



CITY OF BELLE ISLE, FL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, February 21, 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 5 Commissioner – Beth Lowell
District 6 Commissioner – Stan Smith
District 7 Commissioner – Jim Partin

Absent was:

District 4 Commissioner – Randy Holihan

1. Call to Order and Confirmation of Quorum

Mayor Fouraker called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm, and City Clerk Quiceno confirmed the quorum.

Also present were City Manager Francis, Attorney Langley, Chief Houston, DC Grimm, and Public Works Director Phil Price.

2. Invocation and Pledge to Flag

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

Mayor Fouraker called for a motion for an excused absence for Comm Holihan.

Comm Gold moved to excuse Comm Holihan from the meeting.

Comm Lowell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously 6:0.

3. Citizen's Comments

Mayor Fouraker opened for Citizen Comments.

- Former Mayor William Brooks thanked Chief Houston for her service to the City and congratulated her on her retirement. He reminded the community that May is Neurofibromatosis (NF) Awareness Month.
Mayor Brooks, Chairman of the CCA Board of Directors, gave an overview of the Cornerstone Charter Academy Master Plan. He highlighted the following and said the expansion is needed to serve the growing student demand. He spoke on the four new educational buildings, improved traffic patterns, vehicle capacity, and three dismissal times, and stated that local taxpayer dollars do not fund the expansion.
- Dennis Newman thanked the Council for their service to the community. He spoke on the 4th Annual Hearts Against Hunger benefiting Servants Heart scheduled for May 14, 2023.
- Orange County Commissioner Mayra Uribe thanked the Mayor and Council for a continued working relationship and offered her continued support to the City. She provided her cell phone number for ease of reference to the community 407-721-3433.

There being no comments, Mayor Fouraker closed citizen comments.

4. Consent Items

- a. Approval of Meeting Minutes - February 7, 2023
- b. Monthly Reports

Comm Smith moved to approve the consent items as presented.

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

5. Unfinished Business - na

6. New Business

- a. Appointment to Transportation Advisory Board (TAC) – Gregg Platt and David Evertsen
- b. Appointment to Budget Committee (District 5) – Kirk Leff

City Manager Francis presented two candidates for the TAC: Gregg Platt and David Evertsen, for Council consideration. Mr. Francis said Gregg Platt is resigning from the Budget Committee and would like to be appointed to the TAC Committee.

Comm Partin moved to accept the resignation of Gregg Platt from the Budget Committee and appoint Kirk Leff as the District 5 Budget Committee member.

Comm Lowell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously 6:0.

Comm Smith moved to appoint Gregg Platt and David Evertsen to the Transportation Advisory Board.

Comm Lowell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously 6:0.

- c. Discuss change to the Municipal Code for Fences

City Manager Francis said at the request of Comm Carugno; he would like to discuss changes to the fence ordinance. This was previously addressed by the P&Z Board, and the possibility of placing a zoning overlay on Hoffner. They decided to take no action because if a resident has the opportunity to submit for a variance, there will be no need for an overlay. If Council would like to open discussion, it will have to go back to the P&Z Board for further review and action because it will need a change to the Land Development Code.

Comm Carugno said he asked for discussion because he has been approached by residents in his district along Hoffner Avenue. He would like to discuss options for replacing/repairing an existing fence without applying and paying for a variance which will cost more than the repair. On Seminole and Hoffner, residents are applying for front yard fences to be in harmony with grandfathered front yard gates within reason.

Commissioner Gold said he agrees with having a discussion; however, he recommends Council approach changing the code carefully. Discussion ensued on concerns with previous fence approvals. Mr. Francis noted that if a resident wants to replace a fence within the code, they do not need to submit for a variance.

Attorney Langley recommended clarifying the code to further define the fence height and location in the City where a front yard fence is allowed. Once a variance is approved without conditions for a front yard fence, it will not need another variance if repair or replacement is necessary.

Mayor Fouraker said clearly there had been a demand for front yard fences on Hoffner due to all the activity in that area. The Council should avoid situations that can cause concerns for other residents in the City. The revisions should be intuitive and automatic in certain areas of the City.

The Council consensus was to have staff discuss the changes requested by Council to the Planning & Zoning Board for further review and action.

7. Attorney's Report - na

8. City Manager's Report

Special Events Committee Update

Holly Bobrowski, Chairman of the Special Events Committee, provided a budget for the Easter Egg Hunt for approval. She noted that she would like to have the event at City Hall starting at 10 am. She requests to have one side of Nela Avenue closed during the event. They have also discussed serving mimosas.

Ms. Bobrowski also presented a preliminary budget for the 1st Annual Golf Cart Drive-in Movie Night. They would pick a family-friendly movie to be held at Wallace Field with a date in June. Comm Partin said Wallace Field might not be available with the upcoming construction of CCA. Ms. Bobrowski noted that if it is not available, they can also make the City Hall location work.

Ms. Bobrowski said she would like the City to treat the grounds for ants before the event.

Mayor Fouraker asked if Comm Carugno would donate to the Easter Event. Comm Carugno said yes.

Comm Partin moved to approve the Easter Egg Hunt and Gold Cart Movie Night.

Comm Smith seconded the motion, which passed unanimously 6:0.

City Manager Francis said he would promote Deputy Chief Travis Grimm to Acting Chief for six months with an evaluation in 3-months. Council congratulated DC Grimm for his promotion.

City Manager Francis announced his resignation and said his last day would be March 21, 2023. He said he could call the City Managers Association for a certified replacement for consideration. He will be available for any questions or assistance after that date during the transition.

City Manager Francis reported that he submitted for approval of a Vulnerability assessment, and the City received a grant of \$196,000 from DEP under the Resiliency Program. He would like to focus on the areas of flooding on Hoffner around Mr. Bitterman's home, swales on Nela, and areas in District 3

Raquel Lozano gave an update on open projects. She said she is reviewing the CCA Site Plan/PD review, Regal Boats renovation, and the new site plan.

a. Chief's Report

Acting Chief Grimm thanked Mr. Francis for the opportunity. No Chief's Report at this time.

b. Public Works Report

Council spoke on public perception and the finished project on Sol.

Comm Lowell asked if Gilbert Park is on schedule to be replanted. Mr. Francis said he is contacting the Eagle Scouts to discuss the plant selection.

9. Mayor's Report

Mayor Fouraker said he had attended the GOAA meetings to be able to bring back important information to Council. Pioneer Days in Cypress Grove Park this weekend, and the Annual Plant Sale is scheduled at the AG Center in early March.

10. Items from Council

Council discussed and agreed on the Servants Heart sponsorship of \$1000.

Comm Gold moved to sponsor Servant's heart with a silver sponsorship of \$1000.

Comm Lowell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously 6:0.

Comm Gold nominated Zach Cummings for the Traffic Committee. He will have Mr. Cummings submit a letter of interest for consideration.

Comm Carugno shared his support in succession plans for PD and City Hall. The next ANAC meeting will be held on April 24, 2023.

11. Adjournment

With no further business, Mayor Fouraker called for a motion to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously at 8:30 pm.