



CITY OF BELLE ISLE, FL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, April 18, 2023, * 6:30 pm

MINUTES

Present was:

Nicholas Fouraker, Mayor
District 1 Commissioner – Ed Gold
District 2 Commissioner – Anthony Carugno
District 3 Commissioner – Karl Shuck
District 4 Commissioner – Randy Holihan
District 5 Commissioner – Beth Lowell
District 6 Commissioner – Stan Smith
District 7 Commissioner – Jim Partin

Absent was:

na

1. Call to Order and Confirmation of Quorum

Mayor Fouraker called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm, and the City Clerk confirmed the quorum. Also present were Interim City Manager Grimm, Attorney Chumley, Acting Chief Millis, Public Works Director Phil Price, and City Clerk Yolanda Quiceno.

2. Invocation and Pledge to Flag

Comm Gold gave the invocation and led the pledge to the flag.

3. Consent Items

a. Approval of City Council Meeting Minutes - April 4, 2023

Comm Carugno said he did not see the Attorney's response on what is required to place an item on the agenda. Comm Carugno referred to item d on the agenda, noting that no vote was taken to put it on the agenda. Mayor Fouraker said he spoke with the Interim City Manager and agreed to have it on the agenda for discussion.

Comm Holihan moved to approve the consent item.

Comm Carugno seconded the motion, which passed unanimously 6:0. Comm Partin was not in attendance.

3. Citizen's

Mayor Fouraker called for citizen comments. He added that they pertain to item 6a and will hold comments until the opening of 6a – Public Hearing.

Comm Carugno requested that item 6a be moved to the front of the agenda. Mayor Fouraker said he would like to stay with the agenda as posted.

5. Unfinished Business

a. Discuss the Wallace Park Use Agreement (Comm Carugno)

Comm Carugno said that based on the current process of finding a new location for new City facilities, he would like the Council to consider canceling the lease agreement with CCA to build the Belle Isle Police Department. He requested an update on the Daetwyler/Judge, McCoy locations, and the City of Orlando property.

Mayor Fouraker said he is communicating and in the discovery stage with Karl Shephard, City of Orlando Lobbyist, regarding potential property in the City of Orlando. If it is determined that there is enough upland property, the City can start the appraisal process. Discussion ensued on the permitting process. Interim City

Manager Grimm said he communicated with Mr. Lloyd and continues to locate viable locations. CM Grimm said he would like to see the new facilities far from anything controversial and believes the staff can find other options.

**Comm Carugno motioned to hold the build-out for Wallace Field until the City can find a suitable location for the new Police Department.
Comm Smith seconded the motion.**

Comm Smith asked if the current CCA Plans include the Wallace Field and if they have met all the agreed-upon conditions. Mayor Fouraker said yes and has exceeded expectations. Mayor Fouraker said he understands Comm Carugno's prerogative; however, the City has made a contractual agreement with CCA, which has refinanced the Bonds and removed the debt from the City's budget. It was the Council's will, favorably, to share the field with the school and its residents. CCA has also agreed to pay for the build-out of a parking lot on Wallace Field.

Comm Carugno shared that he has heard complaints from many residents and others regarding the expansion, additional students, light noise, and traffic in the area. He added that he supports and would like to see a new EOC building in an adequate facility. Comm Carugno strongly spoke on placing a hold until a new location has been confirmed.

Comm Partin said the discussions for Wallace Field have been ongoing since 2017. He spoke on the history of discussions and said the City needs to honor its agreement with CCA

After further discussion, the motion failed 1:6.

As a formality, Comm Partin moved the Wallace Field project and the CCA Use Agreement to full effect. Comm Gold seconded the motion, which passed 6:1 with Comm Carugno, nay.

