



CITY OF BELLE ISLE, FL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, January 21, 2025 * 6:30 PM
MINUTES

Present was:

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:

Mayor - Nicholas Fouraker

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 Dan Langley, Chief Grimm, Public Works Director Phil Price, and City Clerk Yolanda Quiceno were also present.

2. Invocation and Pledge to Flag - Commissioner Jim Partin, District 7

Comm Partin gave the Invocation and led the Pledge to the Flag.
Vice Mayor Carson called for a motion to excuse Mayor Fouraker for today's meeting.

Comm Partin moved to excuse Mayor Fouraker from the meeting.
Comm Otterbacher seconded the motion, which passed 6:1 with Comm Smith, nay.

Vice Mayor Carson announced that Comm Lowell will be attending via phone.

3. Presentations

a. PD - Good Citizen Award, Richard (Rick) Baines

Chief Grimm presented resident Richard Baines with the Good Citizen Award for his fundraising efforts to purchase an ice maker for the Police Department. He also thanked those present who donated to the cause.

4. Public Comments & Announcements

Vice Mayor Carson opened for public comments.
There being no comment, Vice Mayor Carson closed public comments.

5. Consent Items

- a. Approval of January 7, 2025, Meeting Minutes
- b. Approval of the 2025 OC Supervisor of Elections (SOE) Office Facility Use Agreement

Comm Bobrowski moved to approve the consent items as presented.
Comm Otterbacher seconded the motion.

Comm Partin asked to move item b for discussion.

Vice Mayor Carson said the item will be pulled and added for discussion under new business.

Comm Bobrowski amended the motion to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was unanimously approved 7:0.

6. Unfinished Business

a. Approval of Tree Board Ordinance and Fee Proposed Revisions-Continued, Richard Weinsier

City Manager Rudometkin gave a brief presentation on the Tree Board's two-prong approach to tree canopy management, which included changes to the ordinance, application, fee, and resident program.

Comm Smith shared his concern and said he favors protecting the trees and raising the fees; however, the increase in the cost of removing a tree without a permit is a bit excessive.

Mr. Weinsier said it is a penalty to have residents think twice before removing a tree and make an effort to know the Code.

Comm Partin said some residents may be unaware of the Code and how this change coincides with the State law and residential property. Mr. Weinsier said that might be true, but isn't it true for any law; a penalty will still be imposed. Mr. Rudometkin noted the City has taken a proactive approach to outreach via social media, which may be problematic initially. Discussion ensued on tree height and width.

Attorney Langley said the State statute applies to removing a dangerous tree, and removal is allowed without a permit to eliminate the danger; however, they must submit a report from a certified arborist. The proposed change will apply to all other permits in all other cases.

Comm Bobrowski asked if this applies to new development or construction. Attorney Ardman said it applies when a tree creates a dangerous circumstance on an existing developed property.

Comm Vertolli said he does not favor the idea of providing a flash drive. Discussion ensued on proposed fines, permitted/non-permitted tree removals, and funding of new trees.

After discussion, Comm Smith moved to continue the discussion in March to allow the Board to summarize the proposed changes and list them separately. Comm Carson seconded the motion which passed unanimously, 7:0.

b. **ORDINANCE NO. 24-03: SECOND READING AND ADOPTION**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BELLE ISLE, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE TEXT OF THE CITY OF BELLE ISLE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TO AMEND THE FUTURE LAND USE ELEMENT, CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT ELEMENT, CONSERVATION ELEMENT, HOUSING ELEMENT, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION ELEMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE ELEMENT, PUBLIC SCHOOLS FACILITIES ELEMENT, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT, PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS ELEMENT, AND TRANSPORTATION ELEMENT; AMENDING THE FUTURE LAND USE MAP OF THE CITY OF BELLE ISLE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AND A SERIES OF MAPS WITHIN THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

City Manager Rudometkin read the Ordinance by Title.

Alexis Crespo, City Comp Plan Consultant, presented the preliminary Comprehensive Plan policies for consistency with State law and relevancy. After the presentation, at the Council's discretion, the historical preservation language must be approved with a motion to reinstate it in the update. In addition, the adoption of an updated Water Supply Facilities Work Plan to move away from septic will be presented.

Ms. Crespo provided a presentation for discussion. She summarized the updates from the Departments of Commerce, St. Johns River Water Management, Environmental Protection and Transportation, Future Land Use, Capital Improvements, Housing, Infrastructure, and Conservation Element. Ms. Crespo requested approval to Adopt the Update. She noted that she has 10 business days to transmit the documents to the State. After this process, she said the City would be required to review the Comp Plan again 7 years after this submittal is finalized.

Ms. Crespo addressed the historic Preservation policy 1.6.1 for consideration. The Council can move to adopt or leave out and will still comply. The Council shared some opposition from residents they received regarding removing this section from the update. Comm Vertolli shared his concerns and spoke in opposition to the language presented. After discussion, the changes discussed were the following changes,

Current: Policy 1.6.2 through 1.6.6 should be stricken and condensed into one policy.

Change: POLICY 1.6.1: The City may evaluate establishing a Historic Preservation Board or similar organization and any other mechanisms and tools in efforts to identify and protect historically significant housing within the City."

After discussion, Comm Otterbacher moved to accept the changes to section 1.6.1 as discussed. Comm Lowell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously 7:0.

Comm Smith moved to adopt Ordinance 24-03 as presented. Comm Otterbacher seconded the motion, which passed unanimously 7:0.

- c. Approval of the 2025 OC Supervisor of Elections (SOE) Office Facility Use Agreement
Comm Partin discussed the request to move to one location. He is not convinced that it will not go without some challenges. He asked that staff ensure the residents are informed of the change. Council requested that the electronic message boards be placed at the voting location to inform them of the location change.

