

## **CITY COMMISSION WORKSHOP MEETING**

**August 23, 2021**

**4:30 pm**

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 to respect the social distancing guidelines.

### **ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT IN CHAMBERS:**

Shirley Groover Bryant, Mayor (Not Present)

Brian Williams, Vice Mayor, Commissioner, Ward 3

Sheldon Jones, Commissioner-at-Large 1

Harold Smith, Commissioner, Ward 1

Tambra Varnadore, Commissioner, Ward 2 (Entered the meeting at 5:00 p.m.)

Tamara Cornwell, Commissioner-at-Large 2 (Entered the meeting at 4:48 p.m.)

### **STAFF PRESENT IN CHAMBERS:**

Mark Barnebey, City Attorney

Mohammed Rayan, Public Works Director

Scott Tyler, Chief of Police

Jim Freeman, City Clerk

Cheryl Miller, Finance Director

Jeff Burton, CRA Director

Xaiver Colon, Assistant CRA Director

Penny Johnston, Executive Assistant

Vanessa Cochran, Assistant City Clerk

### **STAFF PRESENT ELECTRONICALLY:**

Todd Williams, Information Technology (IT) Consultant

Vice Mayor Williams opened the meeting at 4:32 p.m., and changed the order of the items to discuss. The 2021-2022 Community Policing Innovation Plan was presented first, and FY 2022 Budget followed.

#### **1. 2021-2022 COMMUNITY POLICING INNOVATION PLAN (S. Tyler)**

Chief Tyler stated that the 2021-2022 Community Policing Innovation Plan is on tonight's Workshop agenda for the Board to ask questions or provide comments. And, the Plan will be on the Special CRA Agenda tonight for approval. Next, Chief Tyler gave a brief narrative about the Plan and welcomed the Board's questions and feedback.

Commissioner Smith requested clarification on the CRA policing zone locations, the number of officers assigned, and the crime statistics. Chief Tyler answered 6 officers, and provided the policing zone information, and addressed the crime statistics for the area.

## **City Commission Workshop Meeting**

**August 23, 2021**

**Page 2 of 3**

Commissioner Jones inquired about the funding of the program for this year versus last year, and an update on obtaining body cameras for the officers. Chief Tyler stated that there are no funding changes, and he will check on the body cameras funding.

Mr. Burton, CRA Director, provided additional information on the crime statistics and the CRA policing zones. He stated that crime is up within the City, but less in the CRA zones. And, the CRA policing covers 29.7 percent of the City, and maps will be provided showing these CRA zones.

Commissioner Cornwell stated concerns about if the CRA no longer existed, who would pay for the officers' healthcare, salaries, retirements, etc. Mr. Freeman clarified that these are existing officers funded by CRA in accordance with CRA statutes, and this funding allocation is consistent with prior years.

### **2. FY 2022 BUDGET (J. Freeman)**

Mr. Freeman, City Clerk, stated that version 2 will be completed this week and there has not been any significant changes. The insurance requirements were finalized, and the only item remaining is the Salary Study. And, a Special Workshop Meeting is scheduled for August 30th at 5:30 p.m. to review and discuss the Salary Study. Also, the Tentative Budget is scheduled for September 13th, and the Final Budget September 27th. He informed the Board that at tonight's CRA Board Meeting, a resolution for the CRA Budget will be presented for approval.

Vice Mayor Williams informed the Board that he will not be able to attend the August 30th Special Workshop Meeting, and if other dates can be considered, so the entire Board could be present for the Salary Study. And, Commissioner Varnadore requested that the Salary Report be given in advance before the meeting.

Discussion ensued on what date to schedule the Special Workshop Meeting, and the Board agreed for Mr. Freeman to consider September 1st, 7th, and 8th for the Meeting. Mr. Freeman stated that he will look into it and keep the Board updated.

Next, Mr. Freeman reminded the Board of the September 27th meeting that will be held at the Bradenton Area Convention Center pertaining to the Riviera Dunes project and the Final Budget. He stated that he wants to keep the September 27th meeting agenda light because the Riviera Dunes item will probably be lengthy. Commissioner Varnadore asked if we could adopt salary changes after the Final Budget Hearing if necessary due to scheduling conflicts, and Mr. Freeman replied yes.

Commissioner Jones inquired about the funded vacant positions in the budget from last year, and Mr. Freeman answered that he will collect the information and provide it after the meeting.

**City Commission Workshop Meeting**

**August 23, 2021**

**Page 3 of 3**

Then, Mr. Freeman inquired if the Commissioners would like to meet individually with the Salary Study Consultant. The Commissioners preferred to wait until the Special Workshop Meeting is scheduled.

Commissioner Williams requested information on the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Coronavirus Local Fiscal recovery Fund Agreement that is on the tonight's Commission Agenda at 7:00 pm. Mr. Freeman and Ms. Miller, Finance Director, gave details of the funding and expressed that the staff will bring back a list of potential projects in the future for the Commission to consider.

Vice Mayor Williams adjourned the meeting at 5:36 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVED: OCTOBER 18, 2021

***JAMES R. FREEMAN***

JAMES R. FREEMAN

CITY CLERK