6. New Business

a. Ordinance 23-02 First Reading and Consideration - AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BELLE ISLE, FLORIDA REZONING THOSE CERTAIN PROPERTIES OWNED BY THE CITY OF BELLE ISLE LOCATED AT 5903 RANDOLPH AVENUE, 906 WALTHAM AVENUE, 6300 HANSEL AVENUE, "SUB OF HARNEY HOMESTEAD C/53 LOT 9 (LESS W 224.28 FT OF LOT 9 & LESS E 228.47 FT OF SAID LOT 9 & LESS R/W ON N & S)", AND 6049 RANDOLPH AVENUE, ALSO KNOWN AS ORANGE COUNTY TAX PARCELS # 24-23-29-3400-00-073, 24-23-29-3400-00-092, 24-23-29-3400-00-094, 24-23-29-3400-00-095, AND 24-23-29-3400-00-114, FROM C-1, C-2, R-1A, AND R-2 ZONING DISTRICTS TO PLANNED DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT (PD); REZONING THAT CERTAIN PROPERTY OWNED BY CORNERSTONE CHARTER ACADEMY, INC. LOCATED AT 5929 HANSEL AVENUE, ALSO KNOWN AS ORANGE COUNTY TAX PARCEL #24-23-29-8820-00-050, FROM C-1 ZONING DISTRICT TO PLANNED DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT (PD); REZONING THAT CERTAIN PROPERTY OWNED BY PINE CASTLE METHODIST CHURCH, INC. LOCATED AT 942 FAIRLANE AVENUE, ALSO KNOWN AS ORANGE COUNTY TAX PARCEL #24-23-29-3400-00-093, FROM C-1 ZONING DISTRICT TO PLANNED DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT (PD); PROVIDING FOR CERTAIN PERMITTED, PROHIBITED AND SPECIAL EXCEPTION USES AND DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS AND REQUIREMENTS WITHIN THE PLANNED DEVELOPMENT; DESCRIBING THE PLANNED DEVELOPMENT INCLUDING ALL THE AFORESAID PROPERTIES AS THE CORNERSTONE CHARTER ACADEMY PD; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Interim City Manager Grimm read Ordinance 23-02 by Title.

Mayor Fouraker opened public comment.

The following individuals spoke in favor of the expansion.

1. Charlyne Cross residing at 5260 Chiswick Circle, Belle Isle, FL.
2. Amy Trendafilov residing at 2727 Nela Avenue, Belle Isle, FL.
3. Michelle Casey residing at 5121 Oak Island Road, Belle Isle, FL.
4. Paula Downey residing at 1400 Nela Avenue, Belle Isle, FL.

5. Andrew Downey residing at 1400 Nela Avenue, Belle Isle, FL.
6. Douglas DeYoung residing at 4922 Jinou Avenue, Belle Isle, FL.
7. Marie Bonanno residing at 5266 Chiswick Circle, Belle Isle, FL.
8. Blaine CCA student.

The following individuals spoke in opposition to the expansion.

1. Tammie Franklin residing at 1038 Waltham Avenue, Belle Isle, FL.
2. Hilary Maull residing at 1130 Waltham Avenue, Belle Isle, FL.
3. Alexander Muszynski residing at 1438 Belle Vista Drive, Belle Isle, FL.
4. Randolph Rimes residing at 5603 Marinell Drive, Belle Isle, FL.
5. Anthony Taiani residing at 5603 Marinell Drive, Belle Isle, FL.
6. Alberita Rimes residing at 5603 Marinell Drive, Belle Isle, FL.
7. Gary Meloon residing at 6101 Matchett Road, Belle Isle, FL.
8. Ardis Meloon residing at 6101 Matchett Road, Belle Isle, FL.
9. Donella Altice residing at 1309 E Wallace Street, Belle Isle, FL.
10. Mercedes Blanca residing at 5812 LaBelle Street, Belle Isle, FL.

There being no further comment. Mayor Fouraker closed public comments.

Comm Carugno moved to extend the meeting to 9:30 pm.

Comm Lowell seconded the meeting, which passed unanimously.

Mayor Fouraker introduced Chairman Brooks and said the co-applicant would present for the school expansion.

William Brooks, CCA Board Chairman, gave a presentation on the school expansion that included state-of-the-art labs, student services building-cafeteria(s), elementary and high school building expansions, gymnasium(s), auditorium, and concession-scorers Box building. He presented the CCA School Expansion Plan submitted by Co-Applicants: Cornerstone Charter Academy, Pine Castle United Methodist Church, and the City of Belle Isle. And the Project Team FEG Engineering, CIVICA Architecture, and TPD Engineering.

Mr. Brooks spoke of CCA's past and current accomplishments as an "A" School. Jean Abi-Aoun from FEG gave a brief on the current traffic concerns. He stated there is a process, and first, they need to receive City approval; then, they would request a review from FDOT and other required agencies once they are in full engineering review. Mr. Rolando Llanes, Civica Architecture, spoke about concerns about facility expansion and traffic engineering. He said school safety is paramount. He provided and addressed the proposed improvements and on-site queuing,

- Drop-off / Dismissal will operate in three (3) shifts - a minimum of ½-hour apart.
- The site will have on-site queueing for all three shifts.
- A new entrance on Wallace Street to enhance on-site queueing.
- The site will have on-site queueing on the property east of Randolph Ave.

