill that he states he has been maintaining for seventeen (17) years, and to move the dump gate back to give them better access to their property. Mayor Bryant said the Public Works Director would contact Mr. Bunce directly. If Commission would approve, the City would surplus the property and it would go up for sale.

Jonathan Davis spoke about the purchase agreement draft referring to up to 80% tax break for 15 years, plus no mention of boat trailer parking.

Phill Baker spoke about the parking in the Riverside purchase agreement draft, specifically the necessity of boat trailer parking being in writing, referencing item 64(b).

Kurt Mattingly is concerned that this Riverside purchase agreement will be approved November 6, and so many issues are not yet in writing.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

a. Minutes: 10/09/2023

b. Resolution 2023-21 Council of Governments Meeting- meeting canceled.

c. Resolution 2023-22 CDBG- Housing Rehab Grant Funding

d. Special Function Permit- Multi Cultural Festival

7:15 p.m. Commissioner Mathews had joined the meeting on Zoom.

MOTION: Commissioner Cornwell moved, Commissioner Smith seconded, and the motion carried 4-0 to approve items A and C of the Consent Agenda as presented by staff.

Commissioner Williams asked if we had multi-cultural bands playing, staff confirmed that we did have a Hispanic band planned.

MOTION: Commissioner Cornwell moved, Commissioner Williams seconded, and the motion carried 4-0 to approve item D for the Special Function Permit of the Multi-Cultural Festival.

6. SEPTEMBER 2023 CHECK REGISTER (Informational Only)

STANDING AGENDA ITEMS:

7. Traffic Update

Mr. Rayan reported that an orange safety fence had been erected at Haben Blvd. and replacement fence has been ordered. He is also researching a lighted crosswalk near the Haben Blvd. roundabout.

City Commission Meeting

October 23, 2023

Page 3 of 3

Chief Tyler reported that he sent a letter to CSX about unmarked railroad crossings. Ultimately, neither the City nor County has control over how CSX posts the railroad crossings.

Commissioner Williams asked about lighting at Haben Blvd. roundabout. Mr. Rayan noted that street lighting is not in the project contract, but the City can have discussion with FPL when the project is completed.

COMMENTS:

8. DEPARTMENT HEADS' COMMENTS

Mr. Freeman stated the Request for Proposal (RPF) for the southern 4-acre portion of the old Palmetto Elementary property that the City owns closes Wednesday, October 25 at 2:00 p.m.

Mr. Freeman commented in response to Mr. Bunce's comments, that staff has been in conversation with the County about the land over the past several months. Commission will determine if they choose to surplus the property and put it out to bid. Commissioner Williams asked if there would be any restrictions on the property. He opined an 80' x 100' lot would be a buildable lot. Mr. Barnebey stated the purchaser would be buying the property "as is."

9. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Bryant reviewed upcoming events for the Commissioners. She also spoke about the Scavenger Hunt activity with Barbara Harvey Elementary school. The Mayor and staff have been invited to speak to Palm View Elementary about local government.

10. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Smith asked Mr. Rayan about repairing potholes on 15th Street and asked Chief Tyler about an incident that occurred in Manatee County. Chief confirmed that it happened on a county roadway, although City officers and detectives are helping with the investigation. Commissioner Smith is also pushing for more cameras in Ward I. Chief Tyler remarked that additional cameras were not in the budget.

Commissioner Williams asked for the mayor to write a letter to EDC about changing the dates so many times on the EDC meetings. Mayor Bryant said she would talk to them. He also shared that on November 9, 2023, Manasota League of Cities is holding a seminar on Form 6. The location is yet to be determined, depending on attendance. Mayor Bryant suggested an option to attend virtually.

Mayor Bryant adjourned the meeting at 7:46 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVED: NOVEMBER 6, 2023

JAMES R. FREEMAN

JAMES R. FREEMAN
CITY CLERK