



CITY OF BELLE ISLE, FL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, March 18, 2025 * 6:30 PM

MINUTES

Present was:

District 1 Commissioner – Frank Vertolli
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
District 2 – Holly Bobrowski
District 4 – OPEN

1. Call to Order and Confirmation of Quorum

City Manager Rudometkin announced that the Mayor would not be in attendance. Due to the Election of a Mayor, the Vice Mayor seat is open, and Comm Lowell has agreed to chair the meeting.

Comm Smith moved to appoint Comm. Lowell as acting Mayor.

Comm Vertolli seconded the motion, which passed unanimously 5:0.

Acting Mayor Beth Lowell called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm, and the Clerk confirmed quorum.

City Manager Rick Rudometkin, Attorney Langley, Chief Grimm, DC Millis, Public Works Director Phil Price, and City Clerk Yolanda Quiceno were also present.

2. Invocation and Pledge to Flag

Acting Mayor Lowell gave the Invocation and led the Pledge to the Flag.

Acting Mayor Lowell announced that Comm Partin is in attendance via phone.

Acting Mayor Lowell requested a motion to excuse Mayor Fouraker and Commissioner Bobrowski.

Comm Vertolli moved to excuse Mayor Fouraker and Comm Bobrowski from tonight's meeting.

Comm Otterbacher seconded the motion, which passed unanimously 5:0.

3. Public Comments & Announcements

There being no public comments, Acting Mayor Lowell closed the public comment section.

4. Presentations – N/A

FLC Announcement/Congratulations – Comm Stan Smith Completion of Institute for Elected Municipal Officials

5. Consent Items

- a. Surplus of Outdated Electronics and Office Furniture
- b. Recorded Canvassing Results of the 2025 Mayoral Election

Comm Vertolli moved to approve the consent items as presented.

Comm Otterbacher seconded the motion, which passed unanimously 5:0.

6. Unfinished Business

- a. Comp Plan Amendment - ORDINANCE NO 25-01 SECOND READING AND ADOPTION - AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BELLE ISLE, FLORIDA, ADOPTING A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENT RELATING TO THE WATER SUPPLY FACILITIES WORK PLAN, PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

City Manager Rudometkin introduced Ordinance 25-01, a Comprehensive Plan amendment, and stated that Alexis Crespo from RVi Planning & Landscape Architecture, a city consultant, is available to answer any questions. City Manager Rudometkin read Ordinance 25-01 by Title.

Comm Smith moved to adopt Ordinance 25-01 as presented.

Comm Vertolli seconded the motion, which passed unanimously upon roll call 5:0.

b. 3904 Arajo Court Condemnation Update

City Manager Rudometkin gave an update on the 3904-property condemnation. He stated that Mr. Giles had spoken to the homeowner, Lizar Armstead Stoval, who was present to provide testimony and answer any questions.

Ms. Lizar Stoval, residing at 2801 East Colonial Drive, Apt. 123, Orlando, FL 32803, thanked the Council for considering postponing the condemnation to allow her time to resolve the repairs to her home. She spoke briefly about the issues she encountered while awaiting FEMA reimbursement for the damage to her house.

Comm Smith asked where the Council stands legally if they were to give the homeowner Ms. Stoval 30 days to come forward with a plan of action for rehabilitation of the house.

Phil Price, the Public Works Director, stated that he has contacted the contractors and informed them that the quote is on hold until the Council confirms, at which point he can schedule a date.

Acting Mayor Lowell shared that, in the interim, the house poses a safety hazard.

Jeffrey Giles, residing at 1522 Cove Drive, stated that he has met with Ms. Stoval and requested that the Council consider allowing one month to gather information on the liens on the home and bring forward an agreement for its repair.

Comm Partin said the City has paid quite a bit of money thus far and would like to know if the City can recoup some of the expenses incurred.

Attorney Langley said the City has a condemnation order, and the Council has the option to delay the process. He encouraged the Council to request a plan of action and answers on how the homeowner will move forward. Attorney Langley said the Council's request to recoup some of the costs is reasonable. He would be able to gather the total costs and code liens and present them to the Council and the homeowner.

After further discussion, the Council reached a consensus to agree to a 30-day extension, no later than April 15, to allow the homeowner to present a contracted plan of action.