On-Site Queueing,

- Entry on Waltham Ave for traffic coming from the north.
- Entry on Wallace Street for traffic coming from the South.
- Queueing will form within the parking lot in the Conga line configuration.
- Randolph Ave will be closed at Waltham Ave and Wallace St during drop-off/pick-up.
- Elementary School Shift:
 - Drop-off/Pick-up at Building A
 - Exit on Waltham Ave (can turn right and left)
 - Middle/High School Shift: Drop-off/Pick-up on Fairlane Ave and Exit right at the intersection of Fairlane Ave

Mr. Brooks spoke on the following recommendations,

- Three (3) shifts for Elementary, Middle, and High School, approximately 30 minutes apart.
- On-site vehicles are stacking within the parking lot on the property east of Randolph Avenue.
- At the City's request, Randolph Avenue will be closed to traffic from the north on Waltham Avenue and the South on Wallace Street during Arrival and Dismissal.
- Fairlane Avenue will become 1-Way only westbound, and vehicles will exit right only on Hansel Avenue.
- Police/traffic attendant guidance at Hansel Avenue/Waltham Avenue and Hoffner Avenue/Randolph Avenue intersections.
- Station staff members/traffic attendants within the site and at the entry driveways to guide traffic into the school site queue and ensure proper circulation.
- The traffic study considered 100% student vehicle drop-off/pick-up as a conservative analysis—a large portion of pedestrians and "golf-cart" pick-up locations. The school expansion will also expand the after-school programs, which will account for a percentage of students staying on campus after dismissal times and reduce the number of vehicles arriving at the site at drop-off/d dismissal.

Comm Holihan shared his concern about the additional traffic during the morning rush hour. Mr. Llanes said the analysis was very conservative and did not account for other scenarios, i.e., walkers and golf cart riders. However, the on-site queuing will assist with the current traffic backup. Mr. Brooks said the spread of the peak to three shifts would take in down 33%, and a new entrance on Wallace would give the ability to take the traffic from the South. The bulk of the issue comes from the stacking on Wilks and Marinelle, and once it is on-site, it will improve the traffic flow.

Comm Carugno said residents are asking if the current traffic on Hoffner is already over capacity and if the project includes Wallace Field. FEG Consultant said Hoffner is a heavily traveled road operating within its capacity. Mr. Brooks said there was no way to provide additional lanes. Regarding the alley, none of the surrounding streets line up with Oakridge, and there is a power easement in the alley and not available for development. Mayor Brooks said no, Wallace Field is not included; they are separate projects.

Mayor Fouraker clarified that tonight's meeting is for Zoning approval only, and the City cannot unreasonably hold up the process. The applicant is generous to open themselves to questions and provide a detailed presentation.

Comm Lowell moved to extend the meeting to 10:00 pm.

Comm Smith seconded the meeting, which passed 5:2 with Comm Carugno and Comm Holihan, nay.

Comm Carugno asked when it is appropriate to ask a question, if not at this meeting. Mayor Brooks said the CCA team is focused on the process and what is required by Code; however, he is open to answering questions. He said inquiries can also be sent directly to staff, Commissioners, or us.

After discussion, Mayor Fouraker called for a motion.

Comm Shuck moved to advance Ordinance 23-02 for the second reading on May 2, 2023.

Comm Partin seconded the motion, which passed 5:2 with Comm Carugno and Comm Holihan, nay.

b. Travel Reimbursement for Howard Brown

Interim City Manager Grimm said on April 11, 2023, the staff received a request from Howard Brown, CM Candidate, requesting reimbursement of \$232.93 (per 2023 IRS-millage and tolls). Staff asked for approval or denial to pay the request. Attorney Chumley asked if reimbursement was posted in the advertisement. The City Clerk said no; however, the Council moved at a previous meeting that Council may pay reasonable costs should they arise. The Council discussed the approval of the request and opened the same courtesy to all the candidates.

Comm Carugno moved to pay Mr. Howard Brown the request of \$232.93 for travel and tolls.

Comm Lowell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously 7:0.

Comm Smith moved to direct staff to contact the other candidates to offer them the opportunity to submit reasonable travel expenses with documentation.

