



CITY OF BELLE ISLE, FL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, February 4, 2025 * 6:30 PM
MINUTES

Present was:

Mayor - Nicholas Fouraker
District 4 Vice Mayor – Jason Carson
District 1 Commissioner – Frank Vertolli
District 2 Commissioner – Holly Bobrowski
District 3 Commissioner – Danny Otterbacher
District 5 Commissioner – Beth Lowell
District 6 Commissioner – Stan Smith
District 7 Commissioner – Jim Partin

Absent was:

1. Call to Order and Confirmation of Quorum

Mayor Fouraker called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm, and the Clerk confirmed quorum. City Manager Rick Rudometkin, Attorney Brandon Pownall, Chief Grimm, Public Works Director Phil Price, and City Clerk Yolanda Quiceno were also present.

2. Invocation and Pledge to Flag - Commissioner Frank Vertolli, District 1
Comm Vertolli gave the Invocation and led the Pledge to the Flag.

City Manager asked to rearrange agenda items as follows,

- -Item 7c to be removed from the agenda and
- -move item 3a after the PD presentations.

Comm Holly Bobrowski moved to approve the reorder of agenda items.
Comm Lowell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously 7:0

3. Presentations

- PD Swear In New Officer Nick Trendafilov
Mayor Fouraker welcomed Officer Trendafilov and performed the swear-in ceremony.
- PD Award Presentation – Officer Mathews
Chief Grimm presented Officer Mathews with the Life Saving and Purple Heart Award.
- CCA Board Meeting Update – Charlene Cross
Charlene Cross, a CCA Board member, briefly updated the CCA meeting agenda topics, events, greenhouse, and construction updates. All updates can be found by visiting the school's website at www.cornerstonecharter.com. Comm Bobrowski said CCA should consider a traffic study before utilizing the Masonic Lodge parking area to avoid further traffic on Hoffner.
- Proclamation – Pine Castle Pioneer Days – Celebrating Citrus
Mayor Fouraker presented a proclamation for Pine Castle Pioneer Days.
Comm Lowell moved to approve the Proclamation.
Comm Vertolli seconded the motion, which passed unanimously 7:0.
Mayor Fouraker read the proclamation for the record.

4. Public Comments & Announcements

Mayor Fouraker opened for public comments.

- Antony Carugno, residing on Hoffner Avenue, said he favored adding a stop sign at the end of Wallace to help with traffic. He further noted that he would like the City to consider adding a stop sign on Venetian at the curb for safety purposes.

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

5. Consent Items

- a. Resolution 25-03: A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Belle Isle, Florida, urging the Florida State Legislature to enact legislation to provide a public records exemption for municipal clerks and employees who perform municipal elections work or have any part in code enforcement functions of a city and providing for an effective date.
- b. Approval of the First Amendment to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the Orange County Intergovernmental Radio System Encryption Key
- c. Approval of the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG)
Comm Smith moved to approve the consent items as presented.
Comm Lowell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously 7:0.

6. Unfinished Business

- a. Discussion on Wallace Field Interlocal Agreement

City Manager Rudometkin said the City has an interlocal agreement with CCA to renovate Wallace Field, and at the mayor's request, it is on the agenda for discussion. Mr. Rudometkin said the latest update was that the City adjusted the initial plans and is waiting for CCA's response. He said Chairman Brooks stated that the costs had risen considerably and would have an update on the site plan at the April CCA Board meeting.

Mayor Fouraker said he had received numerous comments from residents that the field had not been completed and had not been put into action within a reasonable time frame as the City had hoped. He further noted that the entire City does not have access to Wallace Field, which is a City park. He asked the Council if they would like to go back to negotiations and request that the City build out the field to assist CCA staff in moving the project forward.

The Council discussed the shared use agreement with CCA, the delayed process of the approved site plan, and modest improvements for residents' use of the city park. Council consensus was to have the City Manager schedule a meeting with the CCA Chairman, Mr. Brooks, to ask for some deliverables and a proposed addendum if necessary. Comm Smith shared his concern about the costs and that it is not prudent for the City to commit to the buildout of a City park with the added fees to the City's budget. Moving forward, the Council agreed to include project deadlines in future agreements.

7. New Business

- a. **ORDINANCE 25-02 - First Reading And Consideration: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BELLE ISLE, FLORIDA, AMENDING CHAPTER 26 ENTITLED "STREETS, SIDEWALKS, AND OTHER PUBLIC PLACES" OF THE CITY OF BELLE ISLE CODE OF ORDINANCES TO ADD A NEW ARTICLE III ENTITLED "OFFENSES INVOLVING PUBLIC PEACE AND ORDER," TO PROHIBIT URINATING AND DEFECATING IN PUBLIC, TO PROHIBIT PUBLIC CAMPING, TO PROHIBIT SITTING OR LYING ON SIDEWALKS AND BICYCLE PATHS, AND TO PROVIDE FOR TRESPASS WARNINGS ON PUBLIC PROPERTY; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION, SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

City Manager Rudometkin read the Ordinance by Title.