Comm. Smith moved to delay the condemnation of 3904 Arajo Court and request a report date of April 15, 2025, to the Council. Comm Lowell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously 5:0.

c. Golf Cart Ordinance Discussion and Proposed Changes

Chief Grimm presented draft ordinance changes to align the City's Golf Cart regulations with Florida State Law and to introduce new provisions to enhance safety and clarity regarding the operation of golf carts and low-speed vehicles within the City limits. He proposed changes to golf cart definitions, clarification on designated sidewalks, age restrictions, and other legal enhancements (i.e., use as a utility vehicle or for pulling). He stated that the City cannot enforce child safety seats or restraints in golf carts in their ordinance. The council consensus was to present an ordinance for the first reading at the next Council meeting.

Comm. Smith moved to proceed with the golf cart ordinance update for the first reading at the next Council meeting. Comm Lowell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously 5:0.

d. Review and Approval of Tree Board Ordinance Updates

City Manager Rudometkin presented a simplified draft of the City permit application and fees. After the presentation, the Council consensus was to approve the following changes to the permit and fee schedule,

1. Tree removal applications from \$25 to \$35.00
2. Removal of a healthy tree with a diameter at breast height (DBH) of 4 to 24 inches incurs a fine cost of \$50.
3. Removal of a healthy tree with a diameter at breast height (DBH) of over 24 inches incurs a fine cost of \$100.
4. No changes to the current language.

The Council discussed the current process for the requirements of an application, the arborist's report, and contractor registrations.

Comm Otterbacher moved to approve the tree removal application and fee schedule with the amounts discussed.

- Tree removal applications from \$25 to \$35.00
- Removal of a healthy tree with a diameter at breast height (DBH) of 4 to 24 inches incurs a fine cost of \$50.
- Removal of a healthy tree with a diameter at breast height (DBH) of over 24 inches incurs a fine cost of \$100.
- Remove the added language to allow the Tree Board approval to remove a health tree.
- No changes to the current language.

Comm Smith seconded the motion, which passed unanimously 5:0.

7. New Business

a. Vacancies – Districts 3 and 4

City Manager Rudometkin discussed the open City Council vacancies. He requested Council approval to post the vacant seats for Districts 3 and 4 before the April 1, 2025, vacancies. According to the Charter, the Council shall advertise the vacancies for 30 days to initiate the appointment process.

Acting Mayor Lowell noted the residents' concerns that most of the Council members have been appointed and asked if the Council would be able to hold a special election. Attorney Langley said the Charter provides a process for filing the seats. If the Council chooses to amend this in the future, it will be required to do so through a referendum.

Comm Vertolli moved to direct the City Manager to post District 3 and 4 Commissioner seats as soon as possible, Comm. Smith seconded the motion, which passed unanimously 5:0.

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
 - Will provide options to gain some interest on Boards and Committees by posting at large.
 - The City Planner position will be posted in a couple of months to allow Ms. Fisher to catch up on open permits.

b. Chief's Report

- Chief Grimm announced
 - New PD decal vehicles – first rotation on the road
 - Water Activity – PD issued 32 citations. Issues at Randolph Ramp were handled accordingly by Orange County
 - PD Canine has been born and will join the staff in 10 weeks.
 - The Tallahassee trip went well – the PD and City agendas were presented to the representatives to get our story told.
 - Officer Mathews presented a video on how the police department is combating crime and addressing issues related to motorcyclists.

c. Public Works Report

Phil Price reported that

- 90% of the PD Boat Dock has been completed and should be ready for the Summer.
- Jade Pump Station generator has been installed and should be up and running before hurricane season
- The sidewalk repair is back on schedule.

10. Mayor's Report - na

11. Commissioners Report

- Council thanked Mayor Fouraker for his time and commitment to the city and its residents.
- Comm Vertolli said the Youth Council application would be sent to the appropriate schools and placed on the website. Comm Vertolli said he would like a future agenda item to discuss future elections to coincide with Orange County.
- City Manager Rudometkin stated that the City Manager Evaluation will be scheduled for the April 1 Workshop from 6-6:30 pm
- Comm Smith announced that his appointment to the Tri County Board will take effect on May 1, 2025.
- The Council thanked the Mayoral candidates for running.

12. Adjournment

There being no further business, Acting Mayor Lowell called for a motion to adjourn the meeting, which passed unanimously at 8:00 pm.