Comm Bobrowski moved to consolidate the precincts to one voting location at City Hall, 1600 Nela Avenue, for the March 11 election. Comm Lowell seconded the motion, which passed 6:1 with Comm Partin, nay.

After the discussion, Comm Smith moved to approve the 2025 Orange County Supervisor of Elections Use Agreement, which includes canvassing criteria for the mayoral election.

Comm Otterbacher seconded the motion, which passed 6:1 with Comm Partin, nay.

7. New Business

- a. Request for Sponsorship of Code Enforcement Officer Patrick Albery to Police Academy and Creation of a Police Cadet Position
With its approval, Chief Grimm presented the Council with a proposed new Police Cadet position to give the department greater flexibility in filling an open position in the agency. The Cadet position will serve in a civilian capacity; upon completion, the cadet will transition into the role of an officer and be ready to fill the position once it is available. The academy costs \$5,000-6,000 for a six-month training program with a three-year commitment.

Comm Partin moved to approve the creation of the Police Cadet position within the Belle Isle Police Department, with a starting salary of \$46,000 annually, contingent upon the availability of a vacant and budgeted Police Officer position, and with cadets required to attend the next available police academy. This motion includes the approval of total academic costs and associated fees.

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

Chief Grimm requested approval to sponsor employee Patrick Albery to the Police Academy using funds obtained from citations. Once he completes the academy, if there is no position open at the Agency, he will remain a Code Enforcement Officer.

Comm Smith moved to sponsor Code Enforcement Officer Patrick Albery for enrollment into the Police Academy.

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

- b. Approval of Bing Grant Application for Windsor PL HOA for Flock Safety Security Cameras/Readers
City Manager Rudometkin presented the Windsor Place application for Flock Safety Readers, totaling \$5,950.

Comm Partin moved to approve the \$5,950 Bing Grant for Windsor Place for Flock Safety Security Cameras and Readers from District 7 and the Mayor's discretionary fund.

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

The Council commented that if any other homeowners' associations are interested in this system, they should refer them to Windsor Place because their presentation was exemplary.

- c. Discussion on Wallace Field Interlocal Agreement
The council tabled the discussion for a later meeting date to allow all Council members and the Mayor to be present.

- d. Discuss and Approve Fishback Dominick's Attorney Fees
City Manager Rudometkin presented the City Attorney Retainer Agreement Amendment for Legal Services for approval. Attorney Langley said it is an honor to have the firm serve the City for decades, and the history shared is very significant. The rates are necessary increases for the firm. The proposal is for the retainer rate to cover costs; the hourly rate will remain the same at this time. He noted that the rates have remained unchanged for the last seven years.

Comm Partin moved to amend the agreement with Fishback Dominick LLP. for the monthly retainer, hourly rates, and language included in the amendment document. Comm Carson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously 7:0.

- e. Approval of Storm Water Rate Study Contract with Willdan Financial Services
City Manager Rudometkin asked for an extension of the current contract date from December 30, 2024, to September 30, 2025, with Willdan to continue and finalize the stormwater rate study. Comm Smith asked if the survey would be available for the budget discussions in June. Mr. Rudometkin said yes. Comm Lowell said she would like staff to be more diligent in reviewing contracts before expiration and amendments to be brought forward before they expire.
Comm Partin moved to extend the current contract with Willdan for the stormwater rate study until September 30, 2025. Comm Otterbacher seconded the motion, which passed unanimously 7:0.

- f. RESOLUTION 25-01 - A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BELLE ISLE, FLORIDA, TO ADOPT STANDARDS TO SAFEGUARD AGAINST CYBERSECURITY THREATS; ADOPTING THE METHODS AND STANDARDS SET FORTH IN VERSION 1.1 OF THE FRAMEWORK FOR CYBERSECURITY ADOPTED BY THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS, SEVERABILITY, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

City Manager Rudometkin read Resolution 25-01 by Title.

Comm Partin moved to adopt Resolution 25-01 - Cybersecurity Standards Resolution required by this subsection and HB 7055 for the City of Belle Isle as presented.

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

- g. RESOLUTION NO. 25-02 - A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BELLE ISLE, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE PURCHASING POLICY FOR THE CITY OF BELLE ISLE ADOPTED BY RESOLUTION NO. 20-08 AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

City Manager Rudometkin read Resolution 25-02 by Title.

Comm Partin moved to adopt Resolution 25-02- Waiver to Formal Procurement Resolution to clarify the council's authority when procuring a particular good, material, equipment, or service if the city council deems such waiver to be in the best interest of the city. Comm Bobrowski 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
- Brief report on the walkthrough of the Arajo property. The staff is working on an assessment to clear the property and bring the cost and timeline to the Council.
- The staff continues to research the findings regarding Hurricane Ian with the vendors, who have been very cooperative in presenting them to the Council.

b. Chief's Report

Chief Grimm reports that the Event on January 11th was a success for the City, Agency, and residents. He spoke briefly about the DUI event and other agencies' participation—7 DUI arrests and 173 citations were issued throughout the County.

c. Public Works Report

Phil Price reported that the Trimble Park project would commence once the weather permits. The landscaping has been completed at City Hall. The council asked to clarify the new OC street sweeping company name – SCA.

10. Mayor's Report – No report.

11. Commissioners Report

- Comm Vertolli presented the creation of a Youth Council for consideration and will bring a formal presentation at a future meeting
- Comm Bobrowski reminded all of the upcoming GOAA meeting requiring residents to RSVP.

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.