Chief Grimm introduced the ordinance for consideration.

After discussion, Comm Vertolli moved to advance Ordinance 25-02 to second reading and adoption.

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

- b. Approval of CCA Sponsorship – Viva Las Vegas

Comm Bobrowski moved to sponsor Royal Flush for the CCA Viva Las Vegas event for \$1,500.

Comm Otterbacher seconded the motion, which passed 7:0.

- a. Approval of Hearts Against Hunger 5K Sponsorship

Comm Partin moved to approve the silver sponsorship Hearts Against Hunger 5K in the amount of \$1,000.

Comm Bobrowski seconded the motion, which passed 7:0.

- b. Approval of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Gated Private Communities

Chief Grimm said the agency has been approached by some HOA, and the MOU presents an opportunity to explore similar partnerships with the City's gated communities. He introduced a draft template for consideration and said he does not foresee a significant cost to the City. As a note, Chief Grimm said if the community is not gated, Public Works and the Police Department have authority and can conduct regular activity.

Comm Otterbacher moved to authorize the Police Department to engage with gated communities to explore and formalize a Memorandum of Understanding MOU for traffic enforcement on private streets.

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

- c. Special Events Committee Recruitment/Members – Removed from Agenda.
- d. Discuss and Approve the Belle Isle Youth Council Participation Program
 City Manager Rudometkin presented the Youth Council Program as requested by Comm Vertolli.
Comm Vertolli moved to approve the implementation and legal review of the presentation form and program.
Vice Mayor Carson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously at 7:0.
- e. Appointment of Canvassing Board Member for March 11, 2025, Election
 City Manager Rudometkin presented at the Clerk’s request to appoint a Council member to the Canvassing Board and approve the Supervisor of Elections Office (SOE) to start opening ballots on March 11, 2025, at 9 a.m.
Comm Partin moved to appoint Comm Vertolli to the Canvassing Board and approve the SOE to start the ballot opening on March 11, 2025, at 9 a.m.
Comm Smith seconded the motion, which passed unanimously 7:0.

8. Attorney's Report – No report.

9. City Manager's Report

- a. City Manager's Report
 The City Manager presented,
 - City Manager’s Task List
 - The staff continues to research the findings regarding Hurricane Ian with the vendors, gathering ticket information and will report at a later date.
 - Reported that the CCA Bondholders had given their 51% vote in carving out the Lancaster House to return it to the City. He and the City Attorney will provide an agreement for Council approval.
 - Announced that the City Planner Raquel Lozano has submitted her resignation. He wishes her all the success.
- b. Chief's Report
 - Chief Grimm announced that Friday, February 7th, is Crossing Guard appreciation day; please reach out and thank them!
 - Chief Grimm announced that CE Albery, unfortunately, suffered a heart attack on his second day of training. He is doing well and will return as a CE shortly.
 - Chief Grimm shared the new “Coin” used by the PD for motivational purposes.
- c. Public Works Report
 Phil Price reported that the Trimble Park pipe project is complete, city landscaping and electrical have been finalized, and the underdrain on Colleen and Stafford is underway for completion. Nela Bridge and some City signs are scheduled to be repainted in the following weeks. He announced that the Belle Isle Boat Dock had received their permits and that the project was underway.

10. Mayor’s Report

Mayor Fouraker asked for a volunteer to attend the MetroPlan meeting in his absence. Comm Smith volunteered to attend at 9:30 a.m. Mayor Fouraker shared a brief update on his attendance in Tallahassee and thanked staff for the great landscaping around City Hall.

Mayor Fouraker thanked the City Manager for completing his first year in the City and asked the Council to consider scheduling a meeting for the Manager’s evaluation. The City Clerk will circulate a survey, deliver the results to the Mayor, and discuss them at a scheduled workshop Council meeting to allow for dialogue.

11. Commissioners Report

- The council thanked Raquel Lozano for her commitment as a City Planner and wished her well.
- Comm Bobrowski thanked the City Clerk for the electronic Newsletter and condolences to the Meloon Family.
- Comm Otterbacher asked the Council to be mindful of equal time for all residents during citizen comments.
- Comm Smith attended the Institute for Elected Officials and encourages all members to take advantage of all the information they provide.

12. Adjournment

There being no further business, Vice Mayor Carson called for a motion to adjourn the meeting, which passed unanimously at 8:37 pm.