Comm Lowell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously 7:0.

Mayor Fouraker asked staff to check with Colin Baenziger to confirm if they advertised for reimbursement for travel and tolls.

c. Approval of Bing Grant for Winward on the Lake

Comm Lowell presented the Winward on Lake Conway BING Grant for surveillance cameras—the proposal developed with the Belle Isle Police Department coordination. The proposed project will work similarly to the surveillance cameras installed at Belle Isles' own LPR network and will enhance the safety of all residents. The project is \$15,227, with a grant request of \$7,000. The grant does meet the criteria, and District 5 has \$7,000 in grant funds. Other Commissioners may contribute funds to this project to fund the entire grant amount. There is a deficit of \$613.00 to cover half of the cost.

Comm Lowell moved to approve the Bing Grant for Lake Conway of \$7613.00; 7,000 from District 5, and \$613.00 from the Mayor's Bing Grant fund.

Comm Smith seconded the motion, which passed unanimously 7:0.

d. Adopt BIPD Pay Plan Amendment and Approve Interim City Manager, Acting Chief, and Acting Deputy Chief Stipend

Interim City Manager Grimm said at the April 04, 2023, City Council meeting; Commissioner Gold asked the Council to consider compensation for out-of-classification work for the Interim City Manager, Acting Chief, and Acting Deputy Chief. Staff is asking for (1) an updated Belle Isle Police Department (BIPD) Pay Plan and removal of the Deputy Chief position from the BIPD Pay Plan, (2) Approval for the entry-level Deputy Chief of \$96,194.80 and a ten percent salary increase for this position until he is reassigned to Deputy Chief, (3) Sgt. McCormick was appointed Acting Deputy Chief, per the BIPD Pay Plan. Sgt. McCormick will receive the entry level of Deputy Chief until he is reassigned to the position of Sgt.

The request to revise the pay plan was because when the Sergeant moved to Deputy Chief, he would make less than when promoted; everything else on the pay plan will remain the same.

Comm Smith move to adopt the Belle Isle Police Department Pay Plan effective April 4, 2023, as follows,

- **Approve a 10% Salary Increase for the Acting Chief**
- **Approve the Interim City Manager Stipend of 15%**

Comm Partin seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

e. Discussion on Reinstating Council Work Sessions

Interim City Manager asked for a discussion to go back to a workshop session instead of having two Council meetings in a month. He said workshops could provide productive dialogue and open discussions between Council members and staff and are less structured than regular meetings. The main problem encountered in the past has been to hold the workshop, provide direction, and then when it comes to the regular meeting agenda, the same discussions occur at the regular meeting done in the workshops.

If the Council wishes to go back to work sessions, then issues discussed at the work session should have limited discussion when placed on the regular meeting agenda for formal action, which can lead to a positive direction for all.

Mayor Fouraker said the Council could have a free-flowing dialogue at a workshop. Comm Shuck said the workshops were beneficial and answered many questions before a voting meeting. Comm Gold said the concern is that workshops exclude the resident comment and think two council meetings greatly benefit the community. Comm Partin said it is worth trying; we can always switch it back if it does not work. Comm Smith said this is the wrong time of the year to change the process.

Comm Holihan moved, starting in May 2023, the Council meeting in a workshop on the third Tuesday of the month beginning at 6:30 pm.

Comm Partin seconded the motion, which passed 5:2 with Comm Smith and Comm Carugno, nay.

Comm Smith moved to extend the meeting to 10:30 pm.

Comm Gold seconded the motion, which passed 5:2 with Comm Carugno and Comm Holihan, nay.

7. Attorney's Report – na

8. City Manager's Report

a. Acting Chief Report

Acting Chief Millis gave stats for the month: 20 reports, seven arrests, 570 citations, and YTD-701 citations on Hoffner Avenue.

b. Public Works Report

Mr. Price reported completing two stormwater projects in District 3 and District 5.

9. Mayor's Report

Mayor Fouraker thanked the Special Events Committee for the Easter Event. He also added that he would be scheduling a Lake Clean Up at a future date.

10. Items from Council

- Noise Abate Committee Meeting – Friday, April 21.
- PRM Insurance meeting – Thursday, April 28
- District 1 meeting with PD and City Manager Strategy for Cullen Lake Drive and Hoffner Traffic Calming

11. Adjournment

There being no further business, Mayor Fouraker called for a motion to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously at 10:15